

Call for Participants

TransforM 2026 Doctoral Winter School

Interdisciplinary perspectives on transformative technologies and societal change

8–10 December 2026 | Munich, Germany

Submission Deadline: September 1st

The TransforM Excellence Cluster invites applications from outstanding doctoral researchers from universities all over the world and from different social science disciplines to join us in Munich for a three-day Winter School on transformative technologies and societal change. The Winter School is relevant to doctoral researchers from the fields of **management, economics, governance, STS, education, among others**, who are interested in why, when, and how technologies become socially transformative, and want to learn how to critically assess and inform transformation pathways ‘all the way through’ – from the early stages of their emergence to their wider socio-economic impact.

Participants will:

- attend panels and lectures with our expert researchers,
- present their current research in peer review sessions,
- take part in site visits (such as to the Deutsches Museum)
- attend networking/social events in the evenings to connect with TransforM Excellence Cluster community.

TransforM, the Munich Center for Transformative Technologies and Societal Change, is an Excellence Cluster funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is led by the Technical University of Munich, in partnership with Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition (MPI), the Leibniz Center for European Market Research (ZEW), the Munich School of Politics and Public Policy (HfP) and the ifo Institute.

TransforM tackles the dual challenge of advancing fundamental social science for technologized societies and rethinking technology development through a social science lens. As an interdisciplinary social science cluster with a principal focus on technology, our goal is to augment current theories and methods to comprehensively understand and help shape transformative technology to better serve diverse societal needs.

Over three days, participants in the Winter School will cover these topics and more with our cluster principal investigators and external experts. Participants will receive a certificate from the TransforM Academy and will be credited with up to 4 ECTS credits.

Application Process

Interested doctoral researchers should submit to applications@trm.tum.de:

- their CV
- a one-page motivation statement that includes a short summary of their doctoral research they would plan to present at the Winter School
- one publication or working paper (optional)

Accepted applicants will have their accommodations and lunches covered by the Winter School. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs.

If you are in need of **travel cost support**, please send an additional max. 1 page statement along with your application detailing an estimated travel budget that you would require additional support for and an explanation of why they cannot be covered by your home institution.

Applicants should also ask their Ph.D. supervisor to send a short email confirming support for the application to applications@trm.tum.de with the subject line "TransforM Winter School_NAME OF APPLICANT".

Submission deadline is 1 September 2026. Successful applicants will be notified by 21 September 2026. Note, particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring research discipline, geographic and gender balance.