

TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology (SOT)


Department of Science, Technology and Society (Dept. STS)

RESET – Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology

STS – Science and Technology Studies

The logo for the RESET project, featuring the word 'RESET' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a rectangular background with a horizontal gradient from green on the left to yellow on the right, and a rough, brush-stroke-like texture.

RESET

The logo for the Science Technology Society, featuring the words 'Science', 'Technology', and 'Society' stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a rectangular background with a horizontal gradient from dark blue on the left to orange on the right, and a rough, brush-stroke-like texture.

**Science
Technology
Society**

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Department of Science, Technology and Society!

We will present

the **STS** (Science and Technology Studies) and

the **RESET** (Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology)

programs and gladly answer all your questions!

Agenda

- 1) **General information on RESET and STS**
- 2) **Questions in the Chat & Plenum**
- 3) **Individual break-out rooms for specific questions,**
with members from the school office and STS and RESET students

Clara Valdés Stauber: STS and RESET program coordinator

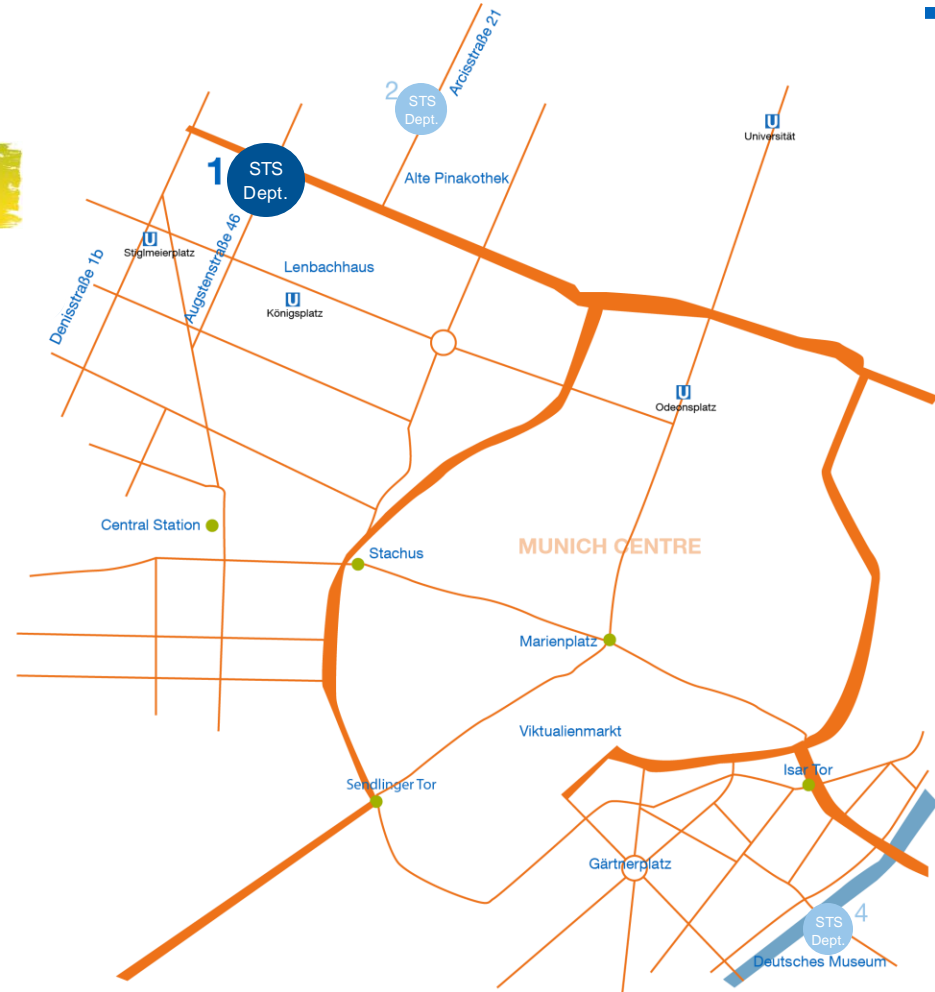
Anna Kellerer: School Office Team

Elisenda Passola, Yiğit Ülker, Olivia Seidel: Teaching Support Team and STS and RESET students

Contact: School Office Team sts.stm@sot.tum.de / **Website:** <https://www.mcts.tum.de/>

Locations STS Department

1. Augustenstraße 46
2. Arcisstraße 21
3. Deutsches Museum



Application

application period **01 January – 31 May 2023**
(for admission in the winter semester 23/24)

Step 1



50-59 Points: **Admission**
30-49 Points: **Invitation for Interview**
0-29 Points: **Rejection**

Step 2



40-59 Points: **Admission**
0-39 Points: **Rejection**

Essay Questions – current application period

Question 1

In the face of climate change and the need to find energy sources that do not produce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions, after a long steady decline in development, there are an increasing number of proponents advocating for a revival and expansion of nuclear power. Which social, political, and/or ethical questions does this raise at the intersections of science, technology, and society? Define these as a research question(s). Briefly outline an approach you might take (methods, data, theoretical framework) to explore this question(s).

Question 2

Over the last 3 years, in large part due to the Covid pandemic, various global supply chains involving a wide range of consumer goods experienced major disruptions leading to delays in production and shipping, many of which persist. In turn, these disruptions have become another justification for re-shoring efforts – attempts to rebuild more local supply chains and industries. Which social, political, and/or ethical questions does this raise at the intersections of science, technology, and society? Define these as a research question(s). Briefly outline an approach you might take (methods, data, theoretical framework) to explore this question(s).

The essay is assessed according to the criteria a) spelling and grammar, b) identifying, describing and reflecting upon complex interrelations between technology, science and society by using specific examples, c) formulating relevant issues and questions, d) outlining an appropriate research idea

STS 0 – The STS pre-course

STS 0: Methods in STS and Basic Ideas and Concepts of STS is...

... a pre-course that prepares you for your upcoming studies and on-boards you independently of your academic background!

... is a requirement for those students who don't have 8 ECTS points in social science classes in their prior studies.

Core Topics & Advanced Topics

Technoscience & Narrative Cultures

Media & Digital Cultures

Publics & Participation

Theoretical Reflections on Law and Technology

Law and Digitization in Action

Co-construction of Technology & Users

Responsible Research & Innovation

Industries and Innovation

Ethics and Responsibility

Politics & Governance

Knowledge Cultures & Institutions

Risk & Security

Gender & Diversity

Nature Cultures & Sustainability

Infrastructures & Design

Biomedicine and Health

Epistemology and Ontology

RESET

Practice-oriented learning

Mix of projects and theory

Interdisciplinary and international student groups

Stay-abroad options

Small project and student groups

Extra-curricular activities

M.A. Program “Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology” (RESET)

Individual support from staff and faculty

Focuses on both the technical and social aspects of responsibility in today’s highly technologized societies

Access to the Elite Network of Bavaria

Networking and career opportunities across disciplinary and institutional boundaries

Introduction	Immersion Project	Technology and Society					Immersion Project	10	Sem 1
		Ethics	Politics	Economics	Law	Media			
		Methods in STS						5	
Skills Courses (e.g. English Writing, Moderation)								3	
STEM 1 & 2 with Intensive Mentoring								12	Sem 2
STS Core Topics 1-3								15	
Skills Courses (e.g. Project Management, Statistics)								3	
Master's Blog						Science School	7	Sem 3	
Internship									17
Practicing Research in STS							6		
Master's Thesis Colloquium								30	Sem 4

Internship

- RESET: during the first half of the 3rd semester (between August and December)
- 8 weeks, full-time (or equivalent)
- can be done in Germany or abroad



Photo: Astrid Eckert / TUM

Going abroad

Best option: **Internship abroad**

Other options: Study abroad via the
TUMexchange or ERASMUS+ Programs

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.international.tum.de/en/go-international/>



Photo: Franziska Zhu / TUM

Contact

School Office Team
sts.stm@sot.tum.de



Thank you for your attention!

Breakout Rooms

Q & A

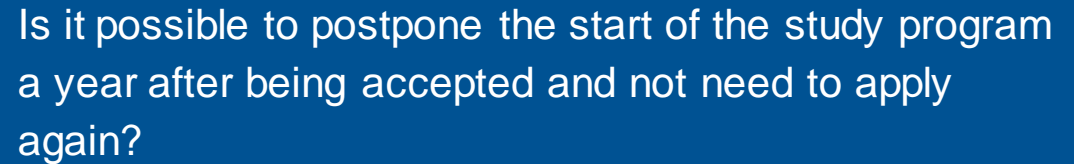
What working field am I qualified for after this master program?



There is a vast number of possibilities – the most popular career paths for our students are careers in:

- academia,
- at companies in responsibility and ethics departments
- NGOs
- consulting,
- science communication
- science policy
- or returning to their original career with a new perspective

Q & A



Is it possible to postpone the start of the study program a year after being accepted and not need to apply again?



Formally, an application is required but if you've already applied before and were accepted, you will be accepted the next year as well (also without having to write a new essay or a new letter of motivation). Please contact sts.stm@sot.tum.de for detailed information.

Q & A




Is it possible to have the interview online?

Yes, an online interview is possible. Please contact sts.stm@sot.tum.de for detailed information.

Previously asked questions

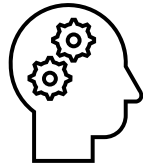
Q & A



Is there a possibility to do an internship or a period of studying abroad during the studies?

In both programs there is the possibility to do an internship. It's mandatory in RESET and voluntary in the STS program. (Domains: Consulting, Policymaking Institutions, Companies)

Q & A



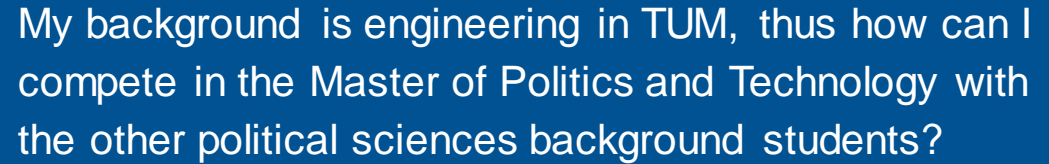
Are students supported during their studies by the University? (accommodation, tutor/study support, funding and job hunting, psychological support etc.)

TUM hosts a page for accommodation offers, so does the Studentenwerk. Studentenwerk also offers psychological support; TUM organizes the mental health program TUM4health. Additionally, we circulate all mental health places to go in our recurring newsletter.

For our new students, we offer a buddy program – the new students can choose to have a buddy from a higher semester helping them with questions around classes, everyday uni life and everything else they need.

Concerning jobs and internships, we regularly circulate offers via the student mailing lists.

Q & A



My background is engineering in TUM, thus how can I compete in the Master of Politics and Technology with the other political sciences background students?



There is a “Basic Methods”-course to complete before the studies start. The course gives an overview about all basic methodical tools in social sciences.

Additionally, the entire first semester of both the STS and the RESET program consists of courses that will introduce you into social sciences and form a common ground for the rest of your studies.

For details on the M.A. Politics and Technology, please also contact the according offices.

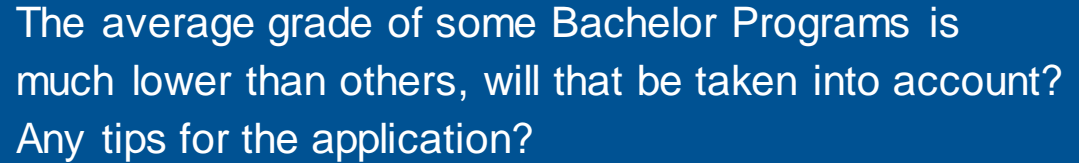
Q & A

What would you say are the differences between this MA and other STS Master's across Europe? Why should we choose to study STS at a technical university with no tradition in humanities and social sciences rather than at a "classical" university? Is the Department enough involved in the study of social sciences?



The STS program at TUM has a strong interdisciplinary focus; TUM being a technical university also offers interactions with STEM classes (STS-MINT). All our researchers have a Social Sciences/Humanities background (different research fields) and the lecturers and research groups at the department have the finger on the pulse of current STS research. Traditionally, there have been three social sciences departments at TUM (EDU, GOV, former MCTS/STS Department). With the restructuring of the schools, the three departments merged to the School of Social Sciences and Technology and represent the research in social sciences at TUM in a united form.

Q & A



The average grade of some Bachelor Programs is much lower than others, will that be taken into account?
Any tips for the application?



This is of course taken into account. We differentiate for example between humanities, MINT/STEM-subjects and social sciences. It's quite clear that it can be harder to obtain 1,0 in mathematics than in German Language Studies.

Additionally, the application process also considers your essay and your letter of motivation.

Q & A



Is the teaching staff composed entirely by professors and academics or are there professionals as well? Are there going to be guest lecturers? Which are the main modalities of teaching?

The teaching staff is composed of professors and academics, often also with a professional STS background. There are going to be guest lecturers. Different teaching methods in different programs: RESET with a more practical approach (project work as in the immersion project, organizing a simulated conference like the science school, internship and reflection of the internship), STS in a seminar-based format with more focus on academic research and regular courses.

Special events for students of both programs like the “Spring Gathering” complete the overall study experience. There students get a budget to hire speakers and organize a conference with overnight accommodations in an attractive environment, e.g. in the Bavarian Alps or the Alpine foreland.