



1775 – 2025



TU Clausthal

THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

PART 3:

1960 TO 2006 – EXPANSION OF THE
FELDGRABEN AREA CAMPUS HERALDS
THE TRANSITION FROM THE MINING
ACADEMY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY

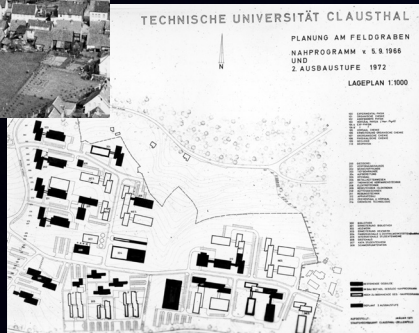
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The Feldgraben university campus in the 1960s ...



Site plan of the Feldgraben area from 1971: Not everything turned out as planned by the Clausthal-Zellerfeld State Building Authority



... and around 50 years later.

1960

FELDGRABEN AREA IS ACQUIRED

After an increase until the beginning of the 1960s, the number of students falls to less than 1,000 by the middle of the decade due to structural changes in mining and metallurgy. To counteract the crisis in the coal and steel industry, the Science Council recommends expanding the Mining Academy into a broader-based University of Technology. With the help of the Association of Friends of the University, a 53-hectare meadow area on the south-eastern edge of the city, where cows and hikers roam at the time, is acquired for a new campus: the Feldgraben area.



Prof. Gerhard Trömel, Dean in the 1960s and Rector of Clausthal University of Technology from 1970 to 1972, is working on a model of the Feldgraben area.

THERE'S MUSIC IN IT



A familiar sight for decades: the TU Clausthal orchestra in the Aula Academica.

The Mining Academy Chamber Orchestra, founded a few months earlier, performed for the first time in 1960. Music had been present at the academy since at least the 1920s. Clausthal professors were already making music with their students during the Weimar Republic. With the creation of the chamber orchestra - renamed as the symphony orchestra in 2005 - music was then brought out of the professors' rooms and into the public sphere. In the meantime, a chamber choir, a big band and a rock, pop and jazz choir have been added.

1963

OPENING OF THE LIBRARY

The first building on the new campus, the university library, is opened on November 23, 1963 (cost 2.4 million marks). The Feldgraben area experiences a building boom. Numerous new institutes in the fields of natural sciences, engineering and petroleum sciences are established. At the same time, there is a considerable increase in personnel. New degree courses are launched in chemistry, physics, mathematics and mechanical engineering. Teacher training courses in mathematics, physics and chemistry are set up for the next two decades in order to counter the shortage of teachers at the time.



Construction work at the Clausthal University Library.

Quote from the Hannoversche Presse (November 1963):

„A peculiar charm is shared with the daily visitors from the juxtaposition of electronic measurement experiments and structural analyses, of enormous tear tests of metallic compounds, of combustion and fission reactions and the gently rolling forest and meadow slopes of the Harz with the grazing cows almost directly in front of the institute windows. Lovely closeness to nature and sober civilization acrobatics balance each other out in Clausthal.“

1968

INFOBOX

Students:	1.505
International students:	437 (29 %)
Female students:	51
Professors:	37
Rector of the Mining Academy:	Prof. Dr. Horst Luther, later Prof. Dr. Raimund Willeck

1968

RENAMED AS

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

On March 23, 1968, the expansion of the university in research and teaching leads to the renaming "Clausthal University of Technology".



1975

CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

The university celebrates its 200th anniversary with a week of festivities from June 9 to 15. The central ceremony takes place in the Marktkirche. For the social events, a marquee for 2000 people is set up on the grounds of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Schacht. Part of the celebrations is a panel discussion with Rudi Dutschke, the symbolic figure of the 1968 student movement, in the overcrowded Audimax. The event has to be broken off after an incident - a steward punches the discussion leader in the stomach.



After the ceremony in the Marktkirche, the crowd streams outside.



Sale of the commemorative publication on the 200th anniversary of the university.



The University and the School of Mining and Metallurgy, which both emerged from the mining school, celebrate the 200th anniversary together in the marquee.

1981

SETTING FOR "JUGEND FORSCHT"

The state final of "Jugend forscht" - Europe's largest competition for young scientists and engineers - is held in the Aula Academica for the first time. The event becomes a success story. The Lower Saxony final is held at Clausthal University of Technology until today.



Helmut Geers and Dieter Johannsmeier from Lingen are involved in the first Jugend-forscht event at Clausthal University of Technology in 1981 with new recording technology for audio tapes.



The official Jugend-forscht poster from 1981.



For more than four decades, the Lower Saxony finals have been held in the Clausthal auditorium.

1987

INFOBOX

Students:	3.661
International students:	359 (9,8 %)
Female students:	538
Professors:	91
Rector of the Mining Academy:	Prof. Dr. Georg Müller

1984

SPIN-OFF BECOMES WORLD

MARKET LEADER

Sympatec GmbH, founded in 1984 by Stephan Röthele, is the first spin-off from Clausthal University of Technology, which later becomes the world market leader in its field, particle measurement technology. In 1985, the engineer (Institute of Mechanical Process Engineering) received the Technology Transfer Award from the Braunschweig Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) for his developments. One year later, he received the Technology Transfer Award from the Federal Minister of Economics.



Dr. Stephan Röthele (right) with members of TU Clausthal at the Pulverhaus, the headquarters of Sympatec GmbH.

1991

FURTHER SPIN-OFF

INTERNATIONALLY SUCCESSFUL



Dr. Joachim Hug (right) founded the testing machine manufacturer SincoTec in 1991.

Foundation of the Clausthal spin-off SincoTec, today the world market leader in resonance testing technology. In 1995, company founder and TU alumnus Dr. Joachim Hug (Institute for Plant Engineering and Fatigue Analysis) receives the Technology Transfer Award from the Braunschweig Chamber of Industry and Commerce for the resonance testing system for determining the service life of components and material samples.

1992

MORE THAN 4000 STUDENTS

The number of students reaches a temporary peak of 4163, but then falls again.



Lecture in the physics lecture hall.

1993

SPECIAL RESEARCH AREA 362



Expert discussion on materials technology (from left): Dr. E.h. Hans Fischer and Professors Heinz Palkowski, Alfons Esderts and Volker Wesling.

Under Clausthal's leadership, the DFG Special Research Area 362 "Production in Thin Sheet" is launched. The industrial use of thin sheet metal is promoted by means of materials science and engineering research. The results achieved over the course of twelve years with simulation systems serve as a model for further research. In total, Clausthal University of Technology has been the host university for half a dozen Collaborative Research Centers and is significantly involved in others.

1994

FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR APPOINTED



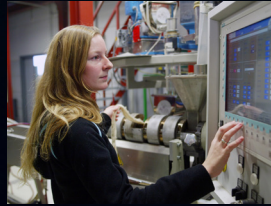
Prof. Gudrun Schmidt-Naake.

For the first time, a female professor is appointed at Clausthal University of Technology: Dr. Gudrun Schmidt-Naake becomes University Professor of Technical Chemistry. In the same year, the university takes over buildings in the Oberharzkasernen barracks on the Tannenhöhe from the German Armed Forces to create new space for the institutes of economics and computer science as well as university sports.

1995

NEW COURSES OF STUDY

New degree courses are created by the middle of the decade: Environmental Engineering, Energy Systems Engineering, Plastics Engineering, Raw Materials and Geotechnical Engineering, Business Mathematics and Business Informatics as well as Physical Technologies. Clausthal University of Technology also consistently achieves excellent results in university rankings thanks to the excellent support it provides to its students.



Clausthal University of Technology stands for practice-oriented studies.

2000

SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC FACTOR



Scientifically and economically important: Clausthal University of Technology.

At the turn of the millennium, Clausthal University of Technology celebrates its 225th birthday. At this time, it has a budget of around 131 million Deutschmarks, 33 million of which are third-party funds. The university is an important economic factor, the largest employer in the western Harz region and its scientific importance radiates far beyond the region. In order to counter the declining student numbers at the time, the university expands its economics courses.

2001

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARD

Technology transfer is of great importance at Clausthal University of Technology. Researchers repeatedly win the Technology Transfer Prize of the Braunschweig Chamber of Industry and Commerce. In 2001, it was the physicist Prof. Wolfgang Schade with a fiber-optic laser sensor, a forerunner of the laser mine detector. Stephan Röthele (1985), Dr. Susanne Mordike (1990), Dr. Joachim Hug (1995), Prof. Eberhard Gock (1998) and a team led by Prof. Günther Frischat (2006) also received the prize. Technology transfer has been institutionalized at the TU since the end of the 1980s.



Prof. Wolfgang Schade explains his work to Federal Research Minister Edelgard Bulmahn.

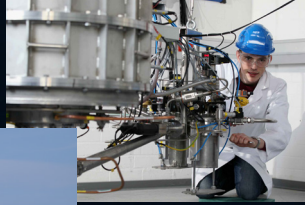
2002 – 2005

NEW STRUCTURES CREATED

Since 2002, the rector, who is elected every two years, has been replaced by a university president with a term of office of six years. Prof. Ernst Schaumann becomes the first President of TU Clausthal. A further structural change follows in 2005, which clearly demonstrates the profile of Clausthal University of Technology and its interdisciplinary networking. Three faculties take the place of departments:



Faculty of Natural and Materials Science.



Faculty of Mathematics/Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering.



Faculty of Energy and Economic Sciences.

2006

ONE OF THE MOST INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY

Clausthal University of Technology has developed into one of the most international universities in Germany. In 2006, the proportion of students from abroad is almost 40 percent. The largest international group at that time comes from China, followed by Cameroon, Poland, Tunisia and Turkey. There are numerous collaborations with international universities. The cosmopolitan orientation has a long tradition in Clausthal. As early as the 1970s, the proportion of international students was around half, many of them from North America.



Clausthal University of Technology has a very international character. The point of contact for students from all over the world is the Clausthal International Center.

2005

INFOBOX

Students:	3.070
International students:	1.142 (37,2 %)
Female students:	820
Professors:	88
President of the University:	Prof. Dr. Edmund Brand

PROUD OF 250 YEARS

Clausthal University of Technology, founded in 1775 as the Clausthal Mining School, celebrates its 250th birthday in 2025. Under the motto “traditionally innovative”, we are commemorating this major anniversary with numerous scientific, cultural and sporting events.

- Our anniversary year runs from September 2024 to the end of 2025.
- The highlight is the festival week from June 15th to 22nd, 2025.

Celebrate with us!



Further information:
www.250-jahre.tu-clausthal.de/en

Here you will find our university history in four parts:

- Part 1: Main building of Clausthal University of Technology, Adolph-Roemer-Straße 2a, Clausthal-Zellerfeld
- Part 2: Aula Academica, Aulastraße 8, Clausthal-Zellerfeld
- Part 3: University Library, Leibnizstraße 2, Clausthal-Zellerfeld
- Part 4: EnergyCampus Goslar of Clausthal University of Technology, Am Stollen 19a, Goslar

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The historical presentation of Clausthal University of Technology and its predecessor institutions makes no claim of completeness. The texts are based on publications on the history of the university by Prof. Georg Müller, Dr. Peter Kickartz and Prof. Peter Dietz, on commemorative publications on the 175th and 200th anniversary of the university and on other sources from the university archives. For detailed information, please contact the Press, Communication and Marketing Office.

www.250-jahre.tu-clausthal.de