



COMPOSITES
UNITED

**LEICHTBAU
FORSCHUNG**

COMPOSITES UNITED TRAINEE PROGRAM
WINTER SEMESTER 2026/27

CU Trainee Program

Goal of the program

The CU Trainee Program is designed for students who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to gain additional professional training in the field of fiber-reinforced composites alongside their studies.

The program, which runs concurrently with studies, is divided into two semesters: The first semester focuses on learning theoretical fundamentals, which are then applied in the second semester as part of the final thesis.

In this way, the CU offers trainees the opportunity to connect with established experts from member companies and institutions. Additionally, students gain an overview of current developments in research and industry.

Another goal of the trainee program is to give member companies the opportunity to connect with motivated young talent early on and, in this way, attract competent future employees.

CU Trainee Program

Semester breakdown

1st Semester: Fundamentals of Fiber-Reinforced Composites

To familiarize students with the topic of fiber-reinforced composites, **seven lecture days** are held at leading research institutions on various topics related to fiber-reinforced composites. The scope of the lecture days offered corresponds to 2 semester hours per week (3 ECTS credits).

The content of the lecture days is selected to provide students with a solid understanding of the **most important areas of fiber-reinforced composite technology**.

The lectures are mostly held in German.

2nd Semester: Thesis

The second part of the trainee program optionally includes a **thesis** in collaboration with a CU industry partner.

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Topics in the lecture series (order not relevant)

Topic	Instructor	Location
1. Ceramic Composites	Prof. Koch	University of Augsburg
2. Thermoplastics	Prof. Henning	ICT Pfinztal
3. Fiber Technology Textile Preform Technology	Dr. Erik Frank Gerd Falk	DITF / Denkendorf IFB / University of Stuttgart
4. Epoxy Resins	Prof. Brauner	University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland
5. Testing Technology	Prof. Breuer	IVW Kaiserslautern
6. Structural Mechanics	Prof. Unckenbold	PFH Stade
7. Hybrid Composites and Testing Methods for Fiber-Reinforced Composites	Prof. Scheffler, Prof. Spickenheuer Prof. Cherif, Prof. Ridzewski	IPF Dresden TU Dresden IMA Dresden

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Exam Recognition

At the end of the first semester, there is a written exam covering all the topics covered. The questions are set by the respective professors and lecturers.

Recognition of the exam is determined individually by the respective university or professor. Each student must individually verify whether credit can be applied toward their degree at their university.

Upon successful completion of the first semester and the written exam, each student receives a certificate of participation with proof of achievement.

CU Trainee Program

Application and Selection Process

The application deadline for the 2026/27 winter semester is **August 7, 2026**

Application criteria:

- Completed undergraduate studies / Bachelor's degree. The program is particularly aimed at students pursuing a Master's degree
- Knowledge of and a particular interest in the field of fiber-reinforced composites
- German language skills, fluent
- Program period 10/26 – 03/27: Participation in at least 6 of the 7 sessions as well as the final exam is required (no online participation allowed)

Number of participants: Max. 14 students, travel allowance per person max. 1,000 Euros

Selection Committee: Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a CU jury.

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Application Documents

Please send your complete application materials, cover letter, and current transcripts exclusively **via email** **to: trainee-programm@composites-united.com**

Please make sure to send your complete application materials **in a single file**. Individual files will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted in German.

For more information about Composites United e.V. and its members, please visit:

www.composites-united.com

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