Dear Absolvia,

Light at the end of the tunnel or just a short relaxation between two „waves“? We can’t quite believe it’s really over yet and yet we - unbeatable optimists or incorrigible dreamers that we are - are planning the DIT graduation ceremony at the end of July.

You will find all the information about it in this issue of Post Graduate, which we hope will be the first Post Pandemic issue, PG - PP so to speak.

Alumni work at DIT has become extremely important in times of the pandemic (and was already very important before). Just recently, DIT alumni, together with the Career Service, organised an event for tourism students, because the current situation in the industry worries a lot of TM students.

The numerous alumni talks, also in cooperation with student associations or the DIT Start-Up Campus, are very popular. We will keep this format digitally, as it allows us to bring „quite a calibre“ of alumni to the university for an hour to tell students about their professional and private careers without the need to travel. Seen in this light, the forced digitalisation of alumni work has given new impulses, which in retrospect we are very happy about.

Nevertheless, we think that digital offers cannot replace personal contacts, but only complement them and that is why we will plan the second half of the birthday year of AlumniNet hybrid. So look forward to digital offers that you can take advantage of from the comfort of your home and to events here on campus that will make your heart beat faster with all the memories.

Make a note of 13. November, because that’s when we’ll be celebrating 20 years of AlumniNet. AlumniNet. How? Well, really!

With the very best wishes for a great summer

Yours

Ulrike Sauckel
Alumni Profile | Luigi Zullo

Luigi, please tell us something about your professional career.

I graduated from the Deggendorf Institute of Technology in 2009. After that, I joined a consultancy for the placement of highly qualified IT and engineering specialists. There I learned the tools to successfully manage my company and my projects today. We are one of the leading service providers for the placement of specialists in the field of electromobility. For this purpose, we have strongly standardised the processes from recruitment to placement and successful project implementation and placed them on a cloud platform. Our driver for this project has always been the belief and the thought of doing something positive for the environment and society. Today, we see ourselves as professional environmentalists who want to contribute to a green society with our services and develop a profitable business in the process.

Reminiscing allowed: Remember your student days at DIT.

Yes, what can I say about that, in my mid-20s away from home and of course experiencing many, many new and exciting things. Deggendorf helped me personally to develop as a person. I was given the right tools to ideally apply my personal and social skills in the working world. I can only recommend to everyone to take advantage of what the Deggendorf Institute of Technology has to offer and also to use the region as a springboard into the world, in order to start the working world with the right values.

What advice would you give to today's students?

Grades are a wonderful tool to have an immediate overview of one's performance and commitment. However, besides grades, I also see great potential in the personal and social development of each student. Therefore, my advice is to always be open to new cultures, new business models and also new partnerships. Cultivating these and also investing in this partnership is a great asset. Personally, all the partnerships and contacts I have cultivated over the years have constantly brought me forward and helped me to always take a step forward, not only in my professional life but also in my self-employment.
We, the European Campus Rottal-Inn (ECRI), are excited to invite you to the 1st Tourism Naturally Online Symposium On Thursday, 14 October 2021

Tourism Naturally is a platform, established in 2016, to address the myriad of issues that arise as nature-based. Through this symposium, we aim to create awareness, explore different points of view and discuss current challenges of the industry with like-minded people to facilitate solutions for more sustainable tourism models.

The Tourism Naturally Online Symposium will be a 1-day free event with a special focus on:

**Nature-based tourism**
Within this panel we aim to look at nature in connection with tourism from a scientific and practical point of view, how it benefits us, how we can use it and protect it at the same time.

**Wellness, health & medical tourism**
In these lectures we would like to ensure comprehensive and versatile insights into a still underestimated but not new business field, which will see many innovative ideas and growing numbers in the coming years.

**Smart technologies for sustainable development of nature-based tourism**
This thematic field intends to give you an impression of how we succeed in finding and implementing new approaches to tourism in times of digitalisation and with the help of the latest technologies, thus creating and influencing it in a sustainable way.

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Workshops from the ECRI Tourism Lab
Immerse yourself in the world of eye-tracking and facial-expression analysis, the latest methods in service design and learn how to educate future leaders in nature-based tourism.

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**Key Note Speakers**

- **Prof. Dr. Dimitrios Buhalis**
  Bournemouth University

- **Prof. Dr. Liisa Tyrväinen**
  Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

- **Magistra Karmen Mentil**
  Self-employed tourism consultant; Director of „Alpine Pearls“, Partner of the OEAR Ltd, Consultants, Vienna

- **Prof. Dr. Raija Komppula**
  University of Eastern Finland

- **Dr. Alessandro Paletto**
  Council for Agriculture Research and Economics (CREA), Research Centre for Forestry and Wood in Trento

- **Kelly Loufaki**
  Paralympic athlete (wheelchair fencer)

- **Claudia Mitchell**
  Bayern Tourismus Marketing

- **Kseniia Gavrilova, M.A.**
  Founder of „Adventure.Dream. Team“, ECRI graduate

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For more information visit
[www.tourismnaturally.com](http://www.tourismnaturally.com)

See you in October!
Our Alumni Talk Series

Alumni Talks

In our Alumni Talks series (formerly „The Best Jobs in the World“), DIT alumni who work in management positions and/or interesting companies talk about their professional activities and how they got there. They provide insights into their daily work and give students and young graduates tips for their professional future.

In the approximately 45-minute presentation, the alumni also briefly introduce their employer and discuss the skills that brought them there. In addition, our alumni will then answer everything that concerns the participants on the subject of careers in a relaxed round of talks.

DIT Alumni selects graduates for the format who work in interesting and well-known companies or special positions and also takes into account the students' wishes. The lectures are part of the DIT Alumni offer for students, but we are also happy to welcome interested alumni.

In March 2021, Maria Andreas, one of the first graduates of the Bachelor of Tourism Management, was our guest and spoke with us and numerous TM students about her career path and the current situation in the tourism industry. The students were very interested and had many questions about working in the tourism industry and future developments in this field, e.g. sustainable travel.

Alumni Start-up Talks

In cooperation with the DIT StartUp-Campus, we have launched the series of Alumni Talks. We invite alumni who have already successfully founded a company and would like to share their experiences with us. The events take place in cooperation with the DIT Startup Campus. The founders talk about their company and their motivation for taking this step. In addition, our alumni then answer everything that concerns the participants on the topic of starting a business in a relaxed round of talks. The StartUp Campus team will also be there to answer any questions that may arise on the topic. The series of events takes place regularly during the semester.

Three founders have already shared their experiences this semester:

Lisa Präg (alumna Bachelor International Management), independent process facilitator and initiator for participation and collaboration culture:

„I have been self-employed or freelancing - as I define it for myself - for over 4 years. In these 4 years I have learned a lot about self-honesty and happiness. But also about the importance of inner alignment, discipline and courageous steps towards YOUR THING. At the DIT Founders’ Talk, I will tell you about the most relevant experiences and successes as a self-employed person and share my founding story with pleasure. I want to give you inspiration. I look forward to your questions and a joint conversation."

Martin Oehm (Master of Business Informatics alumnus), TIM Solutions GmbH:

„I studied business informatics in Regensburg, Vancouver and Deggendorf. Now I am the managing director at TIM Solutions GmbH. Here we are developing our own workflow system for the digitalisation of business processes. The system is also used at DIT in the Business Process Management lecture, where you might already know it from. However, I would like to tell you more about myself and my story in the Alumni Founder Talk. I look forward to your participation and hope I can inspire you."

Luigi Zullo (alumnus Bachelor International Management), Product Specialist eMobility of the company EMOBILITY EXPERTS:

„We believe in emobility not only as a forward-looking technology for our environment, but also in particular as the basis for a positive business model. Our Emobility Experts Multi Stage Selection Process (MSSP) Method always guarantees the right partner for each individual project. We align innovative companies and support product development in the field of emobility."

ECRI Talks

In June, we organised an ECRI Alumni Talk for the first time. In cooperation with the student association RESP e.V., the event series was launched with alumni of the European Campus Rottal-Inn. Anju Philip, graduate of the M. Sc. Medical Informatics, now M. Sc. Digital Health, talked about her path from graduation to employment for a job she is passionate about. She gave the audience valuable tips and was able to remove many question marks from the students’ minds with helpful answers. Many more interesting ECRI Alumni Talks are to follow.
The International Mentoring Programme at DIT

The International Mentoring Programme, which started in autumn 2020, entered its second round in the summer semester of 2021. The IMP is an offer from DIT alumni specifically for international students. In the programme, they are given the opportunity to have a mentor, all international DIT alumni, at their side for a semester and to learn from a former student. The mentors support the students in their professional and personal lives, while the mentee is given the opportunity to reflect on his or her own path. Mentoring includes the elements of coaching, networking, knowledge transfer and exchange of ideas. Topics can include, for example, sharing experiences and knowledge of German work culture and personal development.

The programme takes place completely virtually; communication via WhatsApp makes it possible for mentors and students to participate and be connected from anywhere in the world. The highlight of each round is the kick-off event, where mentors and mentees can get to know each other in a virtual meeting, both in the big round and in small break-out sessions, and then be matched to suitable tandems.

In the winter semester, there will be another opportunity to register for a new round of the International Mentoring Programme. We are always happy to welcome new mentors to the programme.

Please send us a message at alumni@th-deg.de if you are interested.

What former mentees say about the programme:

“I would like to recommend this programme to other international students, because it gives you insights about how to plan your future here in Germany. There are very good mentors who are very helpful in helping you with your CV or resume and also give you proper feedback whenever needed and that really has a lot value.”

Pavan Kumbar

“This program personally helped me a lot, by educating me and giving me insights about the German work environment, the application process and right channels to approach them. I was lucky to have Mr. Florian Fleming as my mentor, who not only guided me but also motivated me all through the program.”

Sourab Gosh

What former mentors say about the programme:

“I joined the mentoring programme because I was convinced from the start that my prior experience at DIT and my worldwide study and working experience can be handy for an international student. I had the pleasure of mentoring Meenal who as a final stage of her Master degree did an internship in Regensburg at the time I was mentoring her. I felt that she profited from my working experience and I could share my advise on culture, networking options and strategic future thinking.”

Maike Benner

“This is a great effort to get together Alumni and current students and promote knowledge sharing. I would recommend more alumni and students to join it promotes mutual learning and motivation - alumni will be able to improve social and interaction skills and for the students, it will be a personal interaction to understand the journey after graduation.”

Arunakiry Natarajan
According to the motto: „Come in and find out“, we cordially invite you, dear alumni, to test the new DIT Co-working space at ITC1.

DIT is sponsoring 5 co-working spaces as part of the “Digitalisation in Dialogue” project until the end of 2022. This means that companies, employees and freelancers can experience co-working at first hand, and even for free thanks to the sponsorship.

Co-working: The temporary workplace?
A co-working space is a temporary workplace. It is a flexible and integrated working model in which start-ups, freelancers and other employees share a flexible workspace in an open office.

The space concept at ITC1 offers everything that makes a co-working heart beat faster: A smart & professional setting, flexibility and plenty of space for collaboration and creativity. Retreats and quiet areas for focused work are just as important as spacious rooms.

A bonus: The proximity to the centre for digitalisation at ITC1
Collaboration is very important here. The start-up scene in Deggendorf is dynamic and yet familiar. Synergies quickly emerge here quite incidentally. Julia Grun, a freelance interior architect and designer, was able to gain this experience during her first DIT co-working days: she is now planning a collaboration with Florian Geiß from the start-up „PBI - Planung Bau und Innovation - GmbH“. “Due to our similar professional environment, the construction industry, we realised within a very short time that we could potentially complement each other in the future,” Julia Grun reports.

“The first day was extremely easy”
Emmanuel Peterle, professor of experimental economics and statistics in France, who has his centre of life in the Bavarian Forest for family reasons, summarises his first impressions on site. „It’s a great opportunity for me to meet new people, expand my network and work in a pleasant environment,“ says Peterle.
DIT Co-working Space at ITC1 | Innovative | Flexible | Collaborative

Find out more about your options at the DIT co-working space.

A good opportunity is the next virtual co-working space info session on Wednesday, 21 July at 4 pm.

For more information and to register for the virtual info session, please contact us at coworking@th-deg.de or online at www.th-deg.de/en/business/coworking.
SEMINAR FOR (YOUNG) PROFESSIONAL

SYP: Goals, Time and Self-Management | Saturday, 23 October 2021 from 10 am at DIT*.

The workshop „Goals, Time and Self-Management“ will take place on Saturday, 23.10.2021 from 10 am to 5 pm at DIT. The seminar is free of charge for AlumniNet members. For non-members the fee is €50.

To make the best use of your time and achieve goals as stress-free as possible, you need good self-organisation. Running after time, getting bogged down in trivialities, no longer being in control of your own time, triggers stress and excessive demands. However, it is amazingly easy to improve work processes, your own working style and personal time planning. Take a critical look at your own working style and optimise your individual working methods and self-organisation.

Registration is possible at alumni@th-deg.de.

Contents of the workshop:

- Analysis of your own working style and self-organisation
- Get to know different methods of setting priorities
- Identifying and using optimisation opportunities
- Analyse and eliminate causes of time wasting
- Beat procrastination
- Clearly define tasks
- Organise meetings effectively
- Successful communication - short and sweet
- Principles of precise and motivating delegation

*By registering you agree to our seminar guidelines (see homepage)
Due to the situation, the organisation of the graduation ceremony in Deggendorf has had to wait a while, but for some months now the teams of DIT alumni and the Master's in Media Technology, under the leadership of Prof. Krebs, have begun to develop and implement the concept so that the graduates can be given the farewell they deserve, despite the adverse circumstances.

To ensure that the graduation ceremony can take place in any case, a lot of ideas and flexibility are required, from the university and the organisation team as well as from the participants. Safety is always the top priority, but a festive farewell and fun and reunion should not be neglected.

In order to be prepared for (almost) all eventualities, we are planning with a tight hygiene concept, because we want to make it absolutely possible, so the graduation ceremony 2021 will be a hybrid event. The graduates are on site at the DIT campus. They will meet their fellow students again and can toast their successful graduation together, pledge a first „homecoming“.

An ingenious virtual concept ensures that relatives can be present at the farewell ceremony, with no limit on the number of people, i.e. as many as want to, on as many screens as they have. We stream the official presentation of the certificates via Zoom and film the graduate in such a way that the family will have the impression that they are standing next to them. So that the alumni know that their families/friends are present, their names will appear on the screen in the room in which they are being seen off.

The event has been extended to three days to allow everyone to safely attend the event. Around 500 graduates from the faculties of Applied Health Sciences, Applied Computer Science, Applied Economics, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Media Engineering, Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering, Applied Natural Sciences and Industrial Engineering as well as the Centre for Academic Further Education have registered for the celebrations.
As part of this year’s graduation ceremony, we would like to make the graduates and their eyes shine. True to the motto: Come and Glow up with us!

The graduation ceremony will take place from 29 - 31 July 2021, divided by faculties:

**Thursday, 29 July:**
Applied Computer Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Media Technology

**Friday, 30 July:**
Applied Health Sciences, Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics, Centre for Academic Continuing Education

**Saturday, 31 July:**
Applied Economics, Applied Natural Sciences and Industrial Engineering and Management

The motto „Glow up with us“ was chosen for two reasons: On the one hand, the slogan „Glow up with us“ fits the comprehensive concept with a light show in which the graduates and the university are illuminated and „brought to life“. On the other hand, the slogan is based on the statement „Grow up with us“, because the alumni have grown and matured into personalities during their time at the university. The graduation ceremony is a fitting conclusion to this.

Right at the beginning, the graduates are fitted with a robe and hat (with the colour of the tassel corresponding to the faculty and the year of graduation). After a short get-together and champagne reception, the alumni ceremoniously move into the rooms, where they are presented with their degree certificate by their dean or programme director in a handover ceremony. This is followed by the highlight of the show: the hat toss. Once again, all participants will meet at the DIT campus. After a speech by a student representative and the leadership of DIT alumni together with the president, the countdown and the brilliant light show for the hat toss will start. Afterwards, participants can enjoy the evening at the After-Show Party with illumination of the university and music.

Relatives can „participate“ in the after-show party via the many cameras around the campus, they are informed about the current programme items via an app created especially for the event and numerous posts on the DIT social media channels to keep them up to date.

The entire event is mapped in our event app and serves as an orientation tool for everyone on site and for those at home during the event. There, the development of the event and the many little things that we plan and implement can be observed in the run-up to the event. Excitement and anticipation for the event are thus built up more and more in the run-up to the event.

AlumniNet e.V., THE network association of DIT, naturally supports the DIT graduation ceremony. First of all in the form of a cheaper entrance fee for its members. In addition, AlumniNet provides the robes.

In addition, AlumniNet will be 20 years old in 2021! To celebrate this in a fitting manner at the graduate party, we invite all members to a free AlumniNet e.V. cocktail at the bar.

The 2021 graduation celebration will be different than we had hoped, but it will be safe under the circumstances and hopefully entertaining, dignified and, above all, memorable. We very much hope that the regulations for events in force at that time will allow us to hold the celebration.
Due to the pandemic, the 2020 graduation ceremony for the European Campus Rottal-Inn in the town hall in Pfarrkirchen unfortunately had to be cancelled.

In order to give the graduates of ECRI a well-deserved end to their degrees, we have therefore decided to hold the ceremony virtually this year in October. The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, 01.10.2021 at 3 pm.

Alumni from the graduation years March 2020, September 2020 and March 2021 are invited. The celebration will take place virtually because many of the graduates have returned to their home countries in the meantime. Therefore, the event can also be seen as a first “reunion”. The virtual implementation makes it possible for graduates around the world to take part in their celebration without having to travel to Pfarrkirchen. For reasons of sustainability, this is a concept we want to stick to in the future.

From 2022 onwards, two graduation ceremonies will take place annually, one on site in April/May and a virtual ceremony in October. It is up to the graduates to decide which one they want to attend.

The celebration in October 2021 will take place via Zoom. Representatives of the city of Pfarrkirchen and the district of Rottal-Inn as well as all staff, professors and lecturers of the European Campus are also invited.

After words of welcome from the Vice-President of Health Sciences and the Campus Director of ECRI Prof. Kunhardt, the Dean of the Faculty Prof. Steckenbauer, the District Administrator of Rottal-Inn Michael Fahmüller, Mayor of Pfarrkirchen Wolfgang Beißmann and the Director of DIT Alumni, Ulrike Sauckel, the graduates enter a Zoom room designed for their degree programme. Together with their fellow students and in a small circle, the graduates are individually highlighted after a few personal words from the head of the programme. They can hold up their certificate, which they received in advance, to the camera and say a few words. Afterwards, the participants can exchange ideas and “network” in this circle.

The virtual event will be framed by the ECRI band under the direction of Prof. Kreiskott.

We are looking forward to giving the graduates a dignified farewell despite the circumstances and hope for many participants.
Parallel to the graduation ceremony in Deggendorf, the graduation ceremony for the graduates of the Technology Campus in Cham will take place on Friday, 30 and Saturday, 31 July.

The mechatronics bachelor’s students of the class of 2018 and master’s students of the class of 2019 will successfully complete their studies in the summer semester of 2021 and will sustainably shape and enrich the diverse region of Cham with their skills and experience they have gained during their studies.

The presentation of the certificates will be celebrated together with everyone, as the success of the studies at the Campus Cham results from the efficient interaction of the participating companies, politics and the Deggendorf Institute of Technology.

On Friday, the ceremony for the 17 Bachelor graduates will take place, followed on Saturday by the English-language ceremony for the 33 Master students of the TC Cham. Dressed in robes and doctoral hats, the graduates will be presented with their personalised certificates at the event.

If the graduation ceremony cannot be held as planned due to the pandemic, the ceremony will be implemented virtually.

The Campus Cham of DIT and the DIT Alumni team are looking forward to a successful farewell and hope to be able to give the graduates a fitting farewell to a very special period of their lives by doing their degrees.
Support for tourism students - Exchange of experiences with TM alumni

Prospects in tourism - This was the motto of an event organised by the Career Service of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) in cooperation with DIT alumni and the student association DegTours on 17 June 2021. Corona has hit the industry hard.

It is hardly surprising that many tourism students are looking to their future with concern. The aim of the event was therefore to give them new courage and to show them opportunities and experiences. All the alumni who were asked were immediately enthusiastic and could sympathise with the students.

In a virtual meeting, eleven alumni of the Tourism Management programme told about their careers and gave tips. The participants were to learn that there are many possibilities for them. Even career paths that do not fall into the classic tourism management field. Before the students could exchange ideas with the alumni, Susanne Wagner, tourism officer at the LK Regen, gave insights into the changes in tourism and which skills will be in demand in professional life in the future in her introductory lecture.

Starting a career is (almost) never perfect, but with a global crisis that also hit tourism so hard, it could become even more difficult. All alumni agree that tourism will come back and for that it needs well-trained experts. Their advice was to see the bachelor’s degree only as a beginning. It was important to remain authentic and gain as much experience as possible. For example, in internships, working student jobs or student associations. In addition, the person behind the degree programme is important and what personal qualities he or she can demonstrate. Some speakers brought job advertisements with them and presented them. A Master’s programme was also a topic of discussion. A total of 93 students and Vice president Prof Waldemar Berg attended the event. The response was very positive on both sides.

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