

YEARBOOK 2025

FIM Alumni e.V.



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As an exploration of Generative AI's capabilities, some sections of this book have
been written with the assistance of ChatGPT and Gemini

Preface

Dear FIMily,

It is with great excitement that the FIM Marketing Team presents the Yearbook 2025. Guided by the theme “Our Year, Our Story” we have aimed to capture the essence of the past year: showcasing not only the key moments and projects that defined our journey, but also introducing fresh and engaging content that reflects who we are as a community.

This yearbook highlights our shared experiences, the goals we achieved, and, most importantly, the collaborative spirit that shapes our path. We are delighted to present Cohort 20 and to share inspiring contributions from a diverse group of voices across our program. This publication is the result of a collective effort, brought to life through the dedication of the FIM Marketing Team and the invaluable support of FIM Alumni e.V., our professors, and our corporate partners.

As you turn these pages, we hope you revisit the memories and achievements of the past year with pride and gratitude, and that you find inspiration for the journey ahead. May this yearbook serve as both a keepsake and a testament to our shared story — our year, our story.

Warm regards,

*The FIM Marketing Team
Donaldada Dhiari, Sandy Hung, Nargiz Hajiyeva, Sofia Reichenbach*

FIM Alumni Association

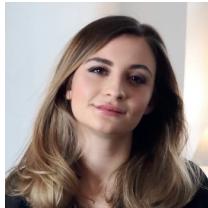
Friendship

Career

Commitment



Julia Hermann
Role: Event Management
Cohort 16 (2021)



Louisa Alexandra Kron
Role: Communication and
Scholarships
Cohort 19 (2024)



Dr. Stefan Orphal
Role: Finance
Cohort 9 (2012)



Daniel Parak
Role: Events
Cohort 17 (2022)



Dr. Daniel Rau
Role: Advisory Board,
Stakeholder Management,
Yearbook, Annual Meeting
Cohort 11 (2014)



Manuel Sauer
Role: Start-ups
Cohort 18 (2023)



Hannes Voucko-Glockner
Role: Member Management
Cohort 17 (2022)

FIM Board

Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Partners of our Master in Finance & Information Management,

Following last year's 20th-anniversary celebrations, the FIM program enters its next chapter with renewed momentum. With the start of the Class of 2025, we are delighted to welcome a new group of outstanding students to the Master in Finance and Information Management at Technical University of Munich(TUM) and the University of Bayreuth. Their diverse backgrounds, international experiences, and strong motivation once again demonstrate the global appeal and continued excellence of our program.

Over the past year, we have seen the revised program structure firmly taking shape. The new specializations in Computational Analytics, Quantitative Finance, Information Management, and Financial Management now provide students with a broad foundation for addressing the complex, data-driven challenges of modern business and society. At the same time, we are witnessing a paradigm shift in how artificial intelligence transforms the way decisions are made across industries. FIM is actively adapting to this development—integrating AI, machine learning, and optimization methods into its teaching and research to prepare our students for leadership in this rapidly evolving environment.

Beyond technical mastery, we emphasize the ability to apply these tools responsibly and strategically. Our goal is to educate graduates who not only understand advanced algorithms, but also appreciate their implications for business value, transparency, and sustainability. In this sense, the program remains true to its founding vision: bridging finance, technology, and information management to enable sound decision-making in an increasingly digital world.

We are deeply grateful for the strong engagement of our corporate partners and alumni, whose ongoing collaboration enriches the FIM learning experience. Through guest lectures, company projects, and mentoring, they help connect academic rigor with real-world practice and ensure that FIM remains at the forefront of innovation and impact.

As we look ahead, we are confident that the FIM community will continue to thrive—driven by curiosity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to shaping the future of finance and information management. We wish all students, alumni, colleagues, and partners continued success and look forward to many inspiring FIM moments in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Maximilian Schiffer, Maximilian Röglinger, and Rudi Zagst

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Interviews

Generative AI across industries

Generative AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it's a catalyst reshaping the way industries think, operate, and grow. From reimagining business models to redefining creativity and decision-making, its influence cuts across every sector. To explore how this transformation unfolds in practice, we spoke with Professors Maximilian Schiffer and Niklas Kühl from the FIM program, Dr. Anna Gründler, and Steffen Lanzinner, both FIM alumni. Together, they share how Generative AI is changing the fabric of academia, technology, and finance, offering a rare, cross-industry perspective on the opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities shaping the next era of intelligent innovation.



Steering the AI Rollercoaster: How Humans Drive GenAI Forward



Dr. Anna Gründler

Class of 2013

Senior Director of Strategy & Business
Development at deepset

Anna, let's start with your journey. How did your career path lead you to where you are today?

I grew up on a dairy farm in southern Germany and started my career in the offshore wind sector, building wind farms. After two years of full-time work, I joined the FIM program. It was a quite tough start.

My bachelor's was purely in business, I'd been out of academia for a while, and I really had to work hard to get into an academic mindset. I vividly remember sitting in the university building in Augsburg with other classmates helping each other bridge gaps and encouraging one another.

The first few months were challenging but being surrounded by people from such diverse backgrounds showed me what's possible and taught me not to be intimidated by big goals. That teamwork, combined with dedication, made all the difference. I found my rhythm and truly felt at home in FIM. I can say it changed my life.

Looking back on your journey, what core principles or values have consistently guided your decisions and shaped your path?

My perspective on careers is that while it's important to have a goal or vision, you shouldn't be blind to the opportunities that appear along the way. I've found that if you excel at something and follow your instincts, doors will open and one opportunity leads to another. It may not sound particularly visionary, but it's true. Too often, we overlook the doors in front of us while fixating on some distant future, and that's something we shouldn't forget.

Now that you're at deepset, what's the most exciting project you're working on currently?

Bringing AI systems into production. Many talk about AI or agents, but we make them operational for organizations worldwide. That includes German ministries and large corporations, but also European Institutions. For example, we are building the AI platform for the European Commission. Seeing these systems deliver real impact, not just as POCs or experiments is incredibly rewarding.

A recent highlight: the German government announced its “Deutschland Stack,” a technology stack for software development. Our open-source framework, Haystack, was recognized as a standard for building AI systems. It’s a huge moment and really validating for our team. Supporting the public sector by building sovereign AI gives me a big sense of pride.

That's fantastic, congratulations! And speaking of AI and GenAI, how would you define the current state of GenAI in the industry?

Last year, GenAI was largely about prototyping and experimentation. This year marks a shift toward production-ready systems, as organizations move from simple ChatGPT-style tools to complex AI solutions that genuinely support business processes.

The key difference is that AI applications can't simply be built and left to run. They require continuous monitoring, updates to new architectures, and integration with emerging models. For example, new frameworks like MCP demand ongoing adjustments to maintain effectiveness. This is also referred to as orchestration or MLOps. For this, a modular and technology-agnostic architecture is needed, which we enable with Haystack and the deepset AI platform.

Unlike traditional software, where maintenance is incremental and predictable, AI systems evolve rapidly, a single model update can significantly reshape performance and outcomes.

GenAI is evolving rapidly, presenting both opportunities and challenges. How difficult is it for organizations to keep up with these frequent and recent changes?

Adapting to the rapid changes in GenAI is a major challenge for many organizations. We see it firsthand with our clients: they build AI applications, but employees often don't know how to use them effectively. The success with GenAI

today hinges on effective change management. People need to understand not just how to use the technology, but also the risks, and feel empowered to engage with it. Without that understanding, organizations struggle to unlock AI's full potential.

Concerns remain widespread, we hear concerns from our customers, such as: Will AI replace my job? Will it store sensitive data? Addressing these fears requires transparency, demystifying how systems work, ensuring robust security, and making the technology both accessible and trustworthy. Ultimately, it's about building confidence and fostering active engagement across the workforce.

From your experience, what are the most common misconceptions about AI among employees, management, and within organizations?

A common misconception is that companies need to fine-tune AI models extensively. Many assume they must retrain models with large datasets, an expensive and unnecessary step. Most large language models are already pre-trained, so the real focus should be on clarifying the use case, designing the system, which could be a retrieval augmented generation pipeline in many cases, and working on good prompts providing the right context. Another myth is that organizations need to build their own LLMs. Training one from scratch is enormously resource-intensive. Today, most companies rely on commercial or open-source models that can be securely hosted and easily updated as new versions emerge.

Finally, AI doesn't "learn" automatically from every input. Most LLM systems work at inference, and weights do not change after each user prompt. While context may refine responses temporarily, the model itself isn't retrained with each use. However, there can be systems with feedback loops, or active fine-tuning in production but those are more advanced setups and not the default. Recognizing these realities is key to using AI efficiently and effectively.

Turning to opportunities, how do you see AI creating competitive advantages for companies?

I believe GenAI should be part of everyone's workflow. It needs to be embedded in the DNA of the organization. Used effectively, AI can automate repetitive tasks, assist with drafting, and support research, freeing humans for higher-value work. It also improves decision-making by integrating diverse data sources, allowing companies to synthesize information faster and act more intelligently.

AI can drive growth, too, unlocking new revenue streams and enabling products that weren't previously possible. For example, MANZ, a legal publishing house in Austria used our technology to launch a paid agentic chat-based service called "MANZ Genjus KI", supporting lawyers with questions about case law, demonstrating how AI can create both, strategic differentiation and a new revenue stream.

That's quite impressive. With so many tasks being automated, how do you see AI affecting the job market? Could it reduce the need for people in certain roles?

In Germany, we'll face a workforce challenge in the coming years, and AI can help maintain productivity. Entry-level roles may be partially automated, but humans are still essential to review, guide, and validate AI outputs. This also means rethinking how we train the next generation of talent.

During my FIM time Prof. Meier said, that we're being trained for jobs that don't yet exist, and that resonates now more than ever. The pace of technological change is immense. The technological change we are witnessing today, is bigger than the internet, as the researcher Erik Brynjolfsson from Stanford points out.

This ties into another question I had: how do you see the skill sets required for future professionals evolving?

Three traits are key: be open, embrace new opportunities; be critical, never apply technology blindly; and stay curious. AI works best when combined with human judgment and insight. True value emerges when we know what we want and engage thoughtfully with AI, rather than expecting it to do everything.

What is your boldest prediction on how GenAI will reshape enterprise decision-making over the next few years?

I believe that nine out of ten decisions in enterprises will involve AI in some form. What will truly differentiate companies is the quality of the AI systems they build and integrate.

AI doesn't always have to make the final decision, but it will increasingly shape the decision-making process. This could be something as straightforward as summarizing meeting notes or drafting reports, or much more complex like

analyzing financial models, running scenario simulations, and proposing optimized strategies for investment portfolios.

With sustainability and AI both in the spotlight, can GenAI be a true enabler of sustainability or will its energy demands undermine that promise?

It's true that training large language models consumes a lot of energy and resources. We see improvement with newer training approaches. But if we use AI wisely, it can help us as an economy to achieve more with fewer resources.

And I think sustainability shouldn't be viewed only through an environmental lens, it's also social. GenAI has the power to make knowledge accessible to everyone, including people who previously lacked access to resources or education. That kind of inclusion can truly move us forward as a society.

Considering the ways it can promote social sustainability and access, how do you see women shaping industries in the age of AI, and what unique challenges do they face?

I joined deepset as the first female team member and when working with customers or technology partners, I'm often still the only woman in the room. I don't just see opportunities for women in AI, I see a real need for more women to be part of shaping it. Many AI systems still show gender biases, and those are much easier to recognize and address when diverse teams are involved.

At the same time, challenges remain. Studies, for example from Harvard researchers show that women tend to adopt AI tools less frequently than men, which could create new gaps in skills and confidence. That's why it's so important to encourage and empower women to get involved, not only as users, but as creators and decision-makers in this space. The more perspectives we bring in, the more inclusive and trustworthy this technology will become.

And what guidance would you offer to those women that aspire to have the same or similar path as you?

My advice is simple: just go for it. Don't be afraid, and above all, trust your gut.

Anna, thank you for your time and your insights!

Thank you for the interview!

Harnessing Superpowers: AllianzGI's CTO on Leading with GenAI



Steffen Lanzinner

Class of 2002

CTO and member of the Global Executive Committee at Allianz Global Investors (AllianzGI)

Steffen, you've been with AllianzGI for over 17 years. Can you take us back to the beginning of your career and what drew you to the firm?

I began my career at AllianzGI in 2008 as a Project Manager in Corporate Development and Strategy, my first role after completing my FIM studies. One of my earliest projects was the roll-

out of a global client relationship management tool, which was a great fit given my background in technology and experience running a tech startup before FIM.

That project brought me closer to sales and marketing, where I spent most of my career focusing on organizational transformation and digitalization. During that time, I led initiatives such as global CRM, client data management, digital marketing platforms, and client portals, projects that connected our global sales teams and strengthened client engagement. We also collaborated with start-ups in the robo-advisory space, which provided valuable insights into innovation outside the corporate environment. From that experience, we developed our own digital wealth management proposition, something I like to think of as one of my early “founding” achievements.

That's interesting!

My superpower in the Distribution function was always my knowledge about technology. I could bridge business needs with technical execution, solving complex challenges through coding more effectively than most.

How has your background shaped your perspective as a leader?

My time as Head of the CEO Office marked a pivotal shift. I was responsible for AllianzGI's global strategy and key strategic initiatives, not deeply technical

work, but deeply involved in shaping the firm's direction. That experience gave me a broad understanding of the business and how functions interconnect.

When I later became responsible for Data and Technology, it was a true transition to the IT side. My "superpower" evolved from technical problem-solving to business acumen. While many on my team are far more technical than I am, I bring a strong grasp of the business, a broad internal network, and the ability to align strategic priorities with technological execution, an essential balance in today's environment.

Since June, you've been CTO and a member of the Global Executive Committee. What initiatives are currently the most exciting to you in this role?

The role of CTO is both highly strategic and deeply operational, which makes it incredibly rewarding. One of the projects I'm most excited about is GenAI. Over the past few years, this technology has gained significant attention, and I believe it has the potential to be truly transformative for our business.

I'm particularly excited to enable AllianzGI to leverage GenAI in a secure, resilient, and responsible manner, driving innovation while maintaining operational integrity, compliance, and trust for our clients and stakeholders.

GenAI is transforming industries at an unprecedented pace. How do you see its impact evolving over the next five years, particularly in investment management and knowledge work?

Five years is already a long horizon in AI, and its potential spans our entire value chain, from investment research and portfolio management to operations and control functions. AI has been part of our business for over two decades, but GenAI will accelerate its impact dramatically.

I don't believe it will replace human portfolio managers. Instead, it will serve as a powerful co-pilot, improving information access and decision quality. Across any kind of knowledge work for example in finance, HR, operations AI agents will augment and automate many tasks, enhancing quality and productivity.

Over the next five years, human roles will evolve: some tasks will be automated, while new responsibilities will emerge. This transformation won't necessarily lead to a significant loss of jobs but will fundamentally change the nature of work. Some positions will be more affected than others, and the full impact will unfold gradually. Beyond that, it's difficult to predict.

Within the investment value chain, what are some of the most immediate opportunities you see for AI to drive efficiency and insight?

Investment research involves processing vast amounts of unstructured data, reports, filings, news, and more. GenAI excels at analyzing this kind of information. It allows us to derive insights and synthesize complex data faster and more effectively. This is one of the most immediate and practical applications we are already deploying.

Beyond investment research, how do you envision GenAI transforming a company's operations, driving growth, and creating differentiation?

Yes. Many firms still have a lot of manual work, tasks that could be done more efficiently by machines but haven't been automated because they're too small or infrequent. GenAI changes that.

Unlike traditional automation tools, which work best for highly repetitive tasks, GenAI can handle less frequent or more variable tasks, like monthly oversight activities, that would have been too costly to automate before. In this way, it becomes a true engine for operational differentiation, enabling companies to optimize processes that have been overlooked for decades.

Many firms succeed with AI pilots but struggle to scale. From your experience, what are the critical factors leaders should focus on to achieve enterprise-wide impact?

Pilot projects often show impressive quick wins, but scaling them to enterprise level requires addressing quality, resilience, and security. AI systems must meet enterprise-grade standards, which is far more complex. Notably, only a small number of companies have succeeded in translating these efforts into meaningful bottom-line impact so far.

Leaders should focus on building secure, scalable platforms and ensuring vendors meet enterprise requirements, something many AI providers are still developing. Equally important is managing change. In many cases AI won't replace roles, it changes them. Adapting to new workflows requires training, enablement, and change management. Resistance is natural, and organizations need to invest time and effort to support employees through the transformation.

Resistance to change is often cited as a barrier. Do you think it is related to the misconceptions about GenAI among employees and leadership, and how can organizations address it?

Absolutely. We're all still learning. Understanding GenAI, its capabilities, risks, and ethical implications is essential. Without that understanding, it's impossible to leverage it effectively. Continuous learning and awareness are key elements of our GenAI enablement strategy.

And the future will tell. We are still exploring the boundaries and potential of this technology, so many assumptions today may evolve over time.

Turning to regulation, what kind of framework do you believe is necessary to ensure GenAI is used responsibly?

Regulation is important and should ensure clear accountability for the effects of GenAI and establish guardrails for its usage. This is more effective than detailed rules for specific domains of application, which could create unnecessary bureaucracy. It's still early days, and regulators themselves are learning.

As GenAI adoption increases, more specific regulations can be developed, but it's crucial to maintain enough entrepreneurial freedom to experiment responsibly.

Finally, with such a distinguished career, what advice would you give to students and young professionals looking to follow a similar path?

Always keep sight of the big picture. It's easy to get lost in details. Having a North Star helps you navigate uncertainty. Whether it's an exam or a complex project, focus on your goals and align your actions accordingly. Most importantly, follow your passion.

Steffen, thank you for your time and sharing such valuable insights with us today!

It's been a pleasure to participate! Thank you for having me, and best of luck with the yearbook!

Mastering the Fundamentals: Training the Next Generation of AI-Driven Leaders



Prof. Dr. Maximillian Schiffer
Technical University of Munich
Professorship of Business Analytics and Intelligent Systems & Munich Data Science, FIM board

Professor Schiffer, could you tell us a little bit about yourself and your journey, what you personally find most exciting about being a professor?

I have always been fascinated by how rigorous analytical thinking can help solve real-world problems. My academic journey began with a Ph.D. in Operations Research at RWTH Aachen, before continuing my academic career at Stanford University. Today, I serve as

Professor of Business Analytics & Intelligent Systems at TUM, where my work sits at the intersection of operations research, machine learning, and intelligent systems with applications grounded in transportation and supply chains.

What excites me most about being a professor is the unique combination of curiosity, creativity, and impact that defines the job. Research allows me to explore fundamental questions, teaching gives me the privilege to shape talented minds, and collaborations with industry bring ideas to life. Working with ambitious, inquisitive students is particularly rewarding—they constantly challenge established ways of thinking and inspire new perspectives.

How did you first become part of the FIM program, and what has kept you engaged with it over the years? From your perspective, what makes FIM unique, and how do its students stand out?

My involvement with FIM began when I first taught my Introduction to Deep Reinforcement Learning course in the program. I was immediately impressed by the students' intellectual curiosity, analytical strength, and willingness to tackle challenging material. Not long after, the Dean asked if I would be willing to take over as Academic Program Director—and I gladly accepted on the spot.

What has kept me engaged ever since is the unique DNA of the program, which

brings together finance, technology, and analytics in a way that very few programs manage to do. This interdisciplinary structure attracts exceptionally motivated students who are as comfortable discussing financial markets as they are implementing complex algorithms.

FIM students stand out for their ability to bridge domains, to combine rigorous analytical thinking with strategic insight and entrepreneurial drive. They challenge themselves and their professors alike, and they build a strong community that extends well beyond graduation. Working with such a talented and ambitious cohort is both a privilege and a constant source of inspiration.

As one of the driving forces behind the FIM program, you're also shaping how the next generation of leaders is trained. With GenAI redefining business and technology, how is the FIM curriculum adapting? Could you share how you envision embedding GenAI into both the technical and managerial skillset of your students?

GenAI is changing the way organizations operate, making it essential for future leaders to understand both its technical foundations and strategic implications. At FIM, we are embedding GenAI into the curriculum along two complementary dimensions.

On the technical side, students are introduced to the underlying models, prompting techniques, and integration of GenAI tools into analytics and decision-making pipelines. On the managerial side, we emphasize strategic thinking, governance, ethics, and the ability to critically assess when and how to deploy GenAI in organizations.

Crucially, we remind students that GenAI is a powerful amplifier of skills, not a substitute for foundational knowledge. To use these tools responsibly and effectively, one must first master the analytical and conceptual basics—just as one must learn mathematics before using a calculator. This dual emphasis ensures our graduates can leverage GenAI not as passive users, but as thoughtful, capable architects of future business solutions.

What student trends are you observing? How are their skills, perspectives, and career interests evolving in the age of GenAI?

Students entering the program today are more technically fluent than ever before—many arrive with coding experience, exposure to machine learning, or even early familiarity with GenAI tools. We see a strong trend toward interdisciplinary problem-solving, with growing interest in areas like sustainable

finance, AI-driven entrepreneurship, and data-driven policy.

Another notable shift is how students approach learning. They are increasingly adept at using GenAI to support research, coding, and ideation. At the same time, this creates a pedagogical opportunity: to help them distinguish between using GenAI to explore ideas and outsourcing understanding. We emphasize that real intellectual leverage comes when strong fundamentals meet intelligent tool use.

Career-wise, many students aim for roles that combine strategy, analytics, and technology—whether in top-tier consulting, fintech, or start-ups. There's also a rising curiosity about research and policy, reflecting how the GenAI era blurs traditional boundaries between disciplines.

Your research spans operations research, intelligent mobility networks, and real-time optimization. Could you tell us what your current research is centered on?

My current research focuses on decision-focused learning, particularly how machine learning and mathematical optimization can be tightly integrated to make better real-time decisions in complex systems. This involves developing new methods for reinforcement learning, combinatorial optimization-augmented ML, and reliability-adjusted sampling to improve algorithmic efficiency and robustness.

A central application area is intelligent mobility—think routing and fleet control for electric and autonomous vehicles, or optimizing large-scale logistics networks under uncertainty. I enjoy working on problems that combine mathematical depth with tangible societal impact, such as reducing emissions, improving service quality, or enabling new mobility concepts. I further enjoy cross-domain challenges, we recently started to delve into portfolio management algorithms exploring the new concepts mentioned above.

Looking at your current research, how do you see GenAI shaping or expanding these fields in the coming years? What new research avenues do you believe GenAI will open over the next 5 years?

GenAI will profoundly influence how we model, solve, and communicate complex decision problems. In operations research, mobility, or supply chain planning, GenAI can serve as a translation layer between unstructured knowledge (e.g., text, regulations, human input) and structured optimization models. It can accelerate model design, suggest solution approaches, or act as a co-pilot in decision-making.

Research-wise, I see three promising avenues:

1. LLM-augmented combinatorial reasoning, where GenAI supports the structuring of complex optimization problems.
2. Human-AI collaboration frameworks, enabling decision-makers and algorithms to work together effectively.
3. Autonomous model discovery, where GenAI helps identify new problem formulations or heuristics that human researchers might overlook.

However, unlocking these opportunities requires a solid grasp of optimization theory and ML principles—without this, GenAI remains a black box rather than a research catalyst.

Are there specific cross-disciplinary projects or collaborations—be it robotics, urban design, or policy—where you see GenAI unlocking unexpected breakthroughs?

Yes, absolutely. GenAI thrives at interfaces where disciplines traditionally struggled to communicate. In urban mobility, for example, GenAI can translate between policy objectives, engineering models, and citizen feedback to support more adaptive and participatory infrastructure planning. In robotics and logistics, it can enable more intuitive orchestration of heterogeneous fleets or human–robot collaboration.

Moreover, GenAI’s ability to process and generate natural language opens up new ways for policymakers, engineers, and data scientists to collaborate—potentially breaking down silos that have long slowed innovation. These are areas where unexpected breakthroughs often occur: not by replacing expertise, but by connecting it more intelligently.

Finally, looking back at your accomplishments and your experience, what advice would you give to young academics and professionals?

My advice is threefold. First, master the fundamentals—whether in mathematics, finance, or computer science. These are your intellectual compasses in a rapidly changing world. Second, stay curious and interdisciplinary: the most exciting breakthroughs happen at the boundaries of fields. Third, embrace GenAI as a co-pilot, not an autopilot. Use it to accelerate your thinking, not to replace it.

Equally important is to cultivate integrity and resilience. Academic and professional careers are marathons, not sprints. Surround yourself with people who inspire you, and don’t be afraid to chart your own path—even if it goes against current trends.

Growth and Comfort do not Coexist!



Prof. Dr. Niklas Kühl

University of Bayreuth

Information Systems and Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence

Professor Kühl, what's your story? How did your journey unfold from your early days as a student to where you are today?

I am a bit of an oddball in the university landscape because I always struggled to choose between academia and industry. I studied Industrial Engineering at KIT and hated the start: huge classes, old-fashioned teaching, and little sense of purpose. I even thought about leaving university or switching to psychology.

Things changed with my first internship at Porsche. Suddenly, I saw the purpose of my work — real cars, real teams, real outcomes. I didn't like the corporate culture, but I loved the impact. I did my bachelor's thesis there, worked abroad in Chicago, and thought I'd stay in the industry.

But then a professor asked me to support teaching at KIT. I discovered I loved teaching — making classes more engaging and student-oriented. At the end of my master's, I faced the choice: a Secure job at Porsche or a PhD in an institute deeply connected with industry (IBM, Bosch). I took the leap. That was 2014, and it's when I entered the AI world.

I built a small lab at KIT, working on AI services in collaboration with industry. In 2020, I joined IBM to develop these ideas in practice. I live by the saying of our former IBM CEO: "Growth and comfort do not coexist." While the shift into industry was unusual, at IBM, I experienced the responsibility of delivering real AI products and strategies.

Finally, in 2023, I accepted a professorship at the University of Bayreuth in interplay with a leading role at Fraunhofer FIT. I still advise IBM a little, but my main

role is now teaching, research, and project work while keeping strong ties with industry. It's the balance I always wanted and the perfect spot for me.

GenAI has become one of the most talked-about technologies of our time—hailed as a game changer. From your perspective, where do we really stand with it today?

It's easy to swing between extremes: some say GenAI will replace whole professions, others say it's immature. The truth is in between.

The challenge is to understand what humans excel at, what models excel at, and how to combine those strengths. Access has been democratized, which is fantastic, but expectations are often exaggerated. Like with smartphones 20 years ago, we still don't fully know what role GenAI will play in daily life and work. That's exciting — but also a little concerning.

If we fast-forward five years, where do you see the biggest opportunities and the greatest risks for AI?

I think the focus will shift from performance benchmarks to integration. The key question will be: how do we embed AI into workflows in a robust, transparent way, so people neither over-rely nor under-rely on it?

The opportunity is complementary — combining human and AI strengths. The risk is getting that balance wrong. By 2030, we'll be much wiser.

Could you talk a little about your current research? Which current project excites you most, and what potential impact do you see?

My work centers on three themes:

- 1) Appropriate reliance – avoiding both under-reliance (ignoring AI) and over-reliance (automation bias). This is critical in consequential decision-making domains like medicine or defense.
- 2) Explainable AI – ensuring models provide transparent, reliable reasoning for their predictions and recommendations.
- 3) Fairness – reducing discrimination in AI systems. Since AI learns from biased historical data, we have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to design systems that don't repeat past injustices.

A recent project with medical doctors tested how different explanation styles from AI (e.g., differential diagnosis vs chain-of-thought) influenced their decisions. We even included wrong but plausible outputs that the LLM produced. Medical doctors behaved differently depending on the explanation and sometimes over-relied on wrong suggestions. This shows how critical AI design choices are.

GenAI is also reshaping education. How are you embedding it into your teaching—both technically and for preparing future leaders?

We constantly ask ourselves: what skills really matter now? Students can solve coding exercises with ChatGPT, so the real skills are:

- 1) Understanding how AI works and where its limitations lie.
- 2) Critical thinking to evaluate AI outputs.
- 3) Coding ability sufficient to debug and check AI.

We're experimenting with oral exams where students explain code. Teaching has to evolve every semester. What worked a year ago may already be outdated.

Since 2024, you have been a professor of the FIM program. What has your journey been like, and what stands out to you about the students?

Prof. Röglinger approached me in early 2023 because FIM could benefit from the field of applied AI. It was a perfect fit. I love the program's small scale and diversity — students from different countries and disciplines bring unique perspectives. Interestingly, Bayreuth and Munich students sometimes raise very different issues on the same topics. That's refreshing.

As students, we often have professors who inspire us. Flipping that around—have you ever been inspired by your students?

Absolutely. One of the best parts of this job is constantly engaging with talented, motivated young people. They often come up with out-of-the-box ideas I'd never have thought of. Without that inspiration, I wouldn't still be in academia.

FIM Highlights

In the following chapter, we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our FIM students throughout the year. From winning prestigious awards to excelling in national and international competitions, these accomplishments reflect the dedication, talent, and innovative spirit that define our program. Each success story showcases the passion and excellence that drive the FIM community forward.



Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony

The Class of 2021 celebrated a milestone moment, marking the first FIM graduation ceremony since the program became part of TUM. The evening took place at Isarabella, where graduates gathered for dinner in an atmosphere filled with laughter, memories, and heartfelt gratitude. One by one, the graduates received their certificates, representing the achievement of years of dedication and growth.

The ceremony featured inspiring speeches by Hannes, representing the FIM Alumni Association, and Prof. Dr. Maximilian Schiffer, on behalf of the FIM Board. A touching slideshow of photos captured the unforgettable moments of the students' journey together, reminding everyone of how far they had come, both academically and personally.

The night concluded with good food, drinks, and warm conversations, creating a relaxed celebration that reflected the strong bonds and shared experiences that define the FIM community.



HEC Business Game Victory

The HEC Paris Business Game is a prestigious two-day case competition held annually in Paris, uniting over 150 top students from around the world. Participants work in teams to solve four real-world business cases, tackling complex challenges across diverse industries while networking with peers and industry professionals.

In March, FIM students Vladimir Smoley, Daniel Parak, Yunqing Wang, Maria Lebedeva, Sandy Hung, and Aiklavya Kumar represented the program. Aiklavya Kumar and Sandy Hung placed among the top three teams in the AB InBev online round. In the final round, all six were coincidentally assigned together for the Bain & Company challenge, where they won first place and received Apple Watches as prizes. Additionally, Yunqing Wang and Maria Lebedeva's team earned a top-three finish in the Schneider Electric challenge.



Best Paper Award

At the 19th Learning and Intelligent Optimization Conference (LION19), the paper “Multi-Agent Soft Actor-Critic with Coordinated Loss for Autonomous Mobility-on-Demand (AMoD) Fleet Control” by Zeno Woywood (Class of 2022), Jasper Wiltfang (Class of 2022), Julius Luy, Dr. Tobias Enders, and Prof. Dr. Maximilian Schiffer received the Best Paper Award.

The work, which originated from Zeno and Jasper’s research phase, introduces an adapted loss function to integrate multi-agent reinforcement learning with combinatorial optimization to control AMoD systems. Furthermore, Heiko Hoppe (Class of 2021 & Ph.D. student of Prof. Schiffer) presented his ongoing work on Structured Reinforcement Learning at the conference. This recognition marks the first publication for Zeno and Jasper and underscores the research excellence fostered within the FIM program.



FIM Start-up Spotlight: MyMineralMix

This year, Ludwig Gröber and his start-up MyMineralMix gained international recognition in the HealthTech scene, earning nominations for “Start-up of the Year” and “Founder of the Year” at the prestigious Global Start-up Awards.

Although they didn't take home the prize, Ludwig shared, “Being nominated among so many outstanding startups was already a huge achievement for us.”

The team also showcased MyMineralMix at the Personalized Nutrition Dialogue on the new TUM/DHBW Campus Heilbronn, pitching to investors, sports teams, and Gunter Friedl, former Dean of TUM School of Management and current CEO of the Dieter Schwarz Stiftung.

Their mission: To help customers understand and improve their nutritional status by providing a convenient, personalized micronutrient blend that enhances both physical and mental performance.



Because We Care Wins Social Impact Award 2025

The Social Impact Award 2025, announced at TUM's Entrepreneurship Day, celebrates student-led initiatives tackling pressing societal challenges with innovative, scalable solutions.

Organized by the TUM School of Management and proudly sponsored by TUM Management Alumni e.V. and Philip Morris International, the award honors projects that merge academic excellence with real-world impact.

This year, Because We Care achieved 3rd Place, recognizing the team's outstanding contribution to financial literacy and social responsibility. Led by Prof. Dr. Rudi Zagst and a dedicated group of FIM students, the initiative combines classroom workshops in Bavaria with fundraising for underprivileged children in Ecuador, reaching over 600 students and donating more than €6,500.

Their success reflects how purpose-driven education can spark meaningful change — both locally and globally.



FIM Alumni Association Activities

In the following chapter, we will explore the various events organized by the FIM Alumni Association. These events are an essential part of shaping the distinctive FIM experience, fostering connections across current students and alumni regularly. Through these gatherings, a strong sense of belonging and community is cultivated, allowing each participant to feel connection and growth. Let's dive into the events, each one enriching the FIM community.



Christmas Market

Alumni and students met in a casual setting to embrace the Christmas spirit at Munich Christkindlmarkt. This warm and cheerful evening provided everyone with a chance to reconnect, share laughs, and enjoy some Glühwein as they caught up on life.



Skiing Trip



This February, we set off for Garmisch-Partenkirchen for the annual FIM Ski Trip. It was the perfect chance for both current students and alumni to reconnect — or meet for the first time — and enjoy a day away from university life.

Some of us were seasoned skiers racing down the slopes, while others were absolute beginners trying to stay upright, but that didn't matter. Between the shared laughter on the lifts and cozy après-ski evenings, we all had a great time skiing and hanging out together. Despite the upcoming exams, we still managed to relax, have fun, and make memories that will last long.

Lunch Roulettes

This year's Lunch Roulettes gave FIM students the opportunity to connect across cohorts in an informal setting. Matched by the Alumni Association, participants used the chance to share their experiences and exchange ideas about studies and career paths. The initiative helped strengthen bonds within the FIM community while encouraging inspiring conversations and networking.

Frühlingsfest

As one of Munich's spring traditions, Frühlingsfest brought together FIM students and alumni for an evening full of fun, laughter, and Bavarian vibes. Dressed in traditional Dirndl and Lederhosen, we gathered at the festival grounds to enjoy good food, lively music, and a few well-earned Maß beers. It was the perfect chance to catch up with friends, meet new faces, and celebrate the start of spring. By the end of the evening, everyone left with smiles, stories, and maybe a few new dance moves learned along the way!



FIM Career Event



One of the highlights of our year was the FIM Career Event, where we had the chance to meet and connect with FIM alumni. The atmosphere was buzzing with conversations, ideas, and shared experiences as we exchanged career insights and visions for the future. It was inspiring to hear firsthand stories from alumni about their professional journeys, challenges, and successes, giving us a glimpse into the many paths a FIM degree can lead to. Beyond learning, the event was a fun and energetic networking space, filled with laughter, curiosity, and meaningful connections. It reminded us how valuable our FIM community is—not just as classmates, but as a network of peers and mentors supporting each other's growth.

FIM Start-up Pitching Night

To fuel the entrepreneurial spirit, the FIM community came together for the Start-up Pitching Night 2025, hosted by Celonis and supported by the FIM Alumni Association. Over an inspiring evening, start-ups which are all founded by FIM students or alumni – Legalian, Rotes Pony Bio-Brauerei, ECENT, credium, SUMM AI, DoNexus, MyMineralMix, and get-ikigai – shared their bold ideas, sparking conversations and collaboration.

Freshers, students, and alumni connected, exchanged perspectives, and experienced firsthand the energy and innovation that the FIM network fosters. This event highlighted how our community supports entrepreneurship, creativity, and meaningful connections – and we can't wait for the next opportunity to build on this momentum.



Alumni Association Presentation and the Bar Night with the Freshers

To warmly welcome the freshers into the FIM community, the FIM Alumni association was presented by Daniel Parak and Julia Hermann from the association's board. Over pizza and drinks they talked about the three pillars of the association - friendship, career, commitment - to showcase what the association has to offer and where the students can already contribute to the network themselves. Some alumni shared their memorable experiences of being an active member of the association by both contributing to it and enjoying its diverse support and great events. In addition, the Alumni Association hosted a Bavarian Breakfast where students could enjoy the Bavarian culture while getting to know each other!



FIM Alumni Event

The annual tradition of gathering at Café Reitschule continued this year. The event began with welcoming remarks from the FIM board and representatives of the Alumni Association, setting a warm tone. Following the welcome speech, the stage was set for the scholarship award ceremony. Through a quiz the new cohort was introduced and the highlight events of the last year were shown! After an outlook about upcoming events, dinner was served, creating the perfect setting for reminiscences of old friendships and making new connections.

Amidst the lively conversations, the event also provided excellent networking opportunities for alumni and current students. Despite the diverse career paths many have taken, everyone shared a strong sense of identity in being part of the FIMily. The celebration was a perfect proof for reaffirming the lasting bonds created through the FIM program.



Events of the Current Classes

In the following chapter, we proudly capture the news and milestones that shaped the past year. This section celebrates connection, discovery, and authenticity—core threads woven throughout the FIM journey. Each moment serves as a distinctive brushstroke, contributing to a vibrant tapestry of shared experiences and deepening the program's spirit of interconnectedness.



Winter School

As part of the Certificate of Honors program, we participated in soft skills training designed to strengthen our professional and interpersonal abilities. This year's "Winter School" took place at the TUM Main Campus in the week before Christmas.

On December 16th and 17th, we attended a Communication Seminar with Vanessa Allwardt. Across these two days, we explored the core elements of effective communication, learned how to give and receive constructive feedback, and discussed different mind archetypes. These sessions provided valuable insights into approaching communication from multiple perspectives.

On December 18th, we continued with the FIMtercultural Training, led by Stephanie Roas. The seminar focused on cultural dimensions theory and examined the differences in communication styles across cultures. We gained practical strategies for adapting our communication to be more flexible and effective in multicultural contexts.

The program concluded on December 19th with an Outdoor Team Workshop conducted by forum momentum. Through engaging group activities, we practiced teamwork, problem-solving, and coordination.

One of the highlights was a challenge where we had to carry a ball using pipes within a time limit, as well as building collaborative projects with different teams. These exercises reinforced the importance of communication, collaboration, and creativity in achieving shared goals





Spring School

For Spring School, we participated in soft skill seminars held in Kreuth from April 9th to 12th and in Munich on May 30th, June 12th and 13th.

From April 9th to 11th, we attended a Self and Team Reflection Seminar, where each of us received constructive feedback from our classmates on traits and characteristics to maintain, as well as those that could be improved or adjusted. Each round concluded with participants expressing gratitude for the feedback and sharing a short speech with their own reflections. To end the session, everyone received a pre-written letter from classmates containing personal messages of encouragement and appreciation.

On April 12th and May 30th, we had a Pyramidal Presentation Training, where we learned how to structure our messages effectively using the pyramid principle. The session focused on delivering a clear core message supported by logical arguments and well-designed slide types such as charts, maps, and conceptual visuals. This training not only enhanced our presentation skills but also equipped us with a practical framework for communicating complex ideas in a concise and impactful way.



On June 12th and 13th, we joined a workshop on conflict resolution skills. Through role plays and hands-on exercises, we identified different types of conflicts and practiced strategies to address them effectively. We learned how to negotiate according to our needs, find common ground, and reach solutions that benefit all parties.



Through Spring School, classmates bonded more closely by sharing personal reflections, learning from one another, and tackling challenges together. Beyond the seminars, we also enjoyed spending our free time on leisure activities, which created a relaxed atmosphere and strengthened friendships. These shared experiences not only enhanced our soft skills but also deepened our sense of community, leaving us with lasting memories and valuable tools for both our academic journey and future careers.



Company Visits

Allianz Global Investors (AllianzGI)

Our visit to AllianzGI was centered around the theme “AI at AllianzGI,” offering us a firsthand look at how artificial intelligence is transforming the investment world. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to learn from professionals across various teams—including risklab, the Generative AI team, Portfolio Management, and Investment Technology—who shared inspiring insights into how AllianzGI integrates AI into its daily work.

The sessions were followed by an engaging case study, where we worked in groups to tackle a real-world challenge and apply what we had learned about AI in finance. This hands-on experience allowed us to better understand how technology supports data-driven investment decisions. Beyond the technical content, the visit also gave us the chance to connect with AllianzGI employees, many of whom are FIM alumni, and to gain a genuine sense of the collaborative spirit that has defined the partnership between AllianzGI and the FIM program for nearly two decades.



Hilti

As part of our FIM program, we had the incredible opportunity to visit Hilti Group's headquarters in Schaan, Liechtenstein. The day was packed with interactive experiences that gave us a behind-the-scenes look at how a leading global company operates. We got hands-on with construction tools, explored Hilti's innovative IoT software solutions, and toured their campus, gaining insights into the company's unique approach to productivity, safety, and sustainability.



Hilti impressed us not only with their products but also with the wide range of services they offer, from tool repair and fleet management to consulting and beyond. Among the many takeaways from the visit, three key learnings stood out: the importance of designing tools around existing construction routines, the company's commitment to creating around 60 new tool versions each year, and the overarching vision to enhance productivity, safety, and sustainability on every project.

The visit was both educational and inspiring, giving us a real-world perspective on innovation and teamwork while allowing us to connect with professionals in a dynamic and hands-on environment. It was a memorable experience that highlighted the exciting possibilities within the world of finance, information management, and corporate collaboration.

Celonis

On June 17, 2025, we had the opportunity to visit the Munich campus of Celonis for “Celonis Day,” and it was truly a memorable experience. The program was filled with interactive sessions on process mining—a topic we had studied in class, but now got to see in action. We learned how Celonis’ software helps organizations uncover inefficiencies, improve efficiency, and optimize operations by analyzing digital footprints.

One of the highlights of the day was the chance to directly interact with Celonis professionals. We asked questions, explored real-world applications, and gained valuable insights into potential career paths within such an innovative company. From thought-provoking discussions to hands-on demonstrations, “Celonis Day” not only deepened our understanding of process mining but also inspired us by showing the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



CHECK24

Over the past year, our partnership with CHECK24 offered students outstanding opportunities to gain insights into one of Germany's most innovative digital companies. Through three exclusive events, participants explored marketing, strategy, and the future of technology—while connecting directly with top executives.

The first event on November 12, 2024, provided a deep dive into marketing and corporate strategy. Students attended the panel discussion “CHECK24 Sommermärchen – Exklusive Einblicke in eine der größten Marketingaktionen” with Dr. Mazeyar E. Makoui, Rainer Gerhard, and Helmut Huber, followed by short presentations on projects across Inhouse Consulting, Strategy Office, FinTech, and InsurTech. A studio tour and networking at “Zum Checkinger” rounded off the evening.

On December 11, 2024, the focus shifted to hands-on problem-solving. After a case pitch, students worked in teams, presented their solutions to a jury of CHECK24 leaders, and concluded the day with an award ceremony and informal networking.

The third event on May 27, 2025, centered on the future of technology. Under the theme “Beyond the Hype: Experience AI and Automation with Impact,” top executives including Andreas Thurn, Tamara Pfister, and Leo Casarsa shared how AI and automation are shaping CHECK24 and the wider economy. Students also engaged personally with members of top management before ending the evening with a sundowner on the rooftop terrace of the CHECK24 headquarters.

Together, these events offered students an exclusive inside look at CHECK24’s dynamic culture, cutting-edge projects, and leadership perspectives. They not only broadened our understanding of the company but also fostered meaningful connections that will continue to shape our professional journeys.



Bayreuth Week



Events

From the 8th to the 10th of July, the FIM cohort embarked on an exciting three-day trip to Bayreuth. The journey offered a perfect blend of learning, teamwork, and leisure, allowing us to explore new places, gain valuable insights, and strengthen connections within our cohort. Each day was filled with unique experiences that combined professional growth with fun and social bonding.

Day 1: Arrival

Our first day in Bayreuth started with a warm welcome and a guided tour of the city. With the help of our tour guide, we explored the rich history and culture of Bayreuth, visiting its famous landmarks, historic monuments, and intriguing museums. Walking through the streets, we learned about the city's past, its architectural gems, and the stories behind its most iconic sites. It was a fantastic opportunity to immerse ourselves in the local culture while enjoying the company of our fellow FIM students. In the evening, we gathered for a group dinner, sharing laughter, stories, and first impressions of the trip. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere made it easy for everyone to connect, and it set a welcoming tone for the days ahead.

Day 2: City Exploration and DDIS Presentations

The second day was dedicated to the Digital Disruption Innovation and Transformation (DDIT) seminar presentations. The seminar offers a true hands-on research experience, letting us dive into current topics and present our findings. Each group shared their work, and the room buzzed with creativity, knowledge, and constructive discussion. We learned not only from our own presentations but also from the diverse insights of others.

Afterward, we shifted from academic focus to fun with a social event full of interactive games that brought out everyone's competitive and playful sides. The day ended with pizza and relaxed conversations, leaving our cohort feeling even closer—connected not just by our studies but by shared experiences.



Day 3: IoT Workshop and Departure

The final day of the trip focused on hands-on learning through an IoT workshop. We teamed up to tackle various tasks using Raspberry Pi systems, creating sensor-integrated IoT solutions. The workshop encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking, allowing us to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. It was inspiring to see how different ideas came together to form functional solutions, and it reinforced the importance of collaboration and communication within a team. After the workshop, we spent additional time with the cohort, reflecting on the trip, sharing our favorite moments, and taking group photos to capture memories. Eventually, it was time to say goodbye to Bayreuth, leaving with new skills, deeper friendships, and unforgettable memories from an enriching and enjoyable trip.

Corporate Theme Day

On October 24, 2025, we hosted Corporate Theme Day, dedicated to exploring how organizations can thrive in an increasingly dynamic and uncertain world. Under the theme **“The Future of Corporate Resilience: Competitiveness, AI, and Sustainability,”** several of our valued corporate partners joined us to share their perspectives and experiences.

Representatives from AllianzGI, Celonis, EY, and Infineon provided thought-provoking insights into how their companies are navigating transformation, leveraging AI, and strengthening resilience in their industries. Julia Hermann also offered an inspiring academic perspective on building resilient business processes through a capability-based framework.

The event fostered engaging discussions about innovation, adaptability, and the power of collaboration between academia and industry. It was an inspiring afternoon that left all participants with new ideas about how to reimagine risk, drive sustainable growth, and embrace the future with confidence.



Social Projects

In this section, our social project groups will share insights into the projects they have managed and participated in over the past year. Each FIM student has been involved in at least one of these projects, embracing and promoting the spirit of giving back to society and the FIM community.

Because We Care

Because We Care is a student initiative of our Master's program, guided by Prof. Dr. Rudi Zagst. Our mission is to empower young people with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions already in school. Through interactive workshops, we introduce students to the basics of investing, retirement planning, and financial responsibility. Using a football metaphor, we explain the opportunities and risks of shares, bonds, and real estate, as well as the principles that define a good investor.

The workshops are sponsored by partner companies, and the funds collected serve a dual purpose: they cover organizational costs while also supporting Casa Keller, an orphanage and children's home in Ecuador. So far, we have raised over €6,500 to provide children there with access to education. This way, our work benefits both students in Germany and underprivileged youth in South America.

Over the past year, BwC has expanded significantly. Starting with financial literacy workshops, we now collaborate with schools across southern Germany. More than 15 workshops have already been held, with demand continuing to grow. For younger classes, we also created a special program featuring Edgar the Squirrel, which introduces the concepts of saving and risk in a playful way. Looking ahead, we aim to reach even more schools, build long-term partnerships, and strengthen our organizational structures to ensure that Because We Care can continue to make a lasting difference - because change begins with education, and education begins with us.

*Jan Heimsath, Laura Fogti, Lukas Schmidt, Leon Ilg, Ole Hennig,
Ludwig Gröber, Leon Hary, Duc-Loc Nguyen, Timo Herterich*



FIM x 264 Charity Run 2024

This year's FIM x 264education Charity Run was once again a great success. Organized by the FIM Master's Class of 2024 in cooperation with FIM alumna Julia Zwiefler and the nonprofit organization 264.education, the event combined athletic spirit with strong social commitment.

The initiative aimed to support 264.education, an NGO dedicated to providing access to education for underprivileged children in rural areas of developing countries. The organization focuses on high-quality, community-driven educational projects and ensures that every euro donated directly contributes to children's education, combining an entrepreneurial mindset with the core values of the nonprofit sector.

The Charity Run took place on June 14, 2025, in Munich's Westpark. More than 50 participants from within and beyond the FIM community joined the run, collectively covering over 500 km. Through their dedication and the generous contributions of private and corporate donors, an impressive total of €1,521.19 was raised. These donations will enable 100 children to attend school for an entire month – a tangible impact achieved through the enthusiasm and generosity of the participants.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this event. Special appreciation goes to our corporate sponsors, as well as to our sponsors for drinks, food, and equipment, including Icodron, VollCorner, Cearl & Carla, and Red Bull.

Looking ahead, we are encouraging the upcoming FIM Class of 2025 to continue the long-standing cooperation with 264.education and to carry on the tradition of organizing the FIM x 264education Charity Run.



*Florian Ambrosius, Bjarne Huuck, Louisa Kron, Mariia Lebedeva,
Sofia Pavlovskaya, Yunqing Wang*

FIM Event Planning Team

This year, the FIM Event Planning Team continued to shape student life by organizing many of the program's key events. From welcoming new students during Fresher's Week to strengthening bonds at the Alumni Event, the team created experiences that brought the FIM community closer.

Fresher's Week helped the new cohort settle into Munich through networking nights, team challenges, and the popular international cooking evening, offering opportunities to connect, share cultures, and build lasting friendships.

Beyond this, the team kept alumni engaged. The Alumni Event combined professional networking with social exchange, giving students valuable career insights while celebrating the ties across FIM generations.

Through creativity, dedication, and careful planning, the team made this year's events a success, continuing FIM's tradition of belonging, pride, and meaningful memories.



*Johanna Tadic, Loïs Vogelaar,
Alexandra Yotseva, Thanh Van Nguyen, Aiklavya Kumar*

FIM Marketing Team



Since February 2025, the FIM Marketing Team has been actively working to showcase the vibrant life and achievements of the FIM program. Our initiatives have spanned multiple areas, from crafting engaging social media content to capturing the true FIM experience through photos, stories, and interviews.

One of our most exciting tasks has been preparing this yearbook, bringing together memories, milestones, and moments that define the FIM experience. To ensure that these memories are preserved for years to come, we kept on enriching the shared digital folder serving as a permanent archive for FIM photos. This archive captures everything from official events and project highlights to informal gatherings and spontaneous moments, providing a rich and lasting record of our community life. Through these efforts, the Marketing Team aims to strengthen the connection within our cohort and share the spirit of FIM with the broader audience.

Donalda Dhiari, Nargiz Hajiyeva, Sandy Hung, Sofia Reichenbach

Meeting with Elderly People at Arcisstraße

Three times a week, the senior centre hosts a lunch where seniors can enjoy a free or low-cost menu with a starter, main course, and dessert. Usually, around 10 to 20 senior citizens take part.

Every week, we join them on site to spend some time together. Whether it's chatting over coffee and homemade cake or playing board games, these afternoons always create wonderful moments.

For the seniors, it's a chance to share stories, be heard, and add some variety to their everyday lives. For us, it's just as rewarding , we leave each visit with joy, a stronger sense of connection, and new perspectives.



Jana Steinkopf, Benedikt Hahn, Jonathan Homafar, Tim Ewert

FIM Students' Projects Abroad

In the following pages, we share insights from current FIM students who completed projects, research, or internships abroad. Their experiences provide valuable perspectives on the world beyond our campus. These students immersed themselves in diverse cultures, academic approaches, and fields of study, gaining meaningful insights to shape their careers and share with others.



Manuel Wenk	Growth Equity Summer Analyst
London, UK	28/04/2025 - 15/08/2025

What was the topic of your project/internship?

Internship at FTV Capital - supporting the investment team covering European financial and enterprise technology investments

What were your key learnings?

Highly innovative and inspiring founders and businesses within the European technology landscape;
Working alongside talented and highly motivated people pushes you towards the best version of yourself;
Horse race betting can be quite addictive.



Marc Prinzing	Visiting Researcher
Toronto, Canada	15/07/2025 - 15/10/2025

What was the topic of your project/internship?

Research Phase at the University of Toronto on Tail Risk optimized Parametric Nat Cat Insurance Instruments

What were your key learnings?

„Canadian dish: Poutine“



Louis Anklam	Visiting Researcher
Montreal, Canada	01/06/2025 - 25/09/2025

What was the topic of your project/internship?

Master thesis at Polytechnique Montreal - Structured Deep Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Mobility on Demand Systems

What were your key learnings?

Research is a very iterative process and Canada's summers are a lot hotter than expected.



Jakob Ehrenhuber

Visiting Researcher

Cambridge, USA

15/09/2025 - 31/03/2026



What was the topic of your project/internship?

Master's thesis abroad at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Inventory Management

What were your key learnings?

The opportunities, the network, and the people around you shape you just as much as your actual studies. That is why it is even more important to find the right balance between social life and work in order to achieve better outcomes in both the short and the long term.

New Cohort 2025

In this section, we are introducing the 20th cohort of FIM! Out of 525 applications, 32 admissions were granted and 22 study places were accepted. We welcome all new members of FIMily!





Ananyaa Kumar

I graduated from

University of Applied Sciences South Westphalia

Interesting fact about me

Growing up in more than seven cities has made me a quick cultural chameleon, I love learning and adapting wherever I go.

I enjoy baking and cooking (and of course eating what I make).



Aniko Botschek

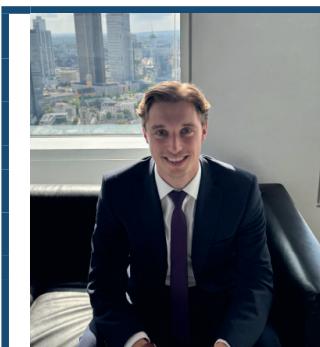
I graduated from

Digital Business Management;
University of Hohenheim

Interesting fact about me

Got stuck on a roller coaster once. Haven't trusted gravity since.

I enjoy taking the first slopes in the morning; going out with friends especially for Sushi.



Benjamin Fischer

I graduated from

DHBW Mannheim

Interesting fact about me

I've won a hackathon without knowing how to code.

I like endurance sports. Especially I enjoy cycling.



Daniel Džavoronok

I graduated from

Faculty of Economics and Business;
University of Groningen

Interesting fact about me

I can recognize the flags of all countries in the world.

My biggest passion is football and F1. In addition, I also enjoy playing and watching other sports.



Dreni Gashi

I graduated from

TUM School of Management;
Technical University of Munich

Interesting fact about me

In the 2012/13 Bundesliga season I was in the stadium for the first time in my life when FC Bayern went and lost their only game of the season 1:2 against Leverkusen.

I like meeting with friends, doing and watching sports, watching anime and reading.



Franziska Glückschald

I graduated from

Business Administration (B.A.);
University of Applied Sciences Munich

Interesting fact about me

I like playing chess and I can be very competitive about it/games in general.

I love surfing, traveling, going to the gym and any activities with adrenaline.



Insaf Raoufi

I graduated from

School of Business Administration;
Al Akhawayn University

Interesting fact about me

I love blending creativity with analysis. I can spend a morning studying financial markets and an evening writing poems.

Through volunteering in youth mentoring programs, I've learned how fulfilling it is to help others gain confidence and take bold steps forward.



Jakob Nägele

I graduated from

TUM School of Management;
Technical University of Munich

Interesting fact about me

I played soccer for 13 years.

In my free time, I enjoy watching all kinds of sports,- from tennis to chess.



Kai Gotzel

I graduated from

WiSo; FAU Nürnberg Erlangen

Interesting fact about me

I went to Barcelona 7 times in my life due to different occasions. But I have to say I really like Barcelona so 8th time is not far away probably.

I like gym, football, F1, cooking and traveling.



Lars Kurschilgen

I graduated from

Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University
(DHBW)

Interesting fact about me

I once hiked up Table Mountain in South Africa three times in five hours.

I enjoy sports, especially tennis, and outdoor activities like skiing and hiking.



Lasse Friedrich

I graduated from

Data Science;
DHBW Mannheim

Interesting fact about me

I have moved four times the last year - phew!!!

Too much hobbies to list but a major one is plants and beekeeping



Leonie Kopitzki

I graduated from

Business Administration;
Humboldt-University of Berlin

Interesting fact about me

I can recite the first 50 digits of pi.

I like karate, playing the piano, hiking, skiing, and exploring new countries.



Lukas Mais

I graduated from

Industrial Engineering;
University of Augsburg

Interesting fact about me

In 7th grade, I spent half a year in France as part of an exchange program and learned French from scratch, even though my second foreign language at school was Latin.

In my spare time, I like swimming, hiking, and playing cards with friends.



Marc Grün

I graduated from

DHBW Mannheim

Interesting fact about me

I once had lunch at Herbert Grönemeyer's house.

I really like playing basketball.



Moritz Plate

I graduated from

School of Management;
Technical University of Munich

Interesting fact about me

I attended high school in South Africa for a year in grade 11, where I succeeded in convincing the headmaster to introduce solar energy on campus.

I really enjoy playing sports such as tennis, padel, and soccer, and I like to go skiing in the winter.



Moritz Vögl

I graduated from

School of Management;
Technical University of Munich

Interesting fact about me

My birthday is almost perfectly binary, written with only ones and zeros except for the '2' in my birth year

I am passionate about sports, F1 and travelling..



Mykhaylo Serdyuk

I graduated from

Computer Science;
DHBW Stuttgart

Interesting fact about me

It took me until 7th grade to finally learn how to spell my name correctly in German.

I like to play basketball and chess.



Nikola Botschek

I graduated from

University of Applied Sciences Kufstein (Austria)

Interesting fact about me

I love adventures - once, I fed sharks from inside a cage.

I'm passionate about the mountains – hiking and skiing are my favorite things to do in my free time.

Ömercan Karaibiş

I graduated from

School of Management;
Technical University of Munich

Interesting fact about me

I can't sing, and not in the sense that I have a bad voice, but rather I am incapable of memorising any lyrics or following the rhythm.

I love cooking and eating food, open to any and all kinds of food.



Paul Meißner

I graduated from

Economics;
LMU

Interesting fact about me

I do not own a pair of jeans

I like cycling (Road & Gravel) and photography.



Tom Preuß

I graduated from

Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University
(DHBW)

Interesting fact about me

I have two sisters, one three years older and one three years younger.

I like doing any sports.



Victoria Pachner

I graduated from

Business Information Systems;
DHBW Stuttgart

Interesting fact about me

I love classical German literature - I think I've read Faust 10 times.

I like teaching young children and helping them discover their love for languages or computer science, depending on the subject.

Profiles

Lecturers

We are pleased to introduce you to the lecturers who teach our FIM-exclusive modules. They are experts in their fields and are dedicated to fostering deep discussions during and beyond the classroom. In this yearbook, you can also read statements from the lecturers about what they appreciate most about being an academic mentor for the FIM students. We appreciate their support in lectures, exercises, research, and professional development to bridge theory and practice.

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Research Highlight

Braun, R., Jenkinson, T., Schemmerl, C. (2020). Adverse selection and the performance of private equity co-investments. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 136(1), 44-62.



**TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN**

FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM, Private Equity, Alternative Investments, Venture Capital Lab

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Research Highlight

Distler, B., Ernstberger, J., Keiling, M., Müller, F., Szabo, M. (2025) Incorporating Carbon Emissions into Decision-Making - The Case of Transactional Connectivity. *Abacus* (forthcoming).

Downar, B., Ernstberger, J., Reichelstein, S., Schwenen, S., Zaklan, A. (2021) The impact of carbon disclosure mandates on emissions and financial operating performance. *Review of Accounting Studies* 26 (3), 1137-1175.

FIM Lectures

International Accounting



**TECHNISCHE
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Research Highlight

Escobar-Anel, M., Gollart, M., and Zagst, R. (2022). Closed-form portfolio optimization under GARCH models. *Operations Research Perspectives* 9: 100216.



FIM Lectures

Financial Econometrics

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Chair of Applied Econometrics



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Research Highlight

Farbmacher, H., Löw, L., & Spindler, M. (2020). An explainable attention network for fraud detection in claims management. *Journal of Econometrics*.



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FIM Lectures

Advanced Econometrics

Prof. Dr. Christoph Kaserer

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Research Highlight

Closset, F., Großmann, C., Kaserer, C., & Urban, D. (2023). Corporate Restructuring and Creditor Power: Evidence from European Insolvency Law Reforms. *Journal of Banking & Finance*, 106756.



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FIM Lectures

Asset Management, Banking and Risk Management, Advanced Seminar Finance & Accounting: Cases in Finance

Dr. Marc-Fabian Körner

University of Bayreuth
Chair for Business & Information Systems Engineering and Digital Energy Management

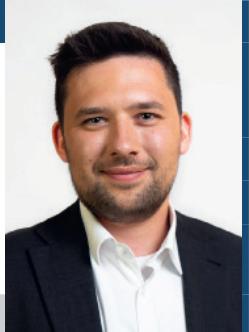
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Research Highlight

Heiß, P., Rockstuhl, J., Körner, MF. et al. Enhancing trust in global supply chains: Conceptualizing Digital Product Passports for a low-carbon hydrogen market. *Electron Markets* 34, 10 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12525-024-00690-7>



FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM, Digital Energy Management, Digital Energy & Sustainability, Digital Disruption, Innovation and Transformation



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kratsch

Professorship of Applied AI
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Research Highlight

Kecht, C., Egger, A., Kratsch, W., & Röglinger, M. (2023). Quantifying chatbots' ability to learn business processes. *Information Systems*, 113, 102176.



Research Center for
Information Management

FIM Lectures

Business Process Management & Digital Innovation

Dr. Thomas Kreuzer

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Postdoc at the Chair of Information Systems and Business Process Management and the FIM Research Center for Information Management



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Research Highlight

Kreuzer, T., Lindenthal, A., Oberländer, A. M., Röglinger, M. (2022): The Effects of Digital Technology on Opportunity Recognition. *Business & Information Systems Engineering*, 64, 46-67.



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BAYREUTH

FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM - Business & Information Systems Engineering

Prof. Dr. Anna Maria Oberländer

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Junior Professorship for Information Systems and Digital Transformation

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Research Highlight

Oberländer, A. M., Karnebogen, P., Rövekamp, P., Röglinger, M.; Leidner, D. (2024). Understanding the Influence of Digital Ecosystems on Digital Transformation: The OCO (Orientation, Cooperation, Orchestration) Theory. *Information Systems Journal*.

FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM, Business Process Management & Digital Innovation, Digital Disruption, Innovation and Transformation



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Research Highlight

Oberländer, A. M., Karnebogen, P., Rövekamp, P., Röglinger, M.; Leidner, D. (2024). Understanding the Influence of Digital Ecosystems on Digital Transformation: The OCO (Orientation, Cooperation, Orchestration) Theory. *Information Systems Journal*.

FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM, Business Process Management & Digital Innovation, Digital Disruption, Innovation and Transformation, Challenges in Information Management



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Research Highlight

Akkerman, F., Luy, J., van Heeswijk, W., & Schiffer, M. (2024). Dynamic Neighborhood Construction for Structured Large Discrete Action Spaces. In The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).

FIM Lectures

Introduction to Deep Reinforcement Learning
Coding Lab: Advanced Deep Reinforcement Learning



TECHNISCHE
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Research Highlight

Baake, P., Schwenen, S., & von Hirschhausen, C. (2023). Local Energy Markets. The Journal of Industrial Economics, 71(3), 855-882.

FIM Lectures

Energy Economics, Empirical Research in Energy Economics



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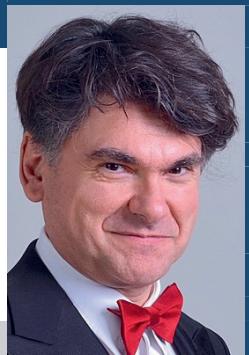
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Research Highlight

Sokolov, Alik & Sabelli, Fabrizio & Faraz, Behzad & Li, Wuding & Seco, Luis. (2024). Towards Automating Causal Discovery in Financial Markets and Beyond. SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.4679414.



FIM Lectures

Investment Risk Management

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Research Highlight

Brooks, C., Hinich, M. J., & Smith, M. J. (1999). Nonlinear evolution in UK stock returns and volume. In Nonlinear time series analysis of economic and financial data (pp. 165-177). Springer, Boston, MA.



FIM Lectures

Trading Seminar

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Research Highlight

Heiß, Paula ; Rockstuhl, Jakob ; Körner, Marc-Fabian ; Strüker, Jens: Enhancing Trust in Global Supply Chains : Conceptualizing Digital Product Passports for a Low-Carbon Hydrogen Market. In: Electronic Markets. Bd. 34 (2024) . - 10.



FIM Lectures

Digital Energy Management

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Research Highlight

HAVRYLENKO, Y., HINKEN, M., & ZAGST, R., (2023). Risk sharing in equity-linked insurance products: Stackelberg equilibrium between an insurer and a reinsurer, ASTIN Bulletin, 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.1017/asb.2023.32>



FIM Lectures

Basics of FIM, Challenges in Quantitative Finance, Fixed Income Markets

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Research Highlight

Spitzer, P., Morrison, K., Turri, V., Feng, M., Perer, A., & Kühl, N. (2025). Imperfections of XAI: Phenomena Influencing AI-Assisted Decision-Making. *ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems*, 15(3), 1-40.



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FIM Lectures

Applied Artificial Intelligence

Academic Mentor-Mentee Statements

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kratsch: As an academic mentor, I am deeply committed to guiding students on their educational journey. Drawing on my diverse background in research, academic consulting and the start-up ecosystem, I try to demonstrate that there is not just one right path to success.

Prof. Dr. Anna Maria Oberländer: In academic mentoring, my ambition is to inspire mentees to engage in innovative research that is relevant to practice, thereby exploring diverse and non-linear career paths. This enables them to become bridge builders between academia and practice, as well as across different domains. I am particularly committed to encouraging diverse perspectives, which are essential for building a fair, digital, and sustainable future.

Prof. Dr. Maximilian Röglinger: For me, the FIM mentoring program is unique because I have the opportunity to help our students make the best possible decisions for their future careers in industry or academia. My personal highlight is that I am still in contact with some of my mentees who have finished their studies years ago. So, a mentor-mentee relationship is not only for the study period, but can be for life.

Prof. Dr. Maximilian Schiffer: As a mentor, I experience the mentor-mentee relationship as personally enriching, being a mutual exchange with insights for both sides. Providing guidance and support has not only helped my mentees grow academically and personally, but it has also allowed me to gain new perspectives and insights. Through the mentor-mentee interactions, I've learned as much as I've taught, discovering the value of mutual respect and shared goals.

Prof. Dr. Jens Strüker: The FIM academic mentor-mentee relationship is exceptional in many ways: academically, you get to know each other, and personally, you come to appreciate one another. Often, relationships formed here extend beyond the end of the degree program.

Prof. Dr. Rudi Zagst: The best thing about academic mentoring for me is getting to know so many young people with such different characters and talents, accompanying them a little way through their studies and helping each and every one of them to find the right path for themselves.

Profiles

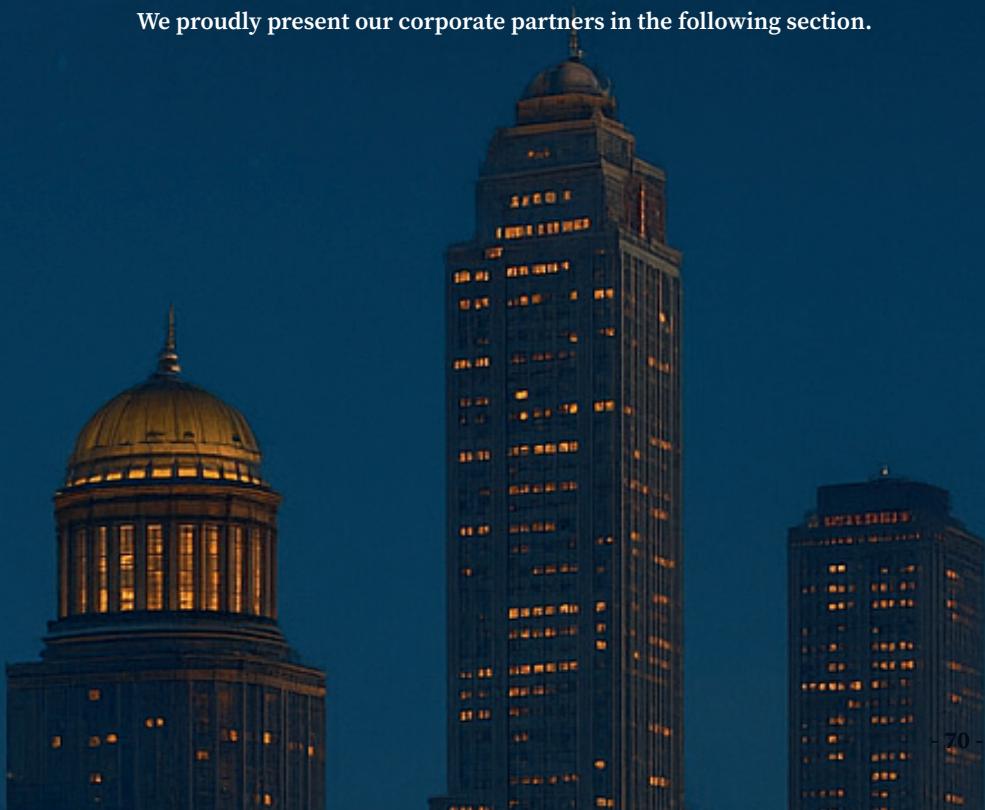
Corporate Partners

A vital component of FIM is the collaboration between our study program and our corporate partners. These partnerships enrich students' academic journeys by providing unique mentoring from experienced professionals, along with practical opportunities such as internships, guest lectures, and company visits. The generous financial support from our corporate partners enables a one-of-a-kind program that combines cutting-edge academic knowledge with essential soft-skills development.

We are delighted to announce EY Consulting GmbH as our newest corporate partner. Nicole Schiller, Partner in Business Consulting at EY, highlights the shared vision of this collaboration:

“We are excited to join the FIM community! Our partnership is all about sparking ideas, challenging norms, and growing the next generation of changemakers in finance and technology.”

We proudly present our corporate partners in the following section.





Allianz Global Investors GmbH

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Global Head of People Academic Alliance



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Katharina Riegler

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Tobias Fehrer



Value Engineer

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Website www.celonis.com



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Hilti AG

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Profiles

FIM Start-ups

The FIM program proudly carries forward its tradition of innovation reflected in the 18 thriving FIM Start-ups launched by our students and alumni. These ventures demonstrate how ideas developed at FIM evolve into real-world impact, seamlessly connecting research, entrepreneurship, and industry. We celebrate their achievements and hope their stories inspire future generations to pursue their own entrepreneurial paths and strengthen the FIM legacy.

If you're a FIM Start-up interested in offering a master's thesis collaboration, or a student eager to partner with a FIM Start-up, we invite you to connect with the FIM Alumni Association Board at fim.alumni.ev@gmail.com



Avenis Solutions

Sector	Finance
Founders	Johannes Hauptmann (FIM) Lee Wasilenko
Established & Located in	01.09.2012 Würzburg
# of employees	> 70
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As a leading provider of IT-enabled managed solutions, we offer customized reporting solutions for sales, marketing, and regulatory requirements in the financial industry. These solutions enable our customers to make informed decisions based on up-to-date data and to make the world of finance more transparent. We are always looking for motivated colleagues - send us your application

Cavalis Solutions GmbH

Sector	Data science and consulting
Founders	Victor Sorgenfrei Rouven Poll (FIM) Fabian Gatzka (FIM)
Established & Located in	01.09.2023 Munich
# of employees	15
Contact	https://www.linkedin.com/company/cavalis-gmbh/ https://cavalis.de/



At cavalis, we turn data into value. Our vision is to enable organizations to harness the full potential of their data and reach process excellence. With data and process mining, we identify inefficiencies at their root and design customized solutions and action plans, transforming core business processes and driving impactful decisions for mid-to-large-sized companies from various industries. We are hiring!

Celonis Deutschland GmbH

Sector	SaaS
Founders	Alex Rinke Bastian Nominacher (FIM) Martin Klenk
Established & Located in	15.06.2011 Munich, New York (20 office locations globally)
# of employees	3 000 +

Contact www.celonis.com

It's been 13 years since three Master's students at the TUM gathered in Bastian Nominacher's student apartment to cofound today's tech titan, Celonis. Since 2011, Celonis has helped thousands of companies create a living digital twin of their end-to-end processes. Its Process Intelligence platform uses industry-leading process mining technology and AI to create x-ray images of business processes.



Credium

Sector	Fintech
Founders	Lars Wederhake (FIM) Timm Tränkler (FIM)
Established & Located in	02.06.2020 Augsburg
# of employees	20

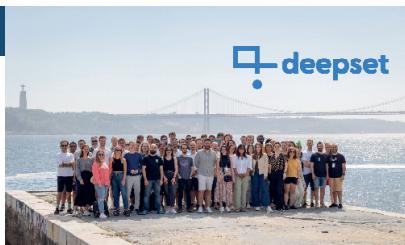
Contact timm.traenkler@credium.de
www.credium.de



credium accelerates building related process such as mortgage approvals from weeks to one day by solving the lack of high-quality building data. Our AI-driven tech creates accurate 3-D digital twins, assessing size, condition, and energetic properties. We do this by fusing diverse data sources, offering precise, reliable insights that transform real estate processes. Reach out to learn more!

deepset

Sector	AI technology
Founders	Milos Rusic (FIM) Malte Pietsch (FIM) Timo Möller
Established & Located in	25.06.2018 Berlin
# of employees	70
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deepset enables organizations to build, test, and deploy generative AI for mission-critical public sector, defense, and enterprise applications. Our open-source Haystack framework, enterprise platform, and expert support accelerate the AI lifecycle, making AI agents, RAG, and other solutions fast to build, repeatable, and trusted in production. Named a Gartner Cool Vendor in AI Engineering, deepset is a sovereign AI provider and partner trusted by Airbus, the European Commission, the German Armed Forces, and The Economist, and is part of Germany's Federal Tech Stack.
Try out Haystack : <https://github.com/deepset-ai/haystack>

DoNexus

Sector	AI property management
Founders	Zeno Woywood (FIM) Daniel Parak (FIM)
Established & Located in	2025 Munich
# of employees	3
Contact	daniel.parak@donexus.de ; www.donexus.ai



At DoNexus, we build smart AI Agents that slash property managers' manual workload by up to 70% - they understand what you mean, pull together the right data, and just get it done. We're here to transform an outdated, understaffed industry - so you will no longer get ghosted by your property manager. We are always on the search for the bright and motivated talented!

Helm & Nagel GmbH

Sector	Technology focusing on AI-driven solutions for document processing and data management
Founders	Christopher Vincent Helm (FIM) Florian Michael Zyprian (FIM)
Established & Located in	02.04.2019 Aßlar (near Frankfurt, Germany) and germany-based remote team
# of employees	6
Contact	info@konfuzio.com https://konfuzio.com/



Helm & Nagel GmbH develops AI solutions for companies with complex business requirements. Its intelligent document processing (IDP) and AI-based automation software helps customers create more efficient processes, improve customer satisfaction, and tap into new market opportunities. The established IDP software Konfuzio provides technologies for document splitting, extraction and classification, as well as text and handwriting recognition. It specializes in enterprises in highly regulated industries with high functionality demands. The product portfolio is complemented by Quick-Extract, a lightweight alternative for fast LLM-based document data extraction. AI chatbots are also offered for improved customer service and optimized data management, as well as services for data-driven customer acquisition.

JobBuffer GmbH

Sector	Tech Recruitment
Founders	Christian Zweckerl (FIM) Christian Wurm Maryna Zhygadlo
Established & Located in	23.02.2024 Munich
# of employees	3
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ECENT GmbH

Sector	Event management
	Kilian Osberghaus (FIM) Tanina Schlieker
Founders	Julian Hirschmann Simon Hirschmann Fabian Sott Timo Gumpf
Established	01.06.2023
& Located in	Munich
# of employees	8
Contact	kilian.osberghaus@ecent.eu www.ecent.eu



ECENT is a young and dynamic event agency specializing in the organization and implementation of innovative events with a focus on sustainability. Our young founding team (22-27 years old) consists of creative minds and dedicated professionals who work together to create unforgettable events. Our promise: We support you for high quality, sustainable and affordable events. In this year we started with our own event software eradiant. If a tool for networking, program overview and mailings is needed, everybody can contact me.

Fishbowl

Sector	Food
	Marc Adler
Founders	Delia Ferrari Philipp Ollig (FIM)
Established	03.06.2018
& Located in	Munich
# of employees	50



Contact	www.fish-bowl.de
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We offer healthy bowls made from fresh ingredients as a fast food concept in three stores in Munich. The mission behind FISHBOWL is "Change Fastfood": Our bowls are prepared in the shortest possible time without compromising on taste, quality or variety. On the contrary: quality and taste are our top priority.

Legalian

Sector	LegalTech & Compliance
Founders	Benedikt Reinhard Constantin Wild Maximilian Reinhard (FIM)
Established & Located in	01.05.2023 Munich
# of employees	7
Contact	maximilian.reinhard@legalian.io www.legalian.io



LEGALIAN

Legalian is a platform that supports the legal industry in meeting the requirements of the German Money Laundering Act (GwG). Tailored to the specific needs of these professional groups, Legalian's compliance platform offers all the necessary tools to implement the provisions of the AMLA professionally, quickly and in a legally compliant manner. We are looking for ambitious new joiners in our team so please feel free to hit me up: maximilian.reinhard@legalian.io

My Mineral Mix

Sector	Supplements
Founders	Prof. Prof. Dr. Harald Gumbiller Dr. Med. Dirk Polonius Ludwig Anton Gröber (FIM)
Established & Located in	2023 Prien am Chiemsee
# of employees	7
Contact	https://mymineralmix.de/de/ kontakt@mymineralmix.de ludwig.groeber@mymineralmix.de

MyMineralMix

MyMineralMix creates highly personalized supplements—developed by doctors and handcrafted in German pharmacies. After a 3-minute questionnaire, you receive a precise blend of vitamins, minerals, and amino acids tailored to your body and conveniently delivered to your home.

Powerlytix GmbH

Sector Energy trading

Founders Markus Senn (FIM)



Established & Located in 18.07.2024
Munich

of employees N/A

Contact markus.senn@powerlytix.com
+49 173 6762642

Powerlytix is an algorithmic trading company managing short-term power trading strategies across day-ahead and intraday markets. Our mission is to deliver robust returns for our managed client accounts and through our in-house prop trading. We build cloud-native and data-driven predictive models to translate weather data and market factors into profitable trading signals.

Pulse

Sector Advertising technology

Founders Jochen Madler (FIM)
Vincent Jeltsch



Established & Located in 2025
Munich

of employees 2

Contact jochen@pulse-energy.eu
<https://gpt-pulse.com>

pulse helps companies measure and improve their brand visibility in AI search engines such as ChatGPT, Perplexity, and Google Gemini. With pulse, companies can understand how their brand is mentioned in AI search and adapt their content to improve their visibility for the new age of AI-driven search. pulse is founded by a team with backgrounds at FIM, UnternehmerTUM, CDTM, and Stanford University.

Testbirds GmbH

Sector	IT
Founders	Georg Hansbauer (FIM) Philipp Benkler
Established & Located in	01.06.2012 Europe
# of employees	150

Contact www.testbirds.com

We help customers build better digital products using crowdtesting.



Tür an Tür - Digitalfabrik gemeinnützige GmbH

Sector	Public / Government
Founders	Fritjof Knier (FIM) Daniel Kehne (FIM)
Established & Located in	23.06.2016 Augsburg
# of employees	40

Contact digitalfabrik@tuerantuer.de
www.tuerantuer.de/digitalfabrik



Our social enterprise develops digital solutions to improve the lives of people who are disadvantaged by social structures. The main project is the multilingual app Integreat, which has around 5 million accesses per year and is used by 140 municipalities vocabulary learning app Lunes and an open-source framework for implementing a digital social card. “After completing the FIM program, all possibilities and the whole world are open to you. Decide carefully how and for whom you want to invest your time.”

Red Pony Organic Brewery

Sector	Food and beverage manufacturing
Founders	Christopher Detke, Jerome Geyer-Klingenberg (FIM)
Established & Located in	02.05.2020 Augsburg
# of employees	3
Contact	bier@rotespony.de https://www.rotespony.de/



We are passionate about brewing organic craft beer using ingredients sourced from local suppliers. Our journey began as homebrewers during our student days, and in 2020, we realized our dream by opening our own microbrewery. Our vision is to create beer with minimal environmental impact. We invite you to come and enjoy a beer with us in our brewery in beautiful Augsburg-Oberhausen!

SUMM AI

Sector	Software, SaaS, GovTech
Founders	Vanessa Theel (FIM) Flora Geske (FIM) Nicholas Wolf (FIM)
Established & Located in	22.04.2022 Munich
# of employees	20
Contact	team@summ-ai.com www.summ-ai.com



SUMM AI is the “Google Translate” for Plain Language (“Leichte & Einfache Sprache”): An AI-powered tool that makes any complicated text accessible and understandable for everyone. We work with government agencies and companies to enable them to comply with accessibility regulations at the click of a button.



A Heartfelt Thank You!

We extend our warmest thanks to all supporters, contributors, and community members. Your enthusiasm, energy, and dedication keep our FIMily growing and thriving year after year.

Stay Connected: Your Ideas Matter

We invite readers to reach out to the FIM Alumni Board with ideas for future content or contributions to this yearbook. We welcome stories, achievements, updates, and anything that celebrates the richness of our network.

We are always looking out for interesting news from across the FIMily and we would love to hear from you!

Contact: fim.alumni.ev@gmail.com
www.fim-alumni.net

Looking forward to the next years of FIM:)