

## »We feel at home«

**Auf ihrem Weg zur frauen- und familienfreundlichsten technischen Universität Deutschlands fördert die TUM erfolgreich die Wissenschaftskarrieren von Professorinnen mit Kindern. Eine junge Wissenschaftlerin, die an der TUM ihren Traumjob gefunden hat, ist die Chemieprofessorin Moniek Tromp. Gleichzeitig hat ihr Partner über den Munich Dual Career Service eine Stelle bekommen und das gemeinsame Kind einen Betreuungsplatz. Über ihre Erfahrungen berichtet die Chemikerin, die seit Kurzem das Fachgebiet Strukturanalytik in der Katalyse der TUM leitet:**

»After doing my master's and PhD degrees in chemistry in Utrecht, the Netherlands, I moved for initially a post doctoral position to the United Kingdom, i.e. Southampton. After a 3 year post doc I was awarded a prestigious fellowship (EPSRC Advanced Research Fellowship) in 2007 to allow me to set up my own independent research group. I was promoted to lecturer a year later.

I met my (now) husband in 2007 at a European meeting in Spain and he moved to England to be with me in 2008, when I was pregnant. Our daughter Aleyna was born at the end of 2008. In 2009 I was asked to apply for a position at the chemistry department of the TUM, which I did, and I was offered the professorship not much later. After long discussions between my husband and me, and with people in Southampton as well as Munich, we decided to move to Munich. The position was clearly a promotion for me, to a well-known and excellent university with a large group in catalysis, the field I am also active in and a group to which I can certainly contribute. Moreover, the economic as well as the research (funding) climate is currently so much better in Munich compared to the UK, which is not only good for me and my research, but also for my husband to find a job and for us as a family to live.

After making this decision the TUM was very good in providing us help with the imminent move and everything around, in the person of Kerstin Dübner-Gee of the Munich Dual Career Office. She supported my husband in finding a job (he started the 1st of December at BayFor) and PhD position, finding us a place at the TUM-Kinderhaus, a house to live and still helping us in providing a language coach. The chemistry department was also very helpful in setting me up research wise, with labs and offices ready to move in on the 1st of October 2010.

After of course a hectic start, being in two places – teaching in Southampton and Munich, and still a large group in Southampton – we are slowly settling in here in Munich, both work-wise as privately. Our daughter Aleyna has enjoyed the TUM-Kinderhaus from the very first moment, its location being opposite the chemistry building which is perfect of course. It does however close at 17hr, which is not always convenient since for



example all lectures of external guests are scheduled at 17hr. But that is a mind set which maybe also has to be adjusted in Chemistry, with me being the first female professor with young children. Everyone is certainly being helpful and understanding.

We enjoy living just outside Munich, in a great house with garden. Friends and family also seem to enjoy our new location. We have only been in Munich for two months, but already feel at home, and that we have made the right decision to move here. Which is certainly for a large part due to the hospitality and help of a number of people at the TUM, who have supported and welcomed us. Hopefully we still feel like this in a few years!«

[www.tum.de/dualcareer](http://www.tum.de/dualcareer)

Chemieprofessorin Moniek Tromp hat mit ihrer Familie in München Wurzeln geschlagen, der Dual Career Service hat dabei geholfen.