saarland-informatics-campus.de

Tips from the study coordination

Studying in the Computer Science department

Barbara Schulz-Brünken and Rahel Stoike-Sy, 06.10.2025

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DES
SAARLANDES

SIC Saarland Informatics Campus

Welcome at SIC

Herzlich willkommen

أهلًا وسهلًا

欢迎

Bienvenue

स्वागत

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Study Coordination of the Computer Science Department

- Barbara Schulz-Brünken
- Rahel Stoike-Sy
- Evelyn Kraska
- Luis Lidon
- Jacqueline Pennekamp
- Laura Ull Méndez
- Ryhene Rais (student assistant)

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Study Coordination of the Computer Science Department

Counselling e.g. for

→ Stays abroad

→ Problems during your studies (subject-related, personal or health-related)

→Compensation for disadvantages, part-time, semesters off

→ Recognition of previous examination achievements

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## Study Coordination of the Computer Science Department

- studium@cs.uni-saarland.de

  → Matriculation Number: First Name, Last Name (xxxxxxx)

  → B. Sc. + Study programme

    (Note: Make sure to check the information sections on ps-mint
    and read the study and examination regulations carefully before writing your e-mail)

- Office hours → online or on-site appointments
  https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/department/department-of-computer-science/department.html

Bachelor programs in the Department of Computer Science

- Computer Science (German)

- Cybersecurity (German)

- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (German)

- Media Informatics (German)

- Computer Science (English, entry-restricted)

- Cybersecurity (English, entry-restricted)
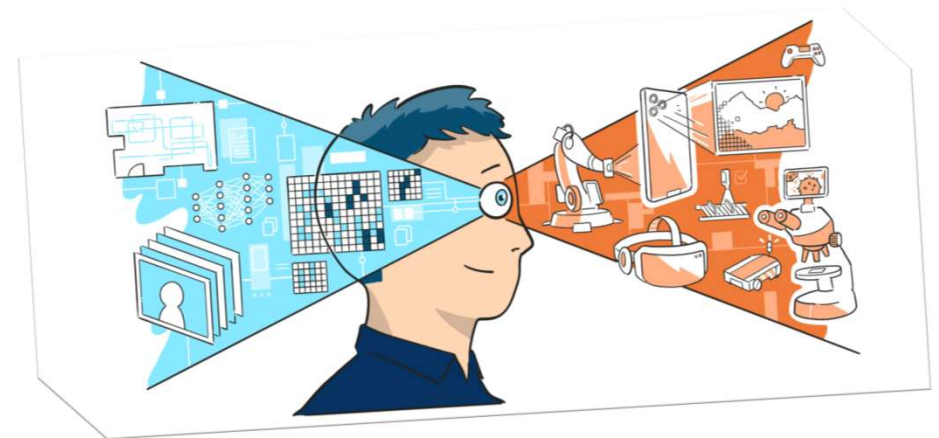
Adjusting to university life

- Get to know your degree programme and fellow students

- Attend „StEP" by the Student Council on **Oct. 7-10**

- Social meet ups by the Student Council during the semester

- Cultural activities at the University

- Check the PS MINT Homepage

A StEP into your student life

- **What?** The primary introductory event for CS and related subjects, delivered to you by the CS Students' Council.
- **When?** 7th — 10th October 2025 at 9am. Yes, that's the week before lectures!
  - ○ Important: Please arrive early / on time!

High School vs. German University

- Degree of independence
    - Creating your own schedule
    - Planning and implementing your self-study

- Necessary time investment

- Fundamentals courses are the same for everyone

- By choosing core and advanced lectures, you can later specialize in an area of your choice.

Your most important Study Documents

- Examination Regulations

- Subject-specific Regulations

- Study Regulations

- Module Guide (Handbook)

- https://www.ps-mint.uni-saarland.de/en/home

Study Programme Documents (Downloads)

‣ Examination regulations: german / english

Bachelor Computer Science (English)

‣ Subject-specific regulations: german / english

‣ Study regulations: german / english

‣ Module guide: english

Your Study Regulations and Subject-specific Regulations …

… are specific to each study programme!

… will be discussed in detail by :

Prof. Sebastian Hack (Computer Science & Cybersecurity)

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Joint Examination Regulations
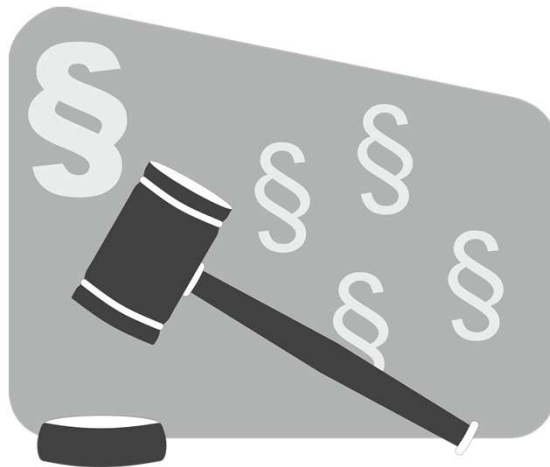
Image by succo
from Pixabay

Content:

Exam Registration (§ 14.2)

- Register/de-register in HISPOS up to one week before the exam

- Deregistration afterwards only possible with medical certificate

- You must register separately for the main and re-exam

- With courses from other departments: Deadlines may differ

- Shorter registration/cancellation periods for proseminars, seminars, "Perspectives of CS"

A Variety of Systems

- Course catalog = LSF

  → register/deregister for exams here

  → Link to CMS (Content Management System)

- Content Management System (CMS, Moodle etc.)

- Seminar Assignment System

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HIS LSF   POS

Pre-exam Requirements and Examinations

- Pre-exam Requirements
  - → Exercise Sheets
  - → Mid-terms

- Examinations
  - → Written Exam
  - → Oral Exam
  - → Term Paper
  - → Projects

Grading (Section 16)

Grade	Description (German)	Description (English)	Meaning
1.0 / 1.3	Sehr gut	Very Good	Excellent performance
1.7 / 2.0 / 2.3	Gut	Good	Above-average performance
2.7 / 3.0 / 3.3	Befriedigend	Satisfactory	Acceptable, average performance
3.7 / 4.0	Ausreichend	Sufficient	Minimum passing performance
5.0	Nicht ausreichend	Insufficient / Fail	Failing grade

Exams can be graded or ungraded

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Improving Grades (Section 17.5)

- If allowed for the course

- If another attempt remains

- Must be in the same exam period

- Better grade counts

Example:

- Main exam: 3.0   and   re-exam: 1.7   →   Final grade 1.7

- Main exam: 2.0   and   re-exam: 3.0   →   Final grade 2.0

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Repeating Academic Assessments and Examinations (Section 17)

- A failed exam may be repeated twice (Section 17(1))

- If last attempt in a mandatory module: Oral exam may be requested

- 3 x failed = definitively failed
  - Elective or elective mandatory module → can be replaced
  - Mandatory module → endangers studies

- Possibility to apply for 4th attempt (3rd repetition) to Examination Board
  - → should have good reason & passed all other requirements (mandatory courses)
  - → Only once during the study programme

The ‚Freiversuch' (Free Attempt, Section 17 (4) PO)

Conditions:

- Concerns only specific mandatory lectures (Section 5 (7) SO)

- First attempt within regular study time (6 semesters)

- Both main and re-exam were taken in the same study term

- Support from the Examination Office for registering for 4th attempt

→ https://www.ps-mint.uni-saarland.de/en/guidelines/cs/freeattempt

Right to inspect Examination results (Section 16.11)

- Inspection into written assessments, examinations and thesis reports

- If not offered: request to the lecturer → examination board

- Deadline: within one month after the announcement of grades

- Exam inspection

  → Check corrections (were any points overlooked?)

  → Analyse

  → Reflect on own strengths and weaknesses

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Recognition of previous examination credits (Section 19 PO)

- One single application

- Application in the first semester or directly after a semester abroad

- credittransfer@cs.uni-saarland.de

Study Progress and Control of Progress (Section 10)

Minimum CP for full-time students:

→ At least 9 CP after 1 semester

→ At least 18 CP after 2 semesters

→ At least 60 CP after 4 semesters

→ At least 105 CP after 6 semesters

→ At least 165 CP after 9 semesters

1. Warning letter and invitation for advisory meeting with a professor

2 Second letter → possible loss of the right to examination → Opportunity to provide a written statement

→ Examination board takes the final decision

→ Postponement to achieve the goal or

→ Loss of the examination entitlement (Switching not possible)

Bar chart — Erwartete Punkte vs. Semester:
Semester 1: 9, 2: 18, 3: 18, 4: 60, 5: 60, 6: 105, 7: 105, 8: 105, 9: 165
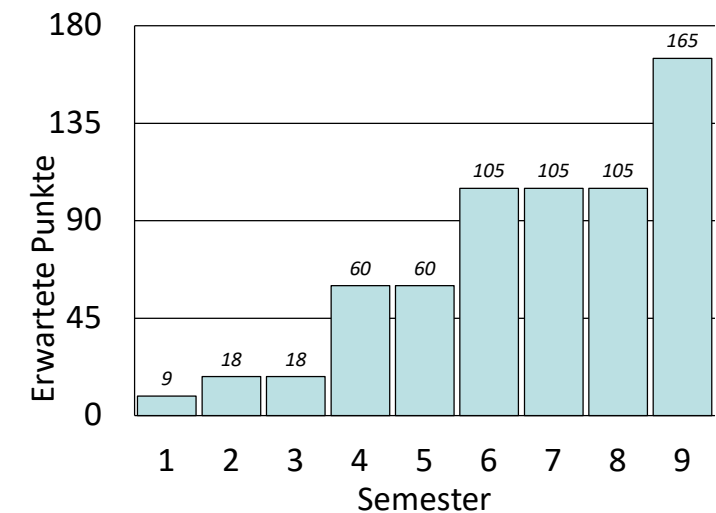
Academic Integrity

Central values in Science, Teaching & Study:

- Honesty

- Trust

- Fairness

- Respect

- Responsibility

- Courage
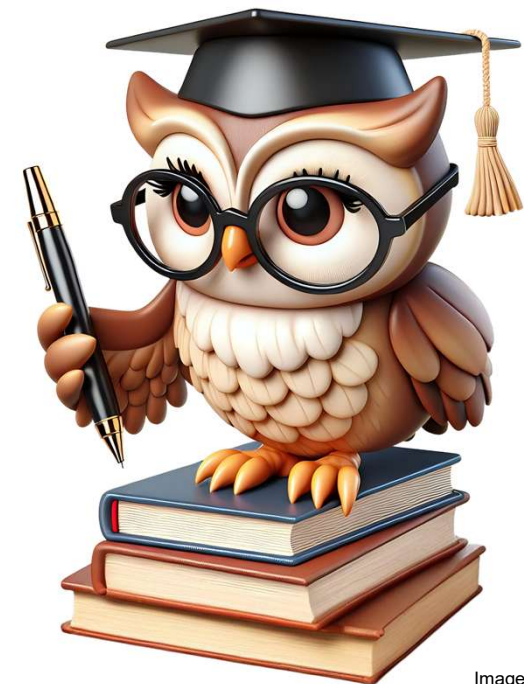
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Plagiarism and Cheating – A No-Go!
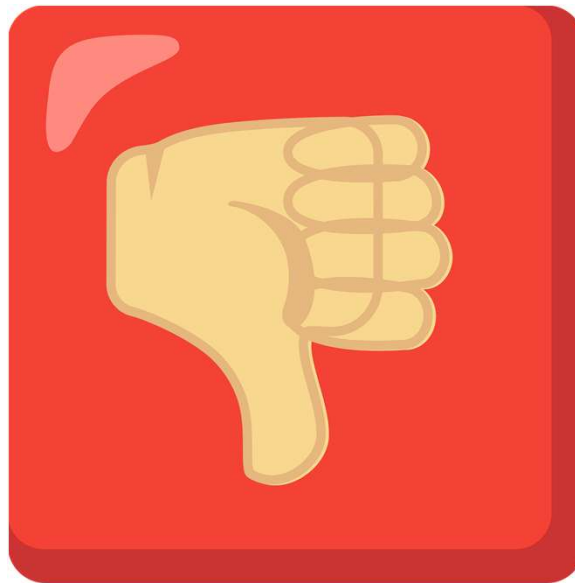
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Cheating

- Copying solutions from fellow students

- Using cheat sheets in exams (if prohibited)

- Using calculators, internet, AI (if prohibited)

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Plagiarism

Plagiarism = Passing off ideas, texts, images of others as one's own

- Copying texts/code without indicating the source

- Using AI-generated content (texts, code, images) without marking

- Self-plagiarism(reusing your own work from the past)

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Plagiarism and Deception – Consequences (Section 18)

- If there is suspicion → Chance to make a statement

- Preliminary examinations (exercice sheets): 0 points, possibly no admission to the exam

- Exam

  → Grade 5.0, invalidation of examination results

  → Entry in plagiarism list and student file

  → Serious/repeated cases: possible loss of the right to be examined (Section 18 (4) PO)

YOUR STUDIES

Avoiding Plagiarism and Cheating

- Always cite sources properly

- Understand and rephrase

- Document code well

- Use AI for learning, not for solving tasks

- Group work:

  → explain ☑

  → share full solutions ✗

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from Pixabay

Learning and Studying with AI at the UdS

- Helpful: Structuring texts, generating ideas, checking grammar or style, exploring new topics

- Use AI for learning; otherwise only if permitted

- Compare prompts & reflect on results

- Chatbot 'Copilot' and 'Hawki platform'

Joint Examination Office MINT

- Administration of academic achievements (i.e. submission of language course certificates)

- Application for part-time study

- Issues degree documents

YOUR STUDIES

Joint Examination Office MINT

Cybersecurity (EN) → cybersicherheit@ps-mint.uni-saarland.de (Ms. Wintringer)

Computer Science (EN) → cs@ps-mint.uni-saarland.de (Ms. Lorang)

(https://www.ps-mint.uni-saarland.de/en/home)

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Part-Time Studies (Section 9)

- Study for at least 50% and no more than 60% of the available working hours (Section 9 (1))

- How? → Submit your application via e-mail to the Examination office

- When? → No later than two weeks before the enrolment or re-registration deadline

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Leave of Absence

- Semester does not count towards progress monitoring → enrolled, but not allowed to take exams

- Application must be sent to studium(at)uni-saarland.de

- When? At re-registration or during semester (latest: last lecture day)

- Application for refund of fees possible (there are deadlines!)

- Application forms and more information:

  https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/study/organisation/more/leave-of-absence.html

Reasonable Accommodations (Nachteilsausgleich) (Section 15)

- Compensating for disadvantages due to disability or chronic illness

- Needs-based adjustments of study and examination conditions

- Ensures equal participation

- Individually and situationally adapted to impairments

- Contact: The Disability Support Service (KSB)

    → https://www.uni-saarland.de/verwaltung/chancengleichheit/ksb/studierende/nachteilsausgleich.html

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Study abroad for 1 or 2 semesters

Within Europe (ERASMUS)

→ many partner universities in CS

- Apply by March 1 (for winter) or Sept 1 (for summer)

- Info: Study Coordination (Ms. Schulz-Brünken),

  erasmus@cs.uni-saarland.de

Non-European abroad

→ coordinated by International Office

- Support: Gout! Service Center, UdS mobil scholarships

WELCOME

Learning Culture

- International

- Theoretical

- Variety of → Accents
   → Teaching Styles
   → Exam Types

Image by Mohamed_hassan
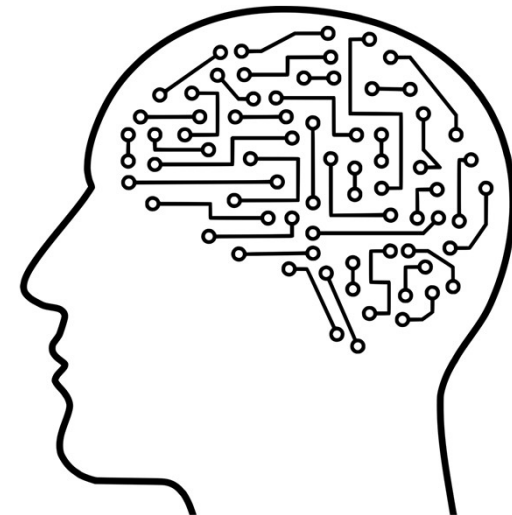from Pixabay

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Career center

- Counselling

- Tipps for your application documents

- Next on May 5th, 2026

Onboarding for First-Semester Students: Digital Learning Platforms

- introductory event where you can learn about important platforms and tools for their studies.

- This introduction covers learning platforms such as MS Teams, Moodle, and LSF.

- You will also receive tips and tricks for using AI tools in your studies and other digital resources available at the University of Saarland. Various dates are available in different languages. Participation is possible online without registration or in person with registration.

- https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/einrichtung/zell/sonderformate/onboarding-for-first-semester-students-lsf-moodle-and-ms-teams.html

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Saarland Informatics Campus

All about studying at SIC and more
https://saarland-informatics-campus.de/en/studium-studies/

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CBI CENTER FOR BIOINFORMATICS

DFKI German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence

mpii max planck institut informatik

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Lehrveranstaltungen (eher nur im fachspezifischen Vortrag)

- Ringvorlesungen – Überblick

- Grundvorlesungen: Prog 1, Prog 2, MfI 1, MfI 2, Theoretische Informatik etc.

- Stammvorlesungen: z. B.

- Vertiefungsvorlesungen

- Proseminare und Seminare

- Bachelor-Seminar

- Abschlussarbeit

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Tips for a Good Start – Less is More

- Full-time: 6 semesters

- Foundational courses are time-intensive

- Focus on few courses

- Combine strategically

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Und danach? (nur im fachspezifischen Vortrag)

- Ein Platz im konsekutiven Master

- Anderer M.Sc. des Fachbereichs Informatik
  - Bewerbung über das SIM-Portal oder Bewerbungsportal der Informatik
  - Ad-hoc-Zulassung bei schnellem Studium und Gesamtnote 2,5

- Quereinstiegsmaster für das Lehramt Informatik

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The Whole Package

- There for a reason:
  - → Lecture
  - → Tutorial
  - → Exercise Group
  - → Self-study

- Be active:
  - → Ask questions
  - → Rephrase in your own words
  - → Explain content to others

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Ziel in jedem Kurs: die Prüfungsleistung bestehen

Teilnehmen, Mitmachen

Lernen

Prüfung am Ende

- sich fristgerecht im LSF anmelden

- Hauptklausur

- Nachklausur

Grundlagen pauken

- Mathematik ernst nehmen
  - Schulstoff wiederholen
  - Übungsaufgaben intensiv nutzen
  - Mathe-Vorkurs vor dem Wintersemester besuchen

YOUR STUDIES

Student council (Fachschaftsrat)

- Students of all CS programs

E1.3, Room 107

http://cs.fs.uni-saarland.de

- Organise many activities

- Advocate for your concerns

Habits for success

- Full-time: 6 semesters

- Foundational courses are time-intensive

- Focus on few courses

- Combine strategically

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