ISRT: Kick-Off to the Semester

Winter Semester 25-26

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KIT Department of Informatics
Informatics Study Program Service (ISS)







- 1. Welcome & Overview
- 2. Winter semester 2025-26 Overview
- 3. Start of semester checklist
- 4. Planning your Studies and Selecting Modules
- 5. Points of contact an overview
- 6. <u>Living in Karlsruhe & Student Life at KIT</u>
- 7. Cultural Adjustment and German Language
- 8. Q&A
- 9. Learning Agreements

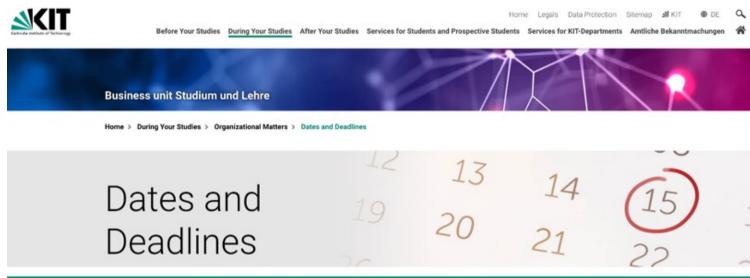
Winter semester 2025-26 Overview

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KIT- Academic Calendar

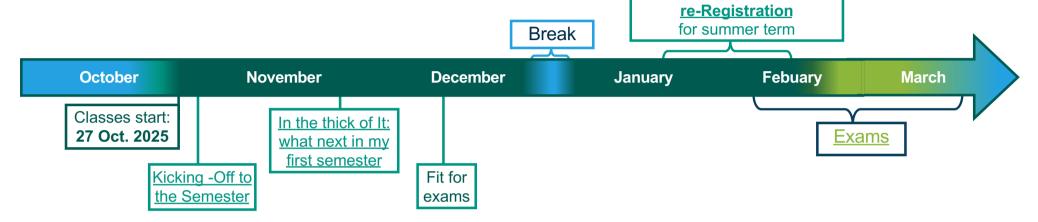




	Semester duration	Lecture period	Recess
Winter term 2025/26	10-01-2025 to 03-31-2026	10-27-2025 to 02-21-2026	12-24-2025 to 01-06-2026
Summer term 2026	04-01-2026 to 09-30-2026	04-20-2026 to 08-01-2026	05-25-2026 to 05-30-2026
Winter term 2026/27	10-01-2026 to 03-31-2027	10-26-2026 to 02-20-2027	12-24-2026 to 01-06-2027
Summer term 2027	04-01-2027 to 09-30-2027	04-19-2027 to 07-31-2027	05-17-2027 to 05-22-2027



KIT- Academic Calendar



- Info² and Mentoring Events including:
 - Mentoring Get-Together, on 12 November 2025, and on16 December 2025
 - ISRT: In the thick of It: what next in my first semester, on 18. November 2025, at 17:45, in Building 50.34, Rm -102
 - ISRT: "Fit for exams and returning home", on 9. December 2025, at 17:45, in Building 50.34, Rm -102 & Zoom
- Break: Winter break is lecture-free from 24 December to 6 January
- re-Registration for Summer semester 15 January to 15 Febuary
- Exams: Many exams take place during the lecture free period from February to the end of March



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Start of semester checklist

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Start of semester checklist

Check list for enrolment and academic and organization

- □ Read thru Starting Your Studies at KIT
 - □ View: How to Ersti ,KIT youtube playlist for students:
 - Kit card student portal, etc...
 - in German but you can select English subtitles
- □ First steps and Enrollment: □ First steps and Enrollment: □ First steps



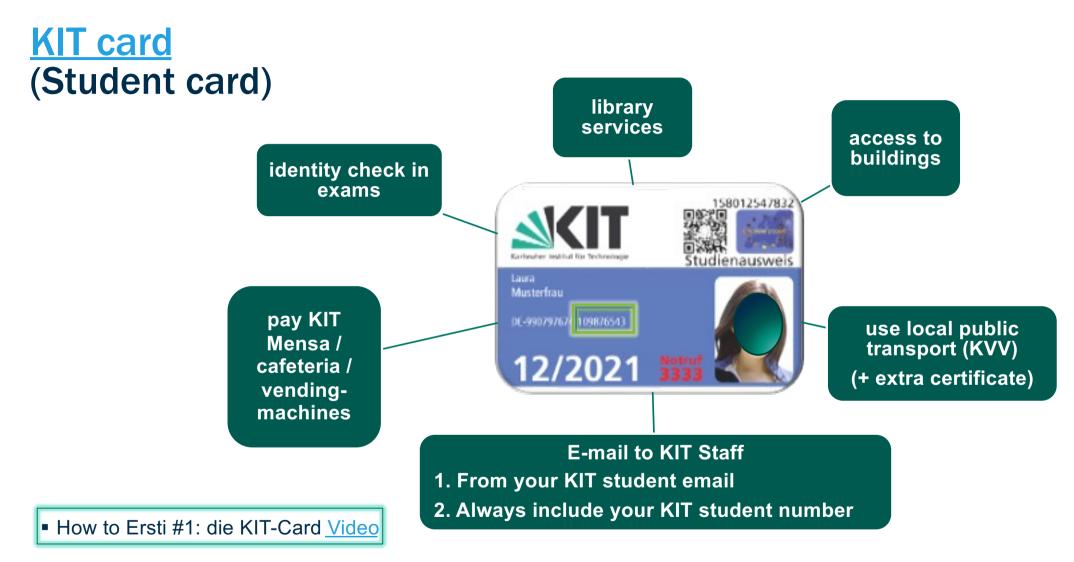
The page describes what you need to do in sequence for online enrollment (matriculation)

- □ Updating Your Data and <u>Account setup</u> with Scientific Computing Center (SCC)
- □ u-account
- □ set-up your Email □ WiFi & VP
- □ KIT card student card

- ☐ MS Teams and Zoom☐ WiFi & VPN at the KIT
- □ Set-up autoload money for cafeteria
 - and campus cafes, etc..
- □ Updating Your Data in the Campus Management (Student) Portal









Start of semester checklist

Check list for enrolment and academic and organization

- □ Plan your studies, course selection and first semester
- □ For degree seeking, review Academic requirements to complete your degree
 - □ in the Module Handbook English version /German Version
 - □ and read and review FSMI slides from O-Phase FBI, videos and Ersti-Info-Heft
- □ Register for seminars/labs /worksheets (Übungen)
- □ CMS calendar linking
- □ <u>Ilias Learning Platform</u> for most modules vital information, script, worksheets, communication, etc
- □ Review FAQs from Informatics Study Program Services (ISS)
 and FSMI + FSMI O-PHASE





Planning your Studies and Selecting Modules

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Planning your studies

Degree seeking students:

- Starting Point is to inform yourself of the academic structure of the degree you are seeking at KIT
- Make sure you are familiar with what you need to enroll in and complete to for your program of study as you plan this and the following semesters
- Read through the Module handbook (MH) on the Form and Document site English & German

Exchange students in Informatics:

- Ensure the modules that you enroll in and select meet the approval of your home university
- Read through our <u>incoming exchange students website</u> and the information there about <u>course selection</u>
- Read through the Module handbook (MH) om the Form and Document side <u>German & English</u>
 - No matter if you are a bachelor or a master student you can choose modules at bachelor or at master level at KIT. <u>However</u> make sure you meet the prerequisite knowledge for the modules you choose
- Ensure the Modules you select are also in your LA



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Overview to Modules

Lecture (Vorlesung)

- Registration later in Semester (*only need to register for the exam, most of the time not for attending)
- **Übung**: Sometimes a lecture also <u>includes</u> an **Übung** (which is a type lecture that builds on the material of the primary lecture by providing further explanations of the lecture content, examples, ect.)
- **Tutorial**: register in first week of the semester. Tutorials review lecture material, answers questions, provides basic examples, reviews worksheet, etc.
- **Worksheets**: note that some lectures also include exercises, which must be successfully completed in order to complete the overall module. Therefore, you need to know if the module has compulsory or non-compulsory worksheets

Seminar

- · Work on a particular topic, write about it and prepare and present it to the group
- Watch others presentations
- Must register before courses begin (depending on the seminar: ILIAS/ Website/ Email/ Wiwi-Portal ...)

Lab

(Praktikum)

- · Acquire more practical skills
- Must register before courses begin (depending on the lab: ILIAS/ Website/ Email/ Wiwi-Portal ...)

Thesis

Bachelor-/ Master

- Find advisor and topic (Visit the various Institute homepages to assist you in this process and e-mail potential advisors)
- Advisor will help to register the thesis
- · Write and defend thesis



Language courses at KIT

One free course per semester:

German classes at KIT <u>Studienkolleg</u>



Foreign language classes in 14 different languages at KIT <u>Sprachenzentrum</u>



Teletandem for cooperative language learning at KIT <u>Sprachenzentrum</u>

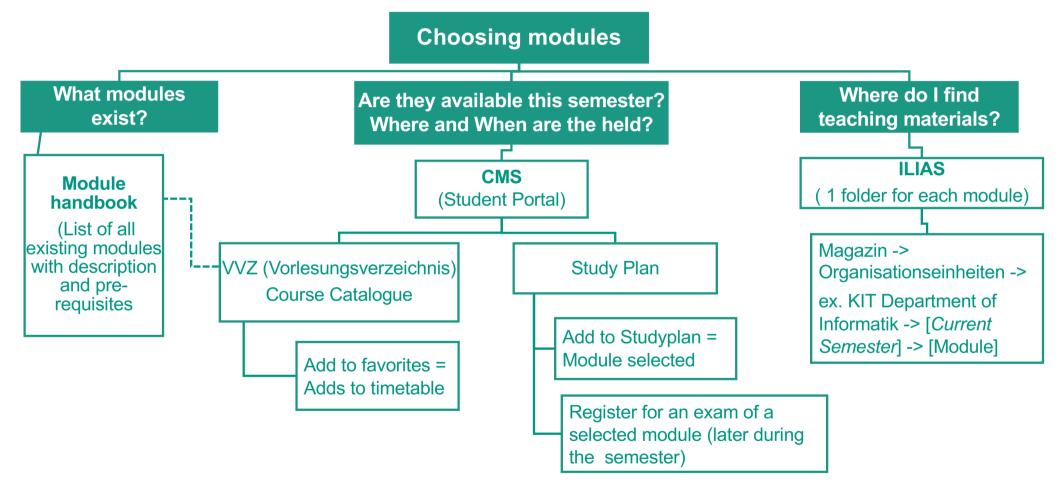
Remember to register early for next semester!

Did you take a Pre-semester German Course? (Exchange Students)





Course Selection – Flow chart





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Module Handbook and "VVZ" (Course Catalogue)

- Be sure to choose the correct Module Handbook for your studies (Computer Science, BSc. or Msc.) and the updated Handbook each semester
- When selecting modules, you will need to use the Module Handbook in combination with "VVZ" Campus Management Course Catalogue
 - Always start with Module Handbook and click yourself till VVZ
 - example IT Security (WS 25/26)
 - Module Handbook



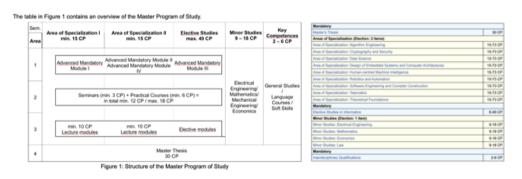




Planning your Studies

Top down:

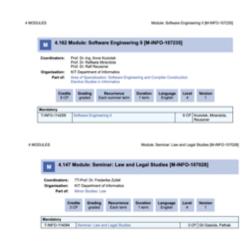
- choose specialties and minor
- choose minor
- choose modules within each
- plan each semester according to when the courses and exams are offered.



Botom up

- choose modules for your first semester according to your preferences
- make sure the courses are being offered this semester
- plan further semester in march using Top down







Do you know what modules you are interested in enrolling in this semester?

Do you know about, have access to, and know how to use:

- Module Hand book?
- · CMS?
- · Ilias?
- SignMeUp?
- WiWi Portal?





Module Handbooks

<u>Campus Management</u> for Students ILIAS
Learning Platform

SignMeUp

Wiwi-portal

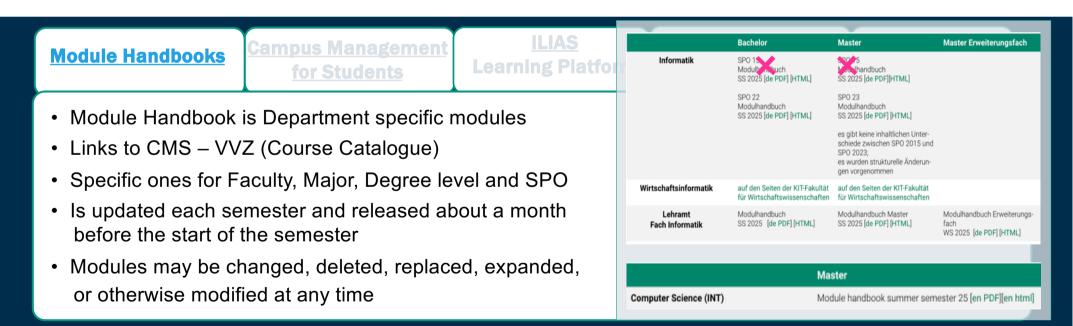
- Module Handbook contains mostly Department specific modules
- Course Catalogue part of CMS also know as "VVZ" (Vorlesungsverzeichnis)
- Campus Management for Students (CMS) is for managing your personal data, module selection exams, certificates, etc
- Ilias is a learning Platform
- Campus Plus Portal (SignMeUp) and WiWi-Portal are platforms for choosing and signing in for labs and seminars, signing up for appointments, etc.



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Module Handbook

- Use Module Handbook in combination with Campus Management Course Catalogue when selecting Modules
- Read through the Module handbook (MH)
 - <u>M.Sc. Computer Science</u> students this semester get an overview by thoroughly reading the introduction thru Master Thesis and reviewing FSMI Slides from O-Phase FBI info-session





Module Handbook

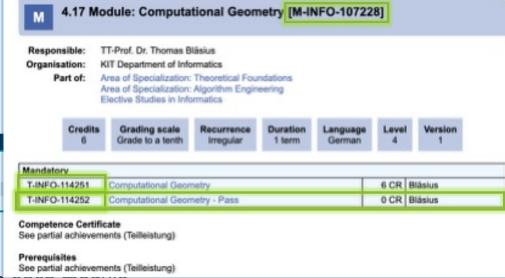
- Are you familiar with :
 - Modulnummer / Module number (MN)
 - Teilleistungen / Number (TL)

Module Handbooks

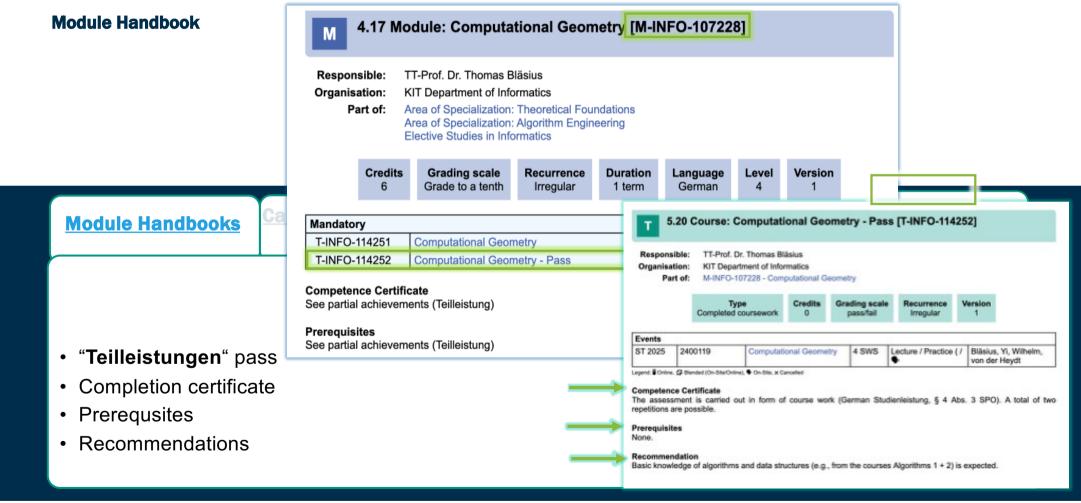
Campus Management for Students

.earn

- There is is an unique Study code (number) for modules, course, units, etc...
 - Modulnummer / Module number is assigned to each module
 - A Module may have one or more "**Teilleistungen**" ((Brick (assessment component)) which can be selected
 - The student's knowledge is assessed in the Module's various TL
 - Some of the TL are tied together and it is compulsory to select more than one TL in order to receive credit for the Module if you pass the exam, please read Module handbook carefully to see if it is the case
 - If you are an <u>exchange student</u> you need to also include in your <u>Learning Agreement both the MN & TL</u>



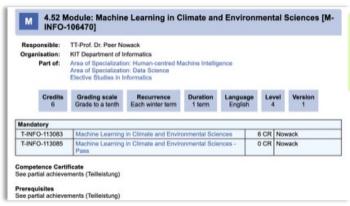






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Module Handbook - Module number & Teilleistungen Number

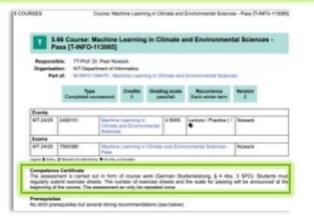


"Teilleistungen" (TL):

- A student's knowledge is assessed in the Module's various TL
- A Module may have one or more Teilleistungen (which can be selected or must be selected



• T-INFO-113083 & T-INFO-113085



In this case you will see you need to successfully complete both TN in order to complete the Module



- Some of the TL are tied together and compulsory to select more than one TL in order to receive credit for the Module
- A module may have exercise/work -sheets that must be completed/passed in order to pass the entire module (note sometime before you can register for the exam)

Read Through the Module description and Requirements



Campus Management for Students



Please remember to update your residence address as soon as you log in!

Module Handbooks

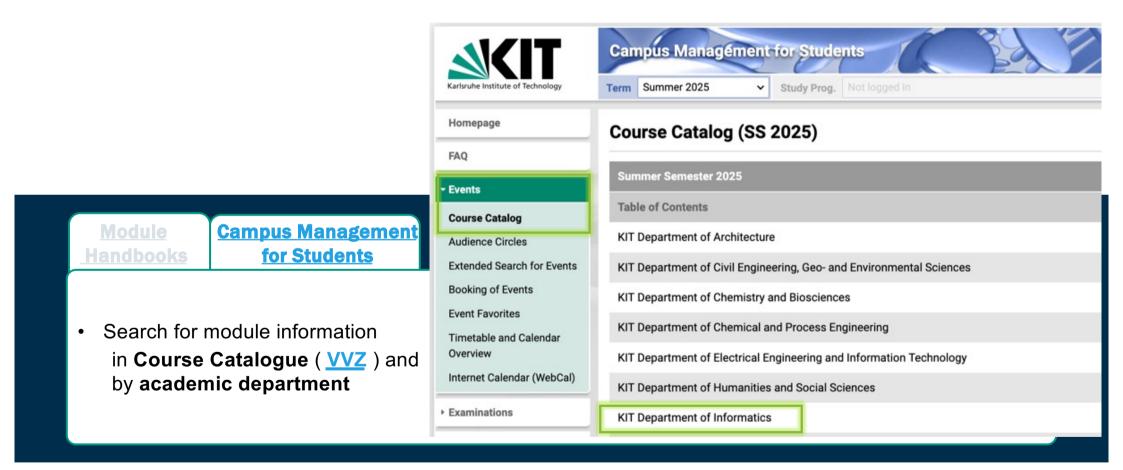
<u>Campus Management</u> for Students



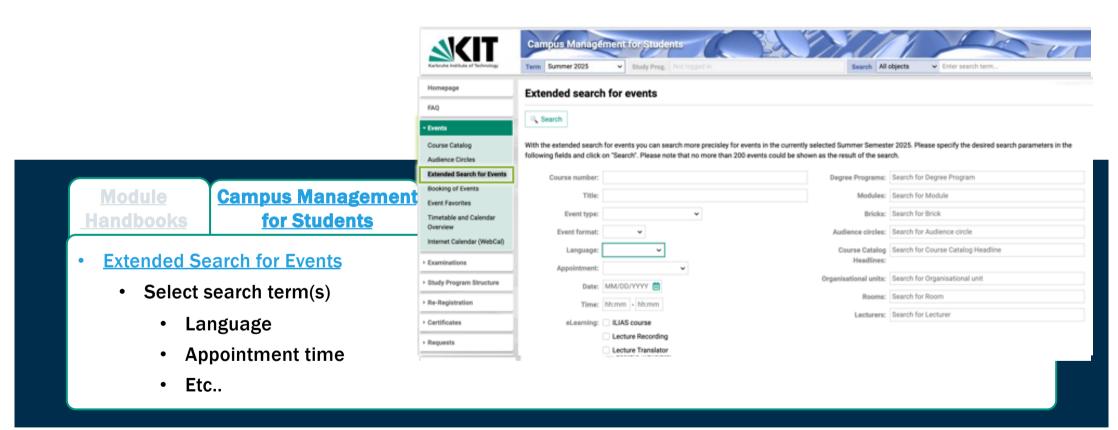


- Access to KIT online services: Use for Selection, Registration, withdrawal from modules and exams, following semester <u>re-Registration</u>
- Download of documents: e.g. enrollment certificate, Free KVV warrant, transcript of record
- Log in with your KIT account: KIT account (u****) | password
- Ensure you select the correct semester



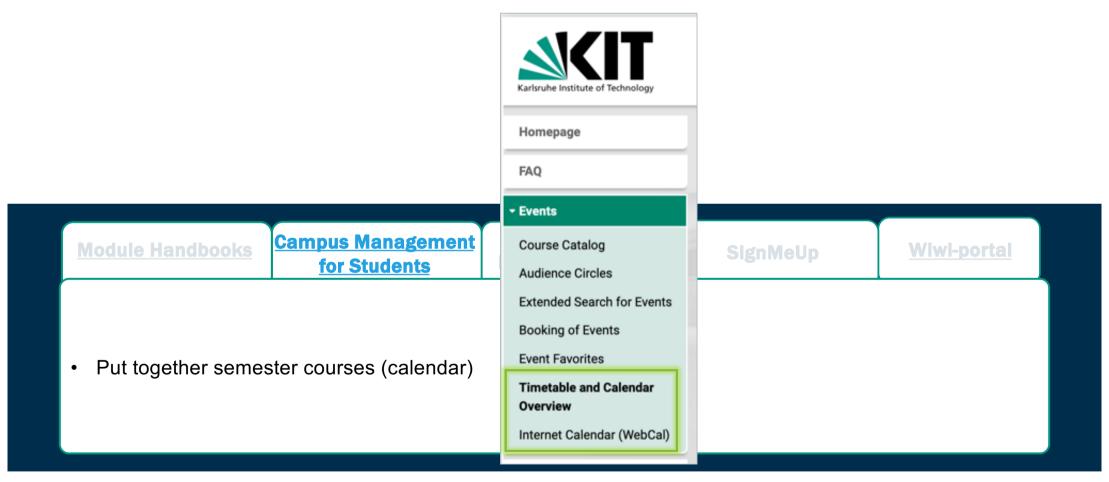








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Campus Management for Students

Pro-Tip: You need time to get to know CAS, because it has so many layers (therefore take your time and try things out)

Module Handbooks

Campus Management for Students

SignMeUp

Wiwi-portal

- When do I have to register for Modules and exams?
 - This will be addresses in the ISRT International Student Round Table: "Fit for exams and returning home" on 9 December 2025
- **Videos**
 - Info-Bite: CMS -English (Campus Management for students
 - FSMI- Video Quick Start Guide Video













ILIAS Learning Platform

Information regarding online materials are to be found in ILIAS Learning Platform

- To Log on to ILIAS please go to: https://ilias.studium.kit.edu/login.php?target=crs_177107&cmd=force_login&lang=en
- For an Overview of ILIAS GO TO: https://www.scc.kit.edu/en/services/11716.php
- KIT E-Learning Services Page: https://elearning.studium.kit.edu/english/index.php

Module Handbooks

Campus Management for Students

Learning Platform

SignMeUp

Wiwi-portal

ILIAS: Magazin → Organisationseinheiten → KIT-Fakultät für Informatik → [Current semester]

Learning Platform

Lagrange of the learning replatform was all by KIT

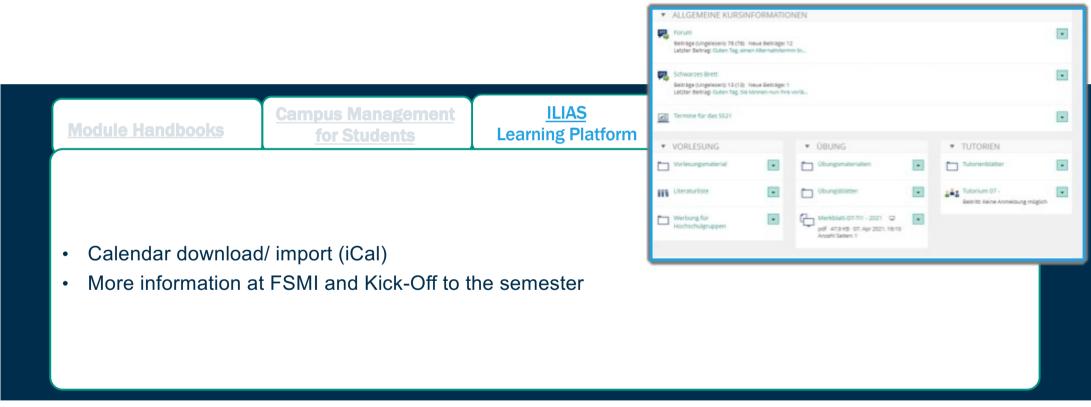
- Is one of the learning platform used by KIT
- · It is where most lecture materials are stored for modules
 - · Usually one folder for every module
 - Find script/slides, hand in homework, forums to ask questions, etc.
- Make sure that you select the current semester module!





ILIAS Learning Platform

Pro Tipps





Module Handbooks

Campus Management for Students

ILIAS Learning Platform

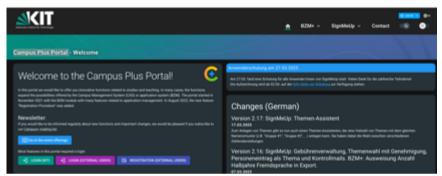
SignMeUp

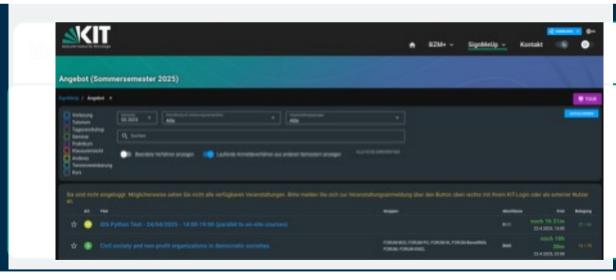
Wiwi-portal

• Campus Plus Portal (SignMeUp) is a platform for choosing and signing in for labs and seminars, signing up for appointments, etc.



Campus Plus Portal / SignMeUp?



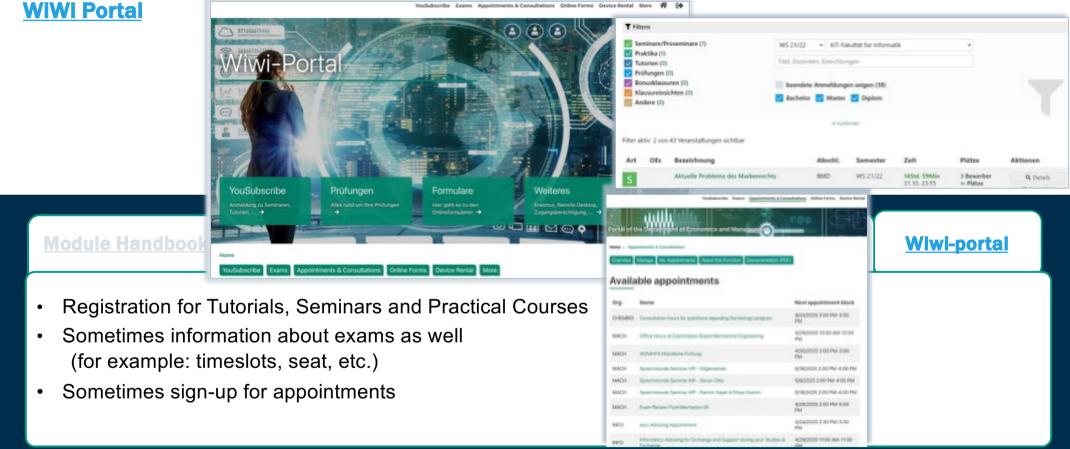


SignMeUp

Wiwi-portal

- Registration for Tutorials, Seminars and Practical Courses
- Sometimes sign-up for appointments
 - Ex. ISS
- More information at FSMI and Kick-Off to the semester







Points of contact an overview

HELP

ADVICE

SOLUTION

SUPPORT

KIT Department of Informatics

Studies Organization

- Informatics Study Program Service (ISS)
- · Provides "official" information on your program of study
- Student Support, including study and examination counselling
- Administrative tasks in connection with the study programs: including updating of Module Handbooks, lecture schedule, exam timetabling, processing of applications and certificates, etc.
- International Student Roundtable and other events

Forms and documents

• Including : Module handbooks, Examination regulations, Statutes, Forms, Regulations and guidelines





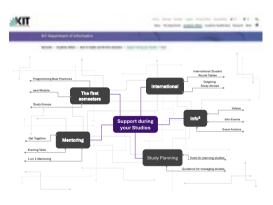
KIT Department of Informatics

Studies Organization & Support during your Studies



FAQs Study and exams

 Has a wealth of information related your processes and procedures in our department and should be consulted as an initial step to answering your questions



Support during your Studies

- Workshops and Videos, Study planning, Mentoring, Study Abroad, etc.
 - ex. International Round Tables



Video Information...

YouTube channel of the KIT Faculty of Informatics

KITInformatik

(giCT informatik 3330 Advanerania - 334 Videns

De offunde VoorUse Anna de VET Februits für informatik. Für alle Studiesendes und -
Wilsmarik Alt edu und 4 weitere Links

Aboniteiren

Übersücht Videos Shorts Live Plüyflats Community Q



leos etc.

- Support during your studies video playlist
- the first six weeks of y our studies
- CMS (Campus Management for students)













FSMI (Fachschaft Mathematik/ Informatik)



They are the informatics students representative body provides assistance and various services including O-Phase, <u>advising</u> answer queries and advice regarding the major, <u>sells copies of old exams</u>, and offers social activities chance to connect with other students in your major ect.



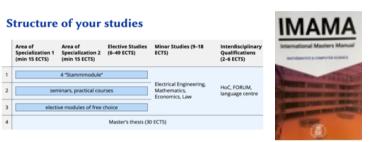
■ Location: Building 50.34, Room -124 (cellar)

Website https://www.fsmi.org/en/offers/international-students/

■ E-Mail: international@fsmi.org

FSMI (Fachschaft Mathematik/ Informatik)

- If you missed the FSMI <u>O-Phase</u> WS25-26 they have lots of helpful information on their website to help you get off to a good start. This includes: <u>Mathematics</u>) <u>Handbook</u>
 - FAQ
 - Publications: Must reads such as <u>Study Program Information Computer</u> <u>Science M.Sc.</u> A good explanation and overview to academic structure of major and <u>IMAMA</u> (<u>International Master Mathematics</u>) Handbook
 - O-Phase Summer semester 2025
 - If A Quick Start Guide Video about:
 - Planning the semester:
 - Campus Management (CMS) Course Catalogue selecting and removing modules, calendar
 - ILIAS
 - Extra curricular activities and groups, language, soft skill, interdisciplinary, key qualifications or additional courses and credits, ect
 - Everyday Life
 - Day and week structure, where to study, hangout and eat
 - · What is Fachschaft







Are you enrolled in a Another Department / Faculty?

If you are in a different department then you should check out their information and participate in their orientation. Further information to your <u>Fachschaft on the AStA at KIT</u> website regarding O-Phase!

- Participate in your KIT Departments/Faculties Orientations. If you have questions or need more information, please contact your departmental coordinator at KIT or visit the webpage of the Department of:
 - ARCH at https://www.arch.kit.edu/english/studium-und-lehre/4112.php
 - BGU at https://www.ifh.kit.edu/english/1843.php
 - CIW at https://www.ciw.kit.edu/english/2323.php
 - ETIT at https://www.etit.kit.edu/english/4153.php
 - MACH at https://www.mach.kit.edu/english/2580.php
 - WIWI at https://www.wiwi.kit.edu/english/IncomingFAQ.php



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Additional Points of Contact

Department	Services & Resources	Student type	QR Code
KIT-Informatics-Library	Study places, literature, etc.	all	
KIT Business unit Studying and Teaching (Studierendenservice (SLE))	Central Office for Student Fees (Gebühren), Certificated, Organization including: KVV – Bescheinigung / Warrant, renewal of matriculation & De-registration / Withdraw, Transcript of Records (ToR), Campus Management Portal (Student portal)	all	
Student Advisory Services (ZSB) - Zentrale Studienberatung	Advising for students who are thinking about switching majors or withdrawing, need support due to unexpected circumstances <u>Clearing-Sprechstunde</u> , etc.	all	



Points of Contact International

Department	Services & Resources	Student type	QR Code
IStO International Students Office	Supports KIT international student community from start to finish	all	
International Affairs Degrre Seeking Admissions Team	enrollment, visas, and entry requirements, deferral of studies	degree seeking	
IStO Welcome & Integration - Degree Seeking	Pre-semester course, <u>Start of Studies for</u> <u>Internationals</u> , <u>Buddy Program</u> , <u>Student Support</u> , Refugee advising services, volunteering, etc.	degree seeking	
International Student Center at Studierendenwerk	Social & Refugee counseling, events, mentoring, accommodation, etc	all	
International Student Hub	Advising services for international students	all	•
Studienstart International - Information offer on ILIAS	Resource materials, videos,	all	



Emergency assistance for all persons living in Germany

Unfortunately, we cannot always be there for you





Important telephone numbers such as those of the fire department, police and ambulance

Vital information under QR Code

- •112 Emergency number for life-threatening situations
 - Europe-wide number, free of charge, no area code needed
- - Police (for fraud, robbery, violence, traffic accidents without injuries)
 - Nationwide in Germany, free of charge, no area code needed

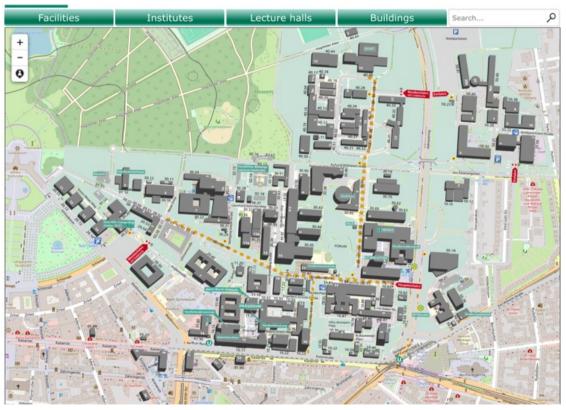


Living in Karlsruhe & Student Life at KIT



Finding your way and Getting around

□KIT Campus Map



□Karlsruhe



□ Bike

- owned
- Nextbike



Christine Glaubitz – **Kick Off to the Semester** (Winter semester 2025-26) https://www.informatik.kit.edu/english/10509.php



Finding your way and Getting around

□ Transportation



□ Public transport ticket

 <u>Download KVV</u> -certificate in <u>CMS</u> – for free public transportation in Karlsruhe on Monday – Friday 6pm – 6am, weekend and holidays

□ Deutschland Ticket



*"Deutschland-Ticket"

- for regional transportation in Germany is about **58,00€ per month & 696,96€ per year
- Exchange and students over 27 years



*"D-Ticket JugendBW"

- Baden-Württemberg offers a cheaper Deutschland-Ticket for young people (up to 27 years old)
- The "D-Ticket JugendBW" is valid wherever the normal Deutschland-Ticket is valid
- **Currently costs 473 € per year

Theses fees were current as of April 2025

^{**}Please note fees for the various tickets may change.



^{*}The website is in German

Start of semester checklist

□ Looking for accommodations?

- <u>Living and Learning in Karlsruhe</u>
- Studierendenwerk Karlsruhe
- Where can I find an appartment or a room to rent? (fsmi)
- Additional Information:
 - Degree seeking: <u>IStO</u> and <u>Finding</u> accommodation
 - Temporary Students (Exchange): <u>IStO</u>:
 <u>Overseas Exchange</u>, <u>Eucor</u> and <u>ERASMUS</u>
 - Pamphlet provided by the Baden-Württemberg Police about Scams offers when looking for an apartment
 - IStO's <u>list of common abbreviations used in apartment advertisements</u>

□ Review IStO information including:

- □ <u>Health insurance</u>
- □ Entry Visa and Residence Title
- □ Registration of Your Residence (at Bürgerbüro)
- □ Registered at Auslandsbehörde
- Opening A Bank Account
- □ Registered for Rundfunkgebühr (radio, television, ...)



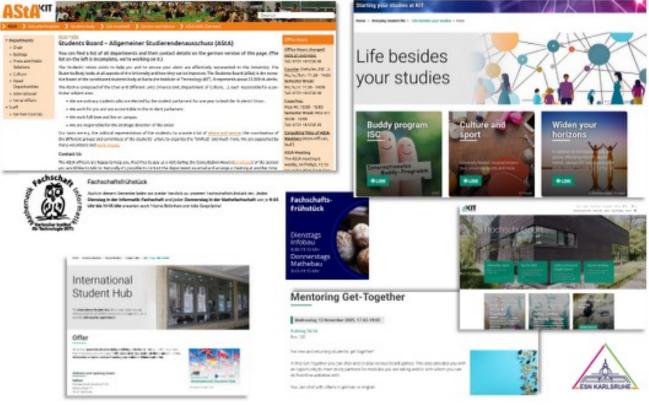
Accommodations – A Student's Perspective

- Residence Halls ("Wohnheime")
 - Mostly operated by a public student service called <u>"Studierendenwerk</u>". The International Office
 has a contingent of rooms in these dormitories that are reserved for students coming from
 overseas and Nordic countries.
 - Also self-organised e.g. HaDiKo
- Shared Flats ("Wohngemeinschaften", often shortened WG).
 - In many cases it is possible to Sublease a room for a limited time from students who temporarily left the town for an internship or to go abroad (Zwischenmiete*). One of the many platforms to find shared flats is wg-gesucht.de.
 - "Zwischenmiete" is a German term used for the sub-renting an apartment, usually for a period of 5-6 months.
- Tipps and Things to think about



Settling into a new life

Connect with other students and be social



□ Karlsruhe





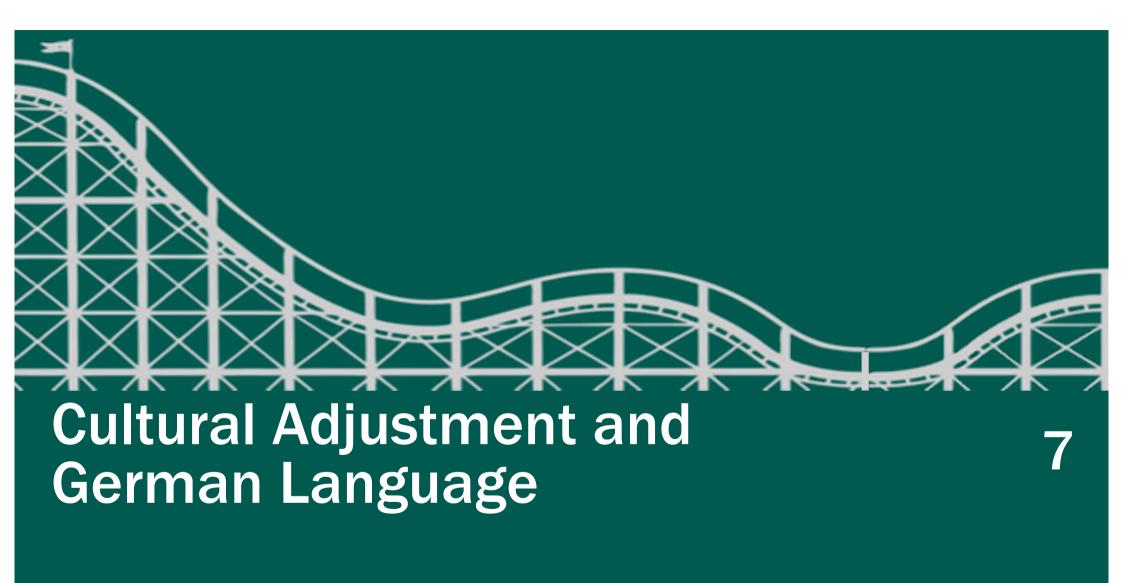


Points of Contact Student Life

Department	Services & Resources	Student type	QR Code
AStA KIT (Students' Union)	German courses, international student advising and a, equal opportunities, queer counselling, etc	all	
<u>Fachschaften</u> (Student Councils)	Student to student advising, O-Phase, exam preparation resources, represent student interests at university and departmental level, etc.	all	
<u>Sports</u>	Hochschulsport am KIT, Clubs, The walk-in - Center for Fitness, etc	all	
University groups & voluntary initiatives	Art and Culture , Research and Technology, Sustainability/ Ecology, Socio-political commitment	all	



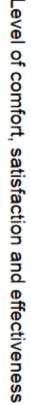
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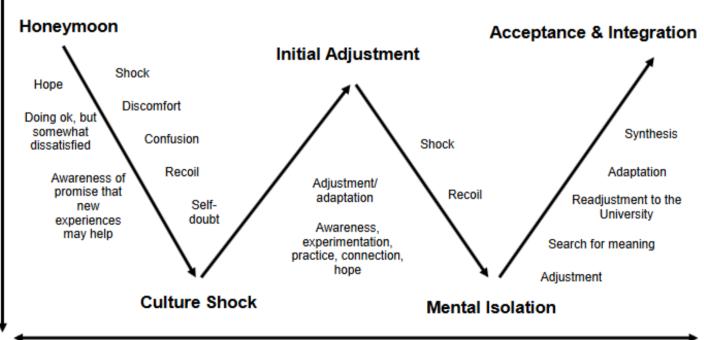


MAIN

W CURVE

The W-Curve Hypothesis Model Gullahorn and Gullahorn





Time



W CURVE

Honeymoon	Culture Shock	Initial Adjustment	Mental Isolation	Acceptance & Integration
Feelings of	Newness wears	Find balance,	Differences	Feeling well-
excitement,	off & reality	routine, and	between "old"	adjusted,
optimism,	sets in. Feeling	resources.	and "new"	genuinely
camaraderie,	lost as others		remain	connected, and
& confidence.	withdraw.	Recognize	unreconciled.	"at home" in
	Relationships	differences		the university
New campus is	change.	between "old"	Feeling lonely	community.
welcoming		and "new", but	and stuck	
and intriguing;	Expectations	gap persists.	between two	
a fresh start.	don't match	122.000 %	worlds.	
	experiences &	Start to feel		
	changes are	connected.	"How do I fit	
	overwhelming.		in?"	



Tips for Surviving the Adjustment Process

Get Connected:

- It's important to avoid isolation and have social support
- Connect with people from your home country and in the local community

Be open to new experiences and try to understand this new culture

- Just by choosing to live and study in a new country, you are already open to new experiences and cultures
- Suspend judgement on things that are new they may be different than you are used to, but they are not necessarily "good" or "bad".

• Allow your curiosity to flourish



Tips for Surviving the Adjustment Process

- Look for a cultural informant
 - someone who can help you understand this new culture . This cultural informant could be an German, immigrant or it could be a fellow international student
- Speak German as much as possible, if it's not your native language
 - Don't be afraid to make mistakes your English doesn't have to be perfect!
- If you are in the Computer Science M.Sc., then also speak English as much as possible





Q&A

8



Learning Agreements

9



Learning Agreements

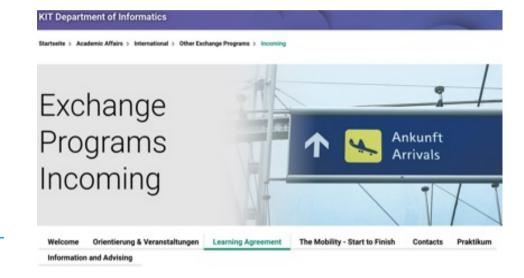
Learning agreement (LA)is by some of the incoming exchange students including by <u>ERASMUS</u>, EUCORE, DAAD, Freemover students

The LA is a contract between you, your home university and host university regarding your studies

- LA must always be signed by all 3 parties:
 - by you (student)
 - the subject coordinator (FK) of your home university and
 - the subject coordinator (FK) at the partner university (KIT departmental coordinator)

It is important to comply with your LA.

Please upload and update your LA in Mobility Online Processing time is around 14 days





Learning Agreements

- When completing your LA include:
 - Name of the module in English and when applicable also in German too
 - Modulnummer / Module number and the Teilleistungen / Number
 - Please ensure that you enroll at least 70-80% Informatic Modules/course(s)
- Please ensure that you enroll and complete at least the minimum of required ECTS required by your home university.
- Processing your LA may take up to 14 days
- Changes to the LA "during the mobility"
 - You may adjust your LA during your time at KIT
 - due to time conflicts or other study interests
 - · Consult and seek approval from your home university when updating your LA
 - Update it in Mobility Online
 - For any changes please make them by <u>25 November 2025</u>





- Look forward to seeing you at:
 - Mentoring Get-Together, on 12 November 2025, and on 16 December 2025
 - ■ISRT: In the thick of It: what next in my first semester, on 18. November 2025, at 17:45
 - ■ISRT: <u>"Fit for exams and returning home"</u>, on 9. December 2025, at 17:45

