



Graduate Center
TU Ilmenau

Miteinander wachsen. Für morgen forschen.

Transferable Skills Programme 2026 / 2027

WORKSHOPS · INFO-TALKS

FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AT TU ILMENAU

OCTOBER 2026 TO MARCH 2027

Miteinander wachsen. Für morgen forschen.



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
ILMENAU



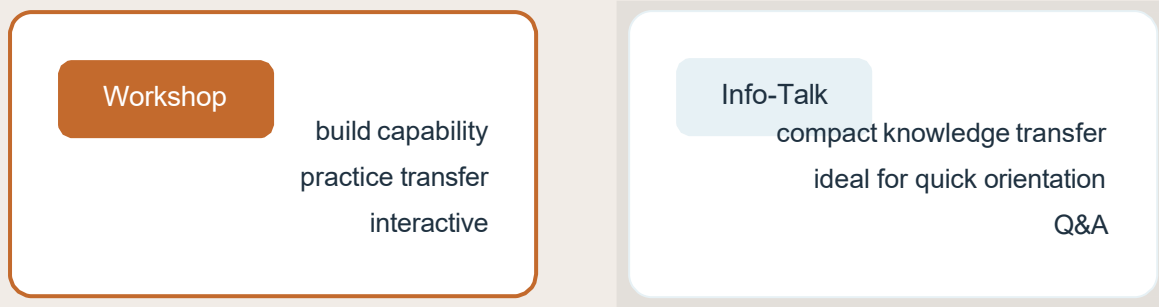
A Word on the Programme

A doctorate takes you through many stations at which you grow. So that you find the right support at each of them, our programme is organised around the development fields "Research & Teaching", "Management" and "Personal Development". For every offering you will find the doctoral phase, cycle, competence and language noted.

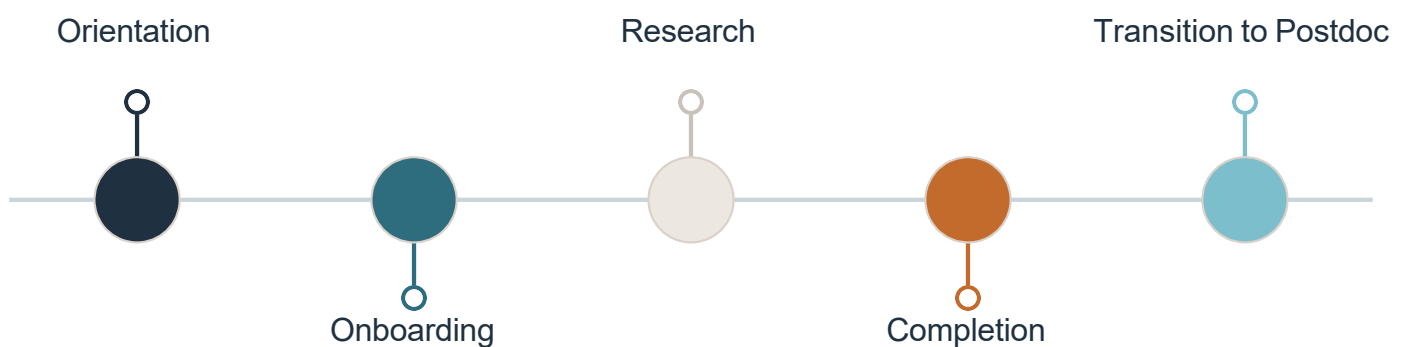
For every attendance you receive a certificate of participation. You can let the events you have attended count towards the "Leadership in Science" certificate.

Due to reasons of time this English edition was produced with AI assistance (Claude); the German version is authoritative.

The Formats



The Doctoral Phases



Crash Course in Higher Education Didactics

[Register](#)

At the centre are the questions that arise in your first semesters. You engage with the foundations of teaching and learning, plan your teaching from the learning objective onwards, and learn how to give effective feedback. It is just as much about your own role as a teacher and about staying composed in difficult situations and conflicts. You work on concrete examples from your own teaching routine and take away tools you can put to use right away in the next semester.

Phase: all

Cycle: yearly

Teaching & Didactics

Date: 08 & 09.10.2026

Lead: Marcus Berger

German

Overview of Common Funding Bodies

[Register](#)

At the start of a proposal, it is rarely the idea that comes first. It is the question: who actually funds this? The funding landscape is large, hard to navigate and full of programmes with their own logic. This course brings order to it. You gain an overview of the common funding bodies and learn which institution suits which kind of project.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competence

Date: 21.10.2026

Lead: Dr Dörte Gerhardt

German

Funding Research

[Register](#)

The right funding programme will not find you on its own. You need to know where to look. This course shows you the research paths to the common funding bodies such as the DFG and BMFTR and familiarises you with the tools that take the searching off your hands.

You get to know resources such as the Federal Funding Database and ELFI and see in a demonstration how to search them precisely for suitable calls.

To close, we look at how to use AI tools sensibly for your funding research and where their limits lie.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competences

Date: 04.11.2026

Lead: Dr Gerd Jäkel

German

Developing Project Proposals and Project Ideas

[Register](#)

A good research question is not yet a project. Between the first idea and a fundable proposal lies a path that this course walks with you. You learn how your research question becomes a clearly defined project that convinces others.

After that comes the proposal itself. A funding application follows a logic of its own, and those who know it write more convincingly. You work out how a proposal is structured, which components belong in it and what reviewers look for when they decide on your idea.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competence

Date: 18.11.2026

Lead: Dr Vinzenz Ullmann

German

Good Scientific Practice

[Register](#)

Good research shows not only in the result, but in how it came about. Documenting cleanly, citing honestly, storing your data so others can follow it: it sounds obvious, but in case of doubt it decides how credible your work is.

In this short workshop we look at which rules of good scientific practice really apply, such as those of the DFG and TU Ilmenau, and what they mean concretely for your day-to-day work. Not a dry catalogue of rules, but clear guidance you can put to use straight away.

Phase: Orientation, Onboarding

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competence

Date: 12.11.2026

Lead: Milena Pfafferott

English

Searching like a pro

the basis for everything else

[Register](#)

Keeping track of the current state of research is an essential part of any academic work. This workshop lays the foundation: search strategies, the right databases, evaluating sources and keeping the overview. These skills carry you through your entire PhD and form the basis for our AI course.

Phase: Orientation, Onboarding

Cycle: yearly

Subject Competence

Date: 26.11.2026

Lead: Milena Pfafferott

English

Collaborations with Academia and Industry

[Register](#)

What do you need to bear in mind?

As soon as you collaborate with partners from academia or industry, matters quickly become legally complex. Not every form of collaboration is the same, and the differences have consequences. This course sharpens your eye for what matters.

First come the basics. You learn to draw a clean distinction between collaborative research, contract research and research-related services, because a great deal depends on it. Building on that, we look at the EU framework: what do state aid and separation of accounts mean for your collaboration, and which rules must you observe?

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competences

Date: 02.12.2026

Lead: Dr Dörte Gerhardt

German

AI-Assisted Literature Search

[Register](#)

AI tools are changing how we find, screen, and evaluate academic literature. How can chatbots, search assistants & co. be used for literature searching in a meaningful and critically reflective way? In this lab, you'll try out various tools directly on your own topic. You will learn where chatbots and search assistants can support your literature search and how to integrate these tools sensibly into your workflow. Bring a concrete research topic or research question, and discover where the tools add value, and where they do not (yet).

Phase: all

Cycle: yearly

Subject Competence

Date: 09.12.2026

Lead: Imke Steinbrecht

English

From Funding Application to Successful Project

[Register](#)

A proposal is only the beginning. The path to a successful project starts long before submission and ends long after the award. This course accompanies you across the whole arc, from the first preparations through to the running project work.

At the start stands the question of the right information. You clarify which details a project proposal requires and where to obtain them. Building on that, we look at what matters in the writing and in which order you sensibly proceed, so that nothing slips through before the deadline.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: every semester

Subject Competences

Date: 09.12.2026

Lead: Dr Dörte Gerhardt

German

From Concept to Conclusion

[Register](#)

A Guide to Scientific Writing

Your results only count once they are on paper. In science, publishing is the currency, and writing is how you earn it. It may not be the part of research you look forward to most, but it shapes your next project, your reputation and your career. The good news: writing is a craft you can learn, and this workshop starts exactly where you are.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: yearly

Communication

Date: 07 & 08.01.2027

Lead: Dr Carsten Rohr

English

Publishing in Open Access

[Register](#)

Open Access can raise the visibility of publications. You are planning to publish research results and have questions about Open Access: what do the OA colours Gold, Hybrid and Green mean? What should you look for when choosing a journal? How is Open Access financed? This info-talk gives an overview of Open Access and presents funding options for OA financing at TU Ilmenau.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: yearly

Subject Competence

Date: 27.01.2027

Lead: Dr Katrin Günther

German

Where do I publish without falling for it?

[Register](#)

Recognising reputable journals and conferences

In this workshop you learn to tell reputable from disreputable publication venues. You find out how to recognise a good journal, which warning signs point to predatory publishing and which tools help you make an assessment. We look at real examples, so that you learn to spot the patterns yourself.

Phase: Research, Completion

Cycle: yearly

Subject Competence

Date: 10.02.2027

Lead: Dr Katrin Günther & Milena Pfafferott

German

Writing Successful Funding Proposals

[Register](#)

Securing funding is one of the central tasks in academia, and a convincing proposal is the foundation for it. Whether your idea gets funded rarely comes down to its quality alone. A concise title matters just as much, along with a coherent summary, a sound budget and the careful observance of all formal requirements.

Across two workshop days, you gain an overview of the entire funding acquisition process. You get to know the basic principles of the third-party funding system, understand application and review procedures, and practise writing a convincing proposal. Throughout, you work on a research topic of your own, whether current or planned, and apply the content directly to your situation.

for Postdocs

Cycle: yearly

Subject Competence

Date: 15 & 16.02.2027

Lead: Dr Jens Bast

English

Project, Time, and Selfmanagement

[Register](#)

The first phase of a PhD often feels like an open field with no signposts. No one tells you when to do what. Your project is vast, the timeline stretches across years, and the only person structuring your day is you. This is exactly where the first pressure builds: too many open fronts, too little clarity, and the constant feeling that you should really be working on something else.

In this workshop you will learn how to get your PhD project onto solid ground. We break the big picture down into manageable stages, so that "finished someday" turns into a realistic roadmap. You'll gain methods for setting priorities instead of being driven by deadlines.

Phase: Orientation, Onboarding

Cycle: yearly

Project & Self-Management

Date: 03.11.2026

Lead: Annette Held

English

Meetings with Impact: Plain talk in the room. Decisions that hold.

[Register](#)

When meetings lose energy, much is discussed and little is decided. Discussions go round in circles, topics shift to the next round, and in the end what matters is missing: a workable decision. Especially in the tenure-track and postdoc phases, when you increasingly take on responsibility for teams, projects and committees, this costs time.

After the workshop, meetings are concrete. A decision stands. The next step is clear. And there is less room for interpretation, which otherwise carries on in side rounds and follow-up emails. Meetings become more focused and gain commitment for everyone involved.

for Postdocs and Junior Professors

Cycle: one-off

Leadership & Team Skills

Date: 27.11.2026

Lead: Cornelia Stöckmann

German

Building Your Digital Visibility with LinkedIn

[Register](#)

In this workshop you will learn how to set up an academic profile that convinces without feeling forced. You will develop a strategy for communicating your research clearly to the outside world, and you will find out how to become visible in your research community without having to post all the time. You will also look at how recruiters and employers search, and how to set up your profile so that you get found for positions both inside and outside academia.

Phase: all

Cycle: one-off

Communication

Date: 18.01.2027

Lead: Maia George

English

Confident and Assured Presence

[Register](#)

Working on body, voice and communication

In this workshop you work on your body language, on voice and speech quality and on your impact in presentation and discussion situations of the kind that come your way at conferences, in colloquia and in the defence of your work. The aim is that you come across as present, credible and dependable even under pressure, and that you place your research with the necessary assurance. With the help of this course, improve your whole-body presence and impact, the quality of your voice, your speech and your communication skills, so that your listeners perceive you as more agreeable, confident, assured and dependable.

Phase: all

Cycle: one-off

Communication

Date: 02 & 03.03.2027

Lead: Jan Werth

German

SUNRISE: Funding Opportunities in the European University Alliance

[Register](#)

Europe is closer to your research than you think. TU Ilmenau coordinates the European University Alliance SUNRISE, a partnership of nine universities. What many do not realise: this alliance opens up concrete opportunities that can benefit your academic career.

In this info-talk, we show you what funding opportunities SUNRISE offers doctoral researchers and postdocs, from mobility formats to joint research projects and access to European networks and partner institutions. You learn how to make use of these offers in your own situation, whom to approach and what to keep in mind as you take your first step into the European research network.

Phase: all

Cycle: one-off

Subject Competence

Date: 23.11.2026

Lead: Dr Vinzenz Ullmann & Thomas Mirow

English

Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (WissZeitVG)

[Register](#)

Fixed-term contracts are part of everyday life for most people in academia, and the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz) sets the rules for them. On 29 July 2026, the Federal Cabinet adopted a new draft bill to modernise fixed-term employment law in the academic sector, which is set to amend the WissZeitVG. We want to give you answers to your pressing questions already now, for example: which fixed-term rules affect you as a doctoral researcher or postdoc? For the first time, the draft provides for minimum contract terms for first contracts before and after the doctorate. How long should they be, and from when will they apply?

Phase: all

Cycle: one-off

Subject Competence

Date: 07.12.2026

Lead: Marko Hennhöfer

German

Patents, Trademarks, Designs & More

[Register](#)

You have developed something new in your research. But who does it actually belong to, and what can you do with it? An invention made during your PhD, a name for your spin-off idea, a design you've created: all of these can be protected, and some decisions are hard to undo.

In this info talk, PATON introduces itself as your point of contact for all questions around intellectual property. You will get an overview of what patents, trademarks and designs actually are, when each one matters, and what to watch out for as a doctoral researcher, especially at the sensitive interface between publishing and protecting your work.

Phase: all

Cycle: one-off

Subject Competence

Date: 16.03.2027

Lead: PATON

English

PATON — Patent and IP Services

Your research can lead to results worth protecting. Whether an invention qualifies for a patent, how to secure intellectual property rights, and what a patent application means for a later publication are questions that matter early in the process. PATON, the patent information centre of TU Ilmenau, supports you here.

Please note that PATON's workshops and seminars are held in German. For international researchers, the team offers individual advice and research services and can be contacted directly.

You will find PATON at the Leibnizbau, and more information at

<https://www.tu-ilmenau.de/en/research/service/paton>.



How to Register

You will find registration and current dates via Turm II. Questions? Just write to us at graduate-center@tu-ilmenau.de. We reply quickly.
Check Turm II regularly, too, for events added to the programme at short notice.

More than single workshops: the "Leadership in Science" certificate

Much of what you take in this programme counts twice over. The workshops and info-talks are valuable in their own right, and they can also feed into the "Leadership in Science" certificate, with which the Graduate Center makes your transferable-skills development visible across the whole doctorate.

The certificate is modular and comprises 120 working units in total. In the foundation module you collect working units in the development fields "Research & Teaching", "Personal Development" and "Management". To these are added a module for reflection and collegial exchange and a module for practice transfer, in which you can have achievements such as a conference contribution or a teaching project credited.

Participation is voluntary, and you set your own pace. You can attend individual offerings without committing yourself and decide later whether to work towards the certificate. All that matters is that you have your participation confirmed.

Talk to us if you have questions about the certificate.



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