# Guidelines for establishing joint professorships at TU Darmstadt

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT

## 1. Objectives

In exceptional cases, TU Darmstadt can establish joint professorships (*Kooperationsprofessuren*) as part-time professorships (Section 67(8) HessHG (*Hessisches Hochschulgesetz* – Hessian Higher Education Act)). Joint professorships are created as part of an existing cooperation with companies in the industry or with external research institutions (including those from the cultural sector or civil society).

Joint professorships are established with the following goals in mind:

- Promoting existing cooperation with TU Darmstadt;
- Attracting a scientist for TU Darmstadt who can offer a teaching programme of particular topicality based on the scientist's principal activity;
- Involving a scientist in research activities at TU Darmstadt to define the research profile more clearly (particularly by way of publications or engaging in (research) projects) and to increase TU Darmstadt's international visibility;
- Achieving a dynamic exchange and transfer of knowledge, ideas as well as findings and technologies between TU Darmstadt and the cooperating institution;
- Opening the door to the infrastructure of the professor's primary employer;
- Involving a scientist in specifically promoting early-career researchers at TU Darmstadt.

Every single joint professorship need not reach each and every of the goals listed above.

The President

Karolinenplatz 5
64289 Darmstadt

## 2. Requirements for establishing joint professorships

Professorial requirements:

- The requirements applying to appointing someone to a joint professorship are identical to the requirements to be met for a regular professorial appointment at TU Darmstadt;
- Ongoing active research;
- As a rule, active teaching, or at least sufficient experience in independent academic teaching, the quality of which has been established by evaluation or other means (such as experience in training or participation in academic didactics programmes).

Requirements for principal activity:

- The external principal activity must be mainly scientific;
- Joint professorships are intended to involve persons from the industry in TU Darmstadt. On a case-by-case basis, they can also be established/used in lieu of a joint appointment (*gemeinsame Berufung*) with non-university



Version: 18 December 2023

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT

The President

Karolinenplatz 5
64289 Darmstadt

research institutions. Joint professorships are not intended for persons who already hold a professorship at another university;
- The existing cooperation is usually governed by a cooperation agreement.

## 3. Rights and obligations

- Joint professors are authorised and obligated to teach and to examine students as specified in the statutes of TU Darmstadt.
- Joint professors can be nominated as examiners (*Referierende*) of a dissertation (doctoral thesis) and in special cases, can supervise doctoral candidates (Section 10(1) and Section 11(2c) PO/AT (*Allgemeine Bestimmungen der Promotionsordnung* – General Doctoral Regulations) of TU Darmstadt).
- During the professorial appointment procedure, the scope of and focus in teaching as well as the participation in research and the promotion of early-career researchers will be negotiated along with remuneration. The scope of this part-time work will be determined accordingly.
- Joint professors are associates but not members of the university (Section 37(6) HessHG). Hence, they have no self-administration rights.
- The designation “professor” is conferred with the start of the employment. The use of this designation can be continued after the employment ended if the period of employment was five years at least (Section 67(4) HessHG).

## 4. Structure and procedures

- As a rule, the workload of a joint professorship is at least 20 % of the workload of a full-time professorship and requires spending an appropriate time on site at TU Darmstadt.
- The joint professor offers a teaching programme of particular topicality matching the scope of the professorship (2 SWS if 20 %).
- Joint professorships can be established in the salary groups W2 or W3. Typically, they are appointed as public employees (Section 3(2) TUDG HE (*TU-Darmstadt-Gesetz* – Act on the ongoing organisational development and advancement of Technical University of Darmstadt (TU Darmstadt Act).
- Joint professorships are established in a department and can be affiliated with an institute.
- Generally, the respective department is responsible for financing the joint professorship. Joint professorships are not eligible for the same financial and other resources as regular professorships are.
- The statutory employment requirements for professors (Section 68 HessHG) apply to this professorial appointment.

- The *Leitfaden für Berufungsverfahren* (guideline for professorial appointment procedures) applies to professorial appointments as a joint professor, in addition to other regulations of TU Darmstadt related to professorial appointments. The professorial appointment procedure must substantiate the added scientific value of the joint professorship for TU Darmstadt.
- The appointment of a joint professorship is only conceivable as an ad personam procedure as required by the specific nature of the institutional cooperation and the personal competencies and qualities of the candidate. Before initiating the appointment procedure, it must be clarified that the requirements specified are met.

## 5. Duration of a joint professorship

Establishing a joint professorship, appointing the joint professor and the ongoing part-time employment at TU Darmstadt are subject to the condition that the external principal activity of the joint professor and the scientific nature of this principal activity are ongoing.

5.1 Fixed term:

As a rule, joint professorships are established for a fixed term only (three to six years maximum in accordance with Section 67(5) HessHG). Based on the strategic objectives, reasons for a fixed-term joint professorship can be in particular:

- A fixed term in accordance with the cooperation agreement;
- A fixed-term focus of research, a fixed-term field of research or research cluster, or a fixed-term initiative as part of it.

5.2 Extension of a fixed-term joint professorship:

A joint professorship established for less than six years can be extended to six years maximum. Based on a self-evaluation report of the joint professor, the department concerned will make a request for extension to be addressed to the President. This request contains an acknowledgement of the achievements of the joint professor. Based on this request, the Executive Board will decide on the extension.

5.3 Converting a fixed-term joint professorship into a permanent joint professorship:

An existing fixed-term joint professorship can only be converted to permanent in justified exceptional cases. In addition to the professorial requirement, strategic and structural requirements are decisive for making a joint professorship permanent. Before initiating the ad personam procedure, it must be clarified that the requirements involved are met.

The President

Karolinenplatz 5
64289 Darmstadt

Professorial requirements:

- Excellent performance in research and teaching to date;
- Verified and evidently achieved increase in visibility of TU Darmstadt (by way of publications, knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer between external research and the university, teaching special programmes or providing specific support to early-career researchers etc.);
- Low risk of the joint professor concerned to give up the ongoing active research in their primary capacity at the cooperation partner after making the joint professorship a permanent one.

Strategic requirements:

- Long-term and well established and successful cooperation with a cooperation partner important to TU Darmstadt (apart from the joint professor concerned);
- Long-term involvement of the joint professor in visible collaborative research projects, such as collaborative research centres (SFB) or clusters of excellence.

Structural requirements:

- Research by the joint professor that is thematically relevant, sustainable and strategically important for TU Darmstadt, thus visibly strengthening the focus and fields of research;
- Long-term financing of the joint professorship by the department.

The President

Karolinenplatz 5
64289 Darmstadt

Darmstadt, 18 December 2023

Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl
—President—



Version: 18 December 2023