FAU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

My FAU Journey Journey

Musab Bin Umair · MSc. Electromobility ACES

ABOUT ME

Musab Bin Umair

FROM

Pakistan

BACHELOR'S

Electrical Engineering

WORK

3 years in industry

MASTER'S IN GERMANY

Electromobility ACES at FAU, WS 23/24

RIGHT NOW

Master's thesis at Siemens Energy

MY JOURNEY IN GERMANY

From arrival to thesis

I was incredibly lucky. My transition was like a walk in the park.

Accommodation

A friend was renting an apartment and gave me a room at a very subsidised rate.

Friends

Started with people from my previous university, then the circle slowly grew.

Working student job

Applied casually with a basic CV from Canva. It worked out.

Thesis, now

Writing my thesis at Siemens Energy.

WHAT HELPED ME

I came into the transition expecting it to be uncomfortable, so I made peace with the discomfort knowing that every phase passes every phase passes and reminding myself not to let a temporary phase overwhelm me.

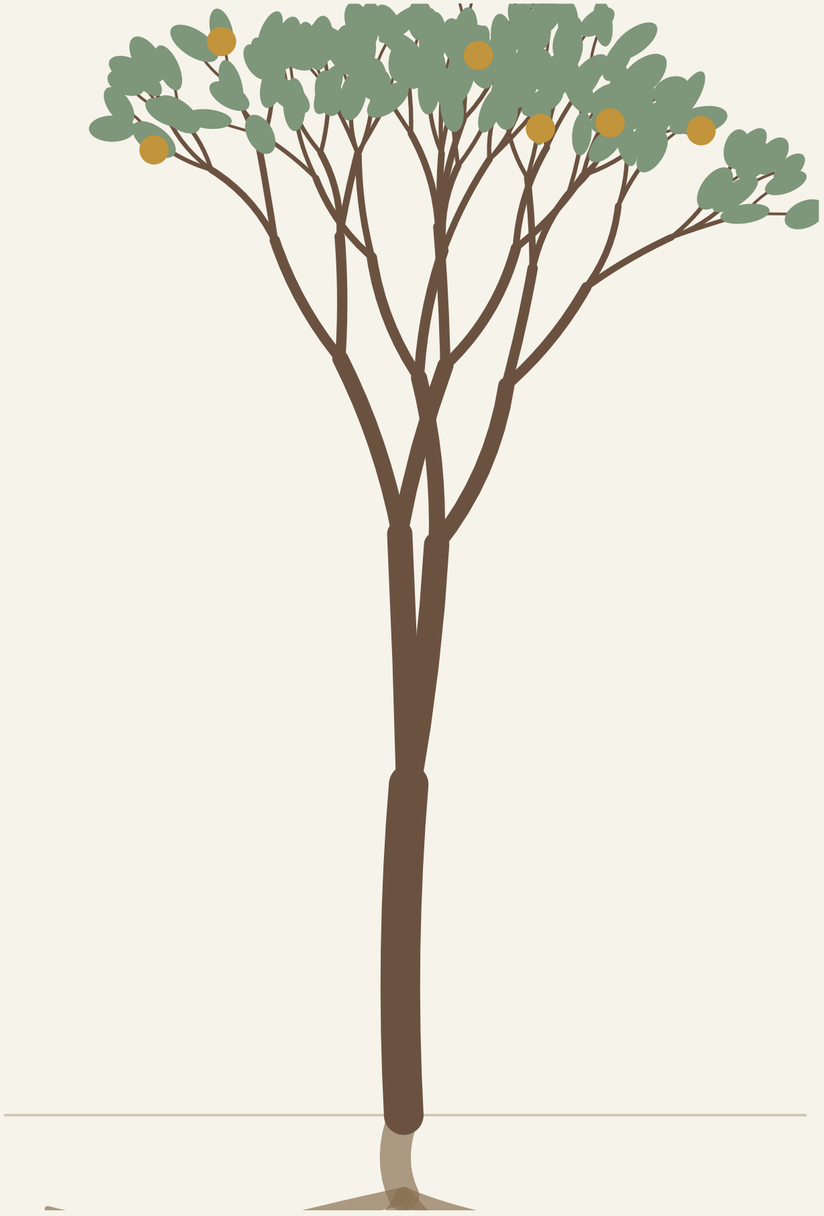
Expect some discomfort, extra expenses and a few mess-ups. That's OKAY.

YOUR JOURNEY

Now let's look at your journey

As a newcomer, you are a freshly planted tree.

Roots	The habits you build first. Nobody sees them, but everything depends on them.
Branches	The five parts of student life we will go through, one by one.
Fruit	What grows out of it over time, usually slower than you would like.



THE ROOTS

Build your roots first

> *Don't confuse freedom with lack of structure.*

Nobody here will remind you about a deadline or check if you attend the lecture. That freedom is real, so the structure has to come from you.

System

A calendar you trust, and one weekly look at what is coming.

Openness

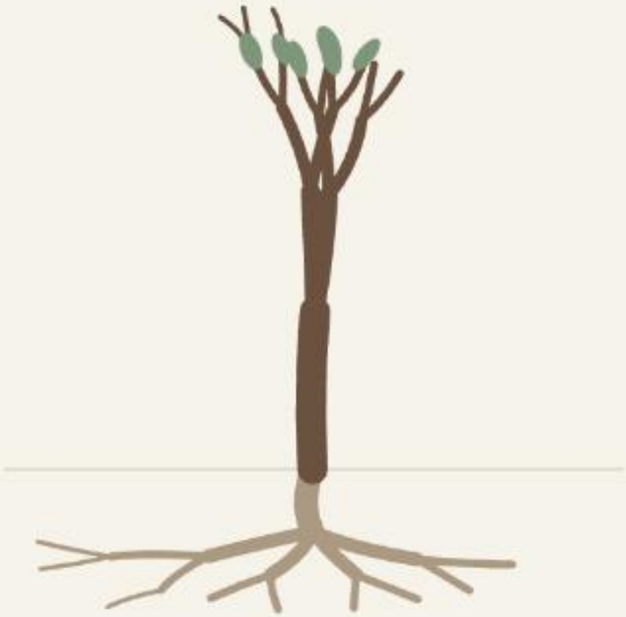
Ask, reach out, talk to people.

Persistence

Not every email/application gets a yes. Send the next one anyway.

Perspective

A difficult phase is not a permanent problem.



THE MAP

Five branches

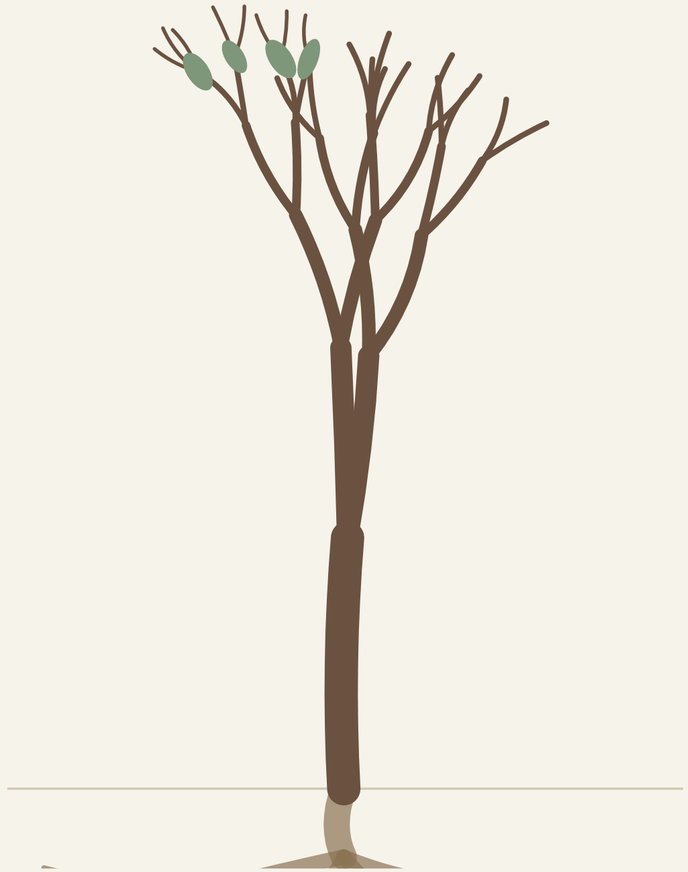
01 Doing well in FAU exams

02 Making friends here

03 Finding a working student job

04 Not getting discouraged

05 Giving yourself an escape



01 **BRANCH — EXAMS**

Learn how exams work

Most courses come down to one exam at the end of the semester. Knowing its format and rules matters as much as knowing the material.

Focus on Lectures

Don’t just study more. Study what is actually being taught, and revise it 5–7 times.

Find old exams

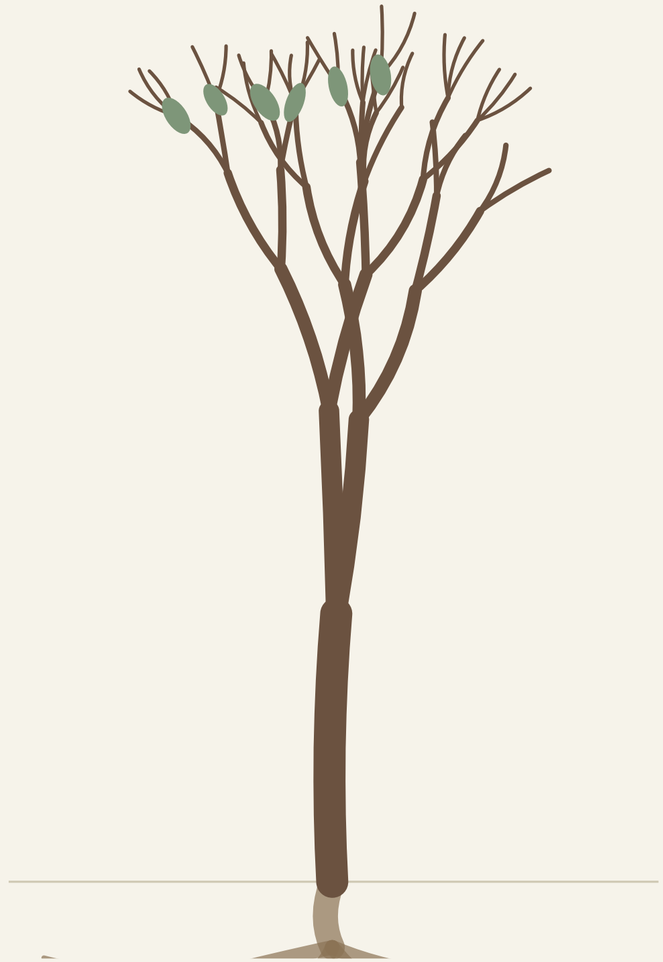
Past papers show you the format faster than any lecture does.

Ask seniors

Students one semester ahead are the best documentation there is.

Read the rules

Attempts, registration and deregistration deadlines. Once, properly, in your first weeks.



02 **BRANCH — FRIENDS**

Find your people

> *Repetition is what turns a face into a friend.*

The usual ways

Join student societies

Go to orientation and university events

Talk to people in your lectures and labs

The overlooked ways

Choose a WG over a studio

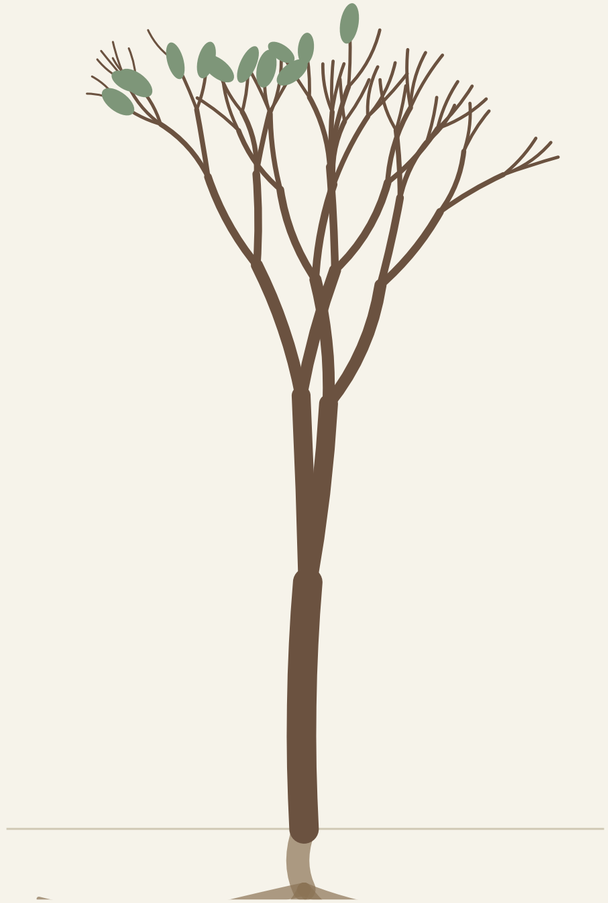
Join a German language class

Sports

Volunteering

Then just say “Hi”

Everyone around you is in the same boat: a new language, far from family, the same deadlines. Nobody minds you starting the conversation.



03 BRANCH — WORKING STUDENT JOB

Make applying a habit

Look on chair websites for HiWi roles, company career pages for Werkstudent posts, the FAU job portal, and ask the people you already know.

Do

Apply as many times as possible

Use an ATS CV template

Apply starting in your first semester

Keep your LinkedIn active and reach out.

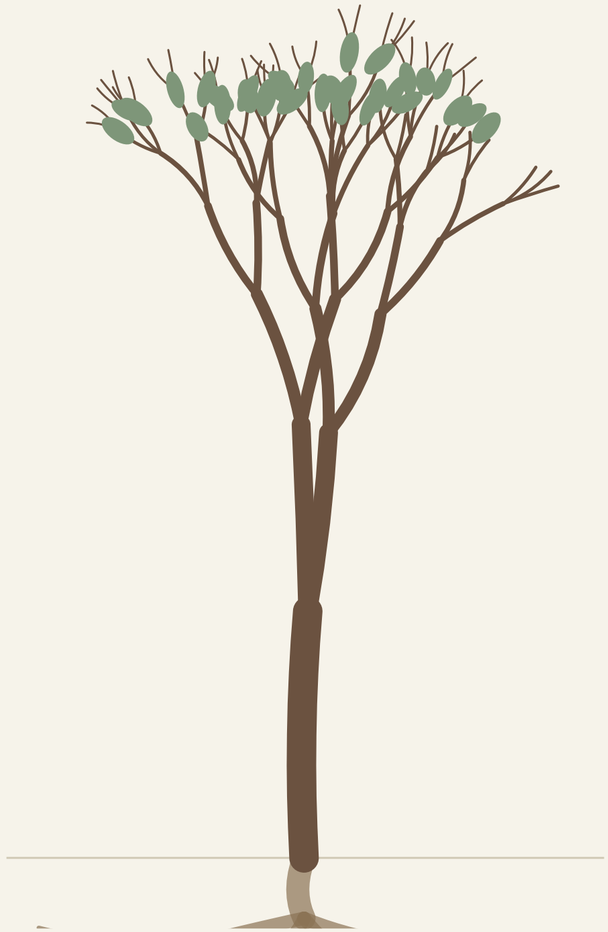
Don't

Wait until your German is perfect

Send one perfect application and stop

Read silence as rejection of you

Let the job eat your exam weeks

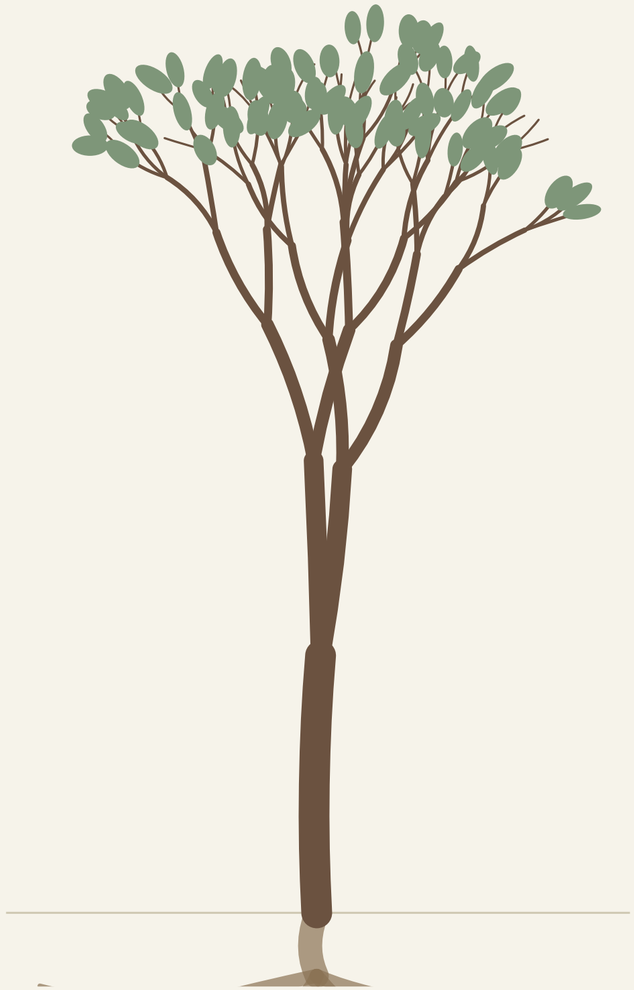


> *Never reject yourself from the job.*

04 **BRANCH — DON'T GET DISCOURAGED**

Try one more time

Unanswered emails, rejected applications, a bad exam. They happen to everyone, and difficult first few months does not mean you made the wrong decision.



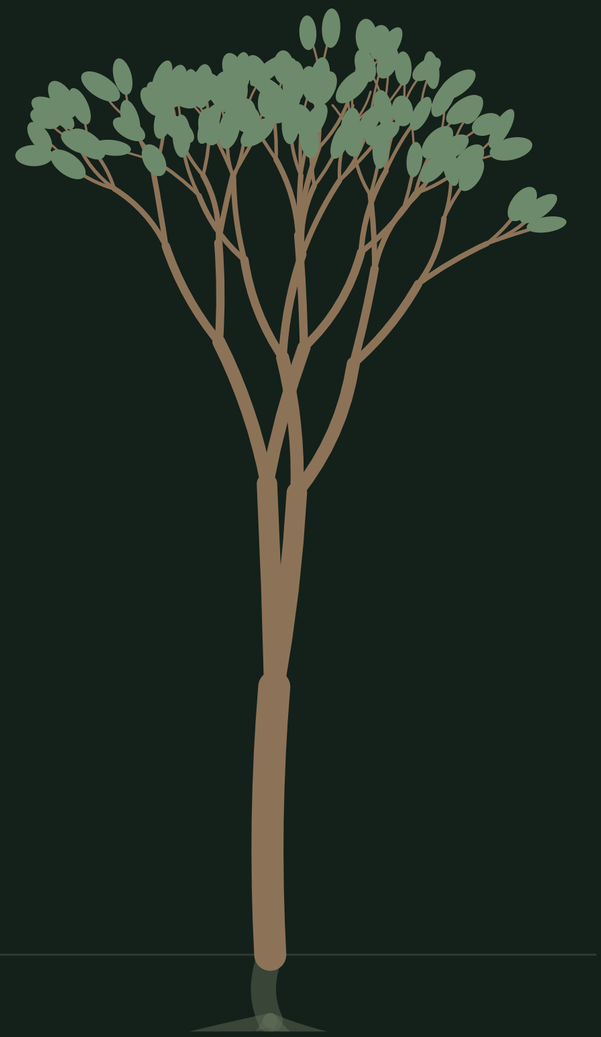
“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The up. The most certain way to succeed is always always to try just one more time.”

THOMAS EDISON

05 BRANCH — ESCAPE

Give yourself an escape

Keep one small part of your day that is not about being productive or proving anything. Mine was one episode of a series every night.



During the day

Registrations, bureaucracy, university tasks. The kind of busy that does not feel like progress.

At night

One episode. Predictable, low effort, and it belonged only to me.

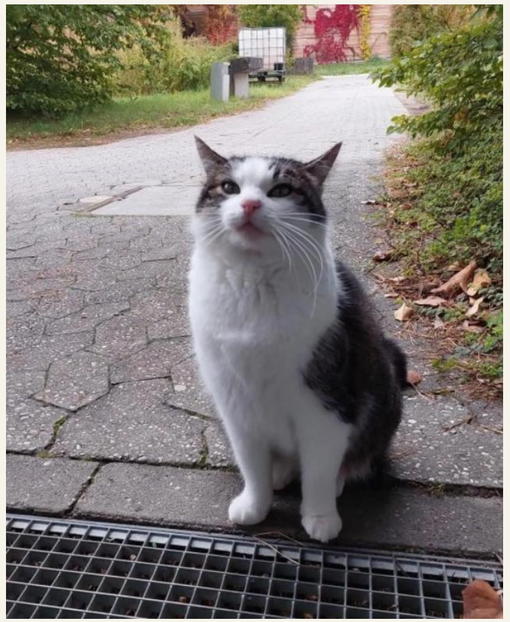
For you it might be the gym, cooking, music, running, or a call home every Sunday.

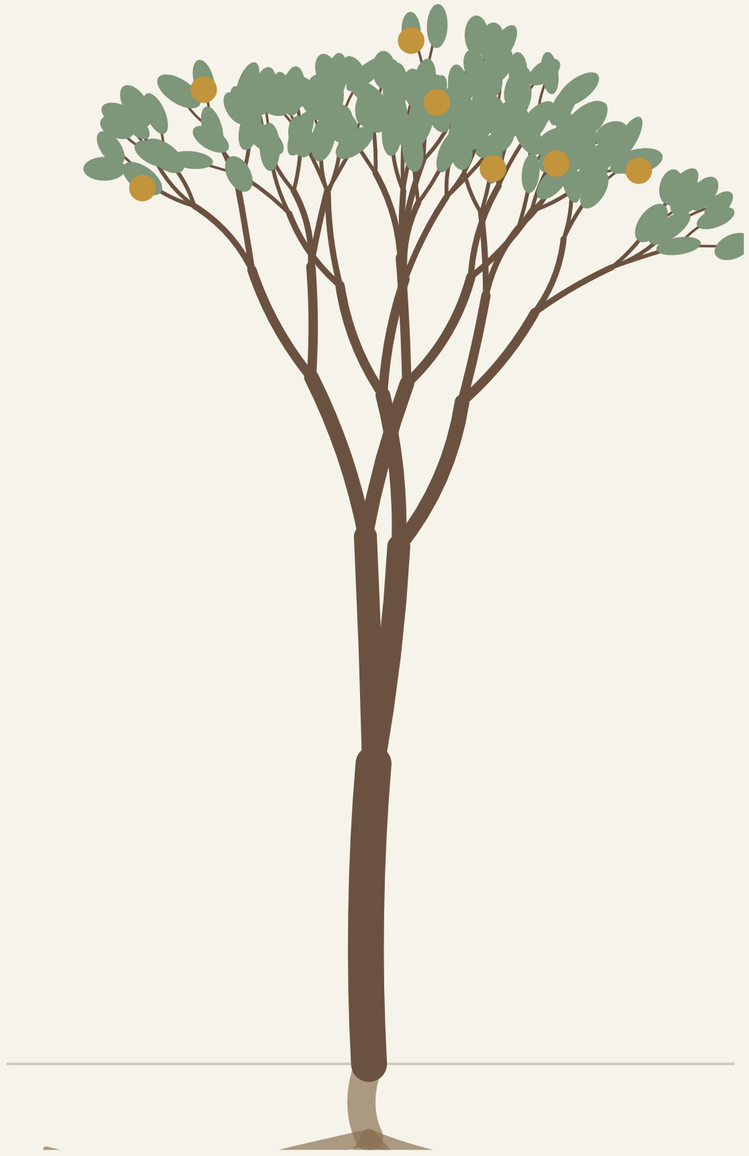
Keep one thing that is yours.

THE FRUIT

Friends, a job, a thesis, and a second second home.

None of it was planned when I arrived. It grew.



And if you ever get a bit stressed, FAU has a solution for that too...

The TechFak Katze.