

Your first job

IS NO ONE-WAY STREET

Why your first job doesn't shape
the rest of your working life

With the same employer from the first job until retirement, that's what many a working life looked like in the past. Today, our world has become faster-paced, more individual and more varied – and it's ok if that is also reflected in your CV and career decisions. Your first job is your chance to find out what you enjoy doing. Don't worry if you're not sure yet where you want to go in your life. With this guide, we would like to help you find your way: This includes researching different lines of work and getting to know yourself and your talents better. In the end, you will only realize if a particular kind of job suits you by actually doing it.

Be brave along the way and don't shy away from doing things where you're not really sure what you've let yourself in for. Perhaps you may even go down a path which none of your friends have ever done. Over the years, your career will unfold in exactly the same way as you and will continue to grow.

The good news is that these days, you have the freedom to reinvent yourself as the labor market has become more open. For example, job descriptions are no longer so rigid, work in companies is increasingly interdisciplinary and project-based and people change positions within companies more frequently. Mechanical engineers are working more closely with software development, engineers have to consider the sustainability

Your network matters

A good private and professional network helps you to assess the job market and discover exciting jobs.

TUM offers its students a wide range of networking opportunities. Whether via classroom events or virtual workshops, whether via the various mentoring

programs or career events. Basically, every event where the TUM Community comes together, is a great opportunity to make valuable contacts. Good networking opportunities are offered, for example, by the following events, programs and groups:

TUM Community

With its 83,000 members, the TUM Community offers a great platform for local, regional and international networking with TUM Alumni. www.community.tum.de

Women of TUM

The Women of TUM are a lively network that connects women worldwide and across disciplines. In various events, TUM Alumnae can exchange ideas and network. www.community.tum.de/women

TUM Events

Participate at various TUM Events, like for example the TUM Speakers Series, and network with TUM Students and Alumni. www.tum.de/en/news-and-events/events

Freunde der TUM

Join the Association of Alumni and Friends, a great proactive and lively network within the TUM Family. www.freunde.tum.de

In addition, there is also a variety of subject-specific alumni-associations at TUM where you can exchange ideas with like-minded people.

of their ideas already at the product design stage and architects need Social Science expertise when implementing new urban development projects.

Digitalization is changing old business models and creating opportunities for innovative ideas while jobs and forms of employment are constantly shifting. New lines of work and professions are steadily emerging. If you can familiarize yourself quickly with new subject areas, you will have a clear advantage. This transformation requires you to remain open to learning new things throughout your entire life.

Nowadays, it is usual, especially in the first few years of your career, to change jobs every one to two years to get an impression of as many different areas as possible. That will give you the chance to experiment. Many employers are global companies and maintain facilities and locations in China, Malaysia or Mexico, for example, so it's much easier for you to spend some time working abroad.

So at the start of your career, the rule to follow is: There is much to discover! Don't be afraid of making mistakes and learn from them. Be open to what comes up along the way and be happy that career starters are being released onto a labor market in which there is an urgent need for skilled workers and professionals like you.