

# What are your skills good for?

You've learned to assess and weight your skills.  
Now it's time to swap notes with other people and seek inspiration.

To get a reliable assessment of your personality, strengths and weaknesses you should have a conversation with people who know you well. Parents and close friends can be helpful. It also makes sense to talk to people who know you in a professional context and have a good feel for the job market. Your supervisor, for example, can provide feedback on whether you have already acquired sufficient project management knowledge – and where there may still be room for improvement. Your mentor can identify how you can acquire the knowledge needed for your dream job. For a sound analysis of your skills, you should ...

# 1

**ask mentors**

They are familiar with the labor market, current trends and developments but also opportunities and challenges, and they can give you tips on how your qualities and skills can win the day. Mentors are worth their weight in gold as they know you without having any close ties with you – which means they can be more honest and direct than friends and family may be able to. You can find short self-assessment forms on the Internet on key skills such as reliability, perseverance or your ability to accept criticism. Maybe your mentor can fill in one of these forms about you and the two of you can discuss it afterwards. You can find out more about mentoring programs at TUM at [www.community.tum.de/en/mentoring-at-tum](http://www.community.tum.de/en/mentoring-at-tum).

# take action

## 2

**browse on online professional portals**

Search for people on social media portals like Xing or LinkedIn or the TUM Community who have a similar educational background to yourself. What professional or methodical skills do these persons mention in their profiles? How do they describe their abilities? It may also be helpful to look at the profiles of people who are working in a field which you would like to work in. That way you can see what skills may be important for your dream job.

[www.community.tum.de/forum](http://www.community.tum.de/forum)

## 3

**approach employers**

What could you achieve in a company with your professional skills, what kind of projects could you work on and in what departments? You can get fast, straightforward feedback on your CV at career fairs like the IKOM at TUM ([www.ikom.tum.de](http://www.ikom.tum.de)). The exciting part is to learn what they spontaneously offer you when the HR recruiters see your CV. Why would they recommend this job in particular to

you? Your managers from your internships can also provide valuable suggestions. Ask questions such as:

Where do you think my career path should take me? Where do my strengths lie? It's to see how many new ideas such external assessments can generate.

## 4

**get to know alumni from different professions**

Network with fellow-students and alumni with different professional backgrounds. Around 83,000 alumni and students around the world make up the TUM Community, TUM's lifelong network. For example, they can give you an insight into specific career fields, including abroad. Every year, alumni pass on their experiences in webinars at TUM: [www.community.tum.de/events](http://www.community.tum.de/events). Or team up with your fellow-students: If you're job-hunting at the same time, you can help each other in preparing your skills profiles and even fine-tuning your applications together.

Things are not black and white when it comes to soft skills: A person with highly introverted character traits can still be a good manager, just as someone who is creative and ambitious can still be a good team player. Always remember that your personal and social characteristics are not cast in stone. Someone who shies away from conflict when they're young may have found a way of dealing with it proactively later in life. Someone who did not enjoy the spotlight as a child can still stand on stage later in life without breaking into a sweat.