

# How do university startups patent? A comparison of TUM and École Polytechnique de Paris

Topic for BSc. or MSc. – Thesis:

Universities have become hotbeds of entrepreneurial activity, and technical universities in particular have generated impressive numbers of startups. Technical University of Munich and École Polytechnique, Paris, are prime examples. Many new ventures from these universities pursue business models based on new technologies. This raises the question if and to what extent they rely on patents in order to protect their innovations from imitation and to improve the odds of profiting from them. Does the importance of patenting differ between the two institutions? If so, in what regard? And why? Does it have to do with institutions that support patenting to varying degrees, with the competitive environment on the respective market, or with other factors? Could, possibly, these institutions learn from each other how to best support entrepreneurship? The thesis shall address these questions. Ventures from both institutions shall be compared with respect to their patenting behavior, both qualitatively with interviews and quantitatively. Some of the quantitative data will be provided, other parts will have to be collected from databases. The candidate will get the opportunity to interview founders and IP coaches at both institutions.

Contact: Prof. Joachim Henkel, [joachim.henkel@tum.de](mailto:joachim.henkel@tum.de)

