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M.Sc. Embedded Systems Engineering (ESE)

Administrative information

Faculty of Engineering University of Freiburg October 9, 2025



Programme coordinator and study advisors

- Martina Nopper (Dipl.Inf.)
- Study Advisor for Computer Science and ESE
- Phone: +49 761 203 8169
 Phone Consulting hours: Monday 1:30 4 p.m. + Thursday 9:00 11:30 a.m.
- No open door policy! Personal consultation by appointment only.
- More information about consulting (and changes to consulting hours) see here: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/study-programs/counseling

Counterpart in the MSE Department:

- Frank Goldschmidtböing
- Phone: +49 (0) 761 / 203 7496

Mail (shared!): studienberatung@ese.uni-freiburg.de



Today I'll show you...

- 1. How to organize your studies
- 2. Some administrative things
- 3. Some important rules regarding exams
- 4. Where you can get information and help

1. Syllabus / Study Plan



Vocabulary you should know... part 1



Modules = building blocks of the syllabus

- Consist of various elements (different symbols/icons in study planner)
- Credits are given for complete module, no "partial credits"



Courses in the ESE programme:

- Lectures Vorlesung (V)
- Exercises Übung (Ü)
- Lab courses Praktikum / Praktische Übung (Pr)
- Seminars Seminar (S)
- Projects Projekt (also Pr)

Vocabulary you should know... part 2

Achievements: Graded assessments or pass/fail:



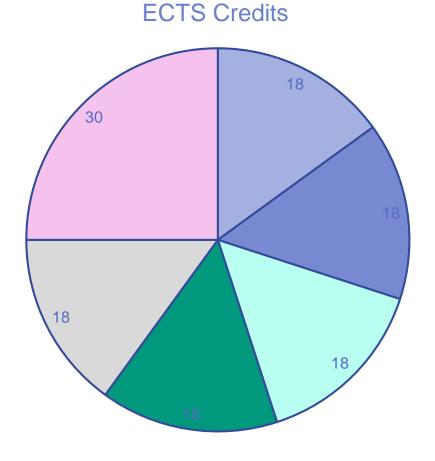
- Coursework or pass/fail assessments ("Studienleistungen", SL)
 - Part of module or final assessment
 - May be graded, or only "pass" or "fail"
 - Not part of the final grade
 - No negative consequences if failed (just might have to be repeated)



- Graded assessments /Exams ("Prüfungsleistungen", PL)
 - Always graded
 - Always counts into the final grade
 - Strict rules/regulations and very limited number of attempts

Syllabus: General structure by ECTS

120 ECTS Credits overall



- Essential Lectures in Computer Science
- Advanced Microsystems Engineering
- Remaining / flexible credits

- Elective Courses in Computer Science
- Concentration Area in Microsystems Engineering
- Thesis

Syllabus: Rules

- 4 mandatory areas with 18 ECTS each
 - 2 Computer Science (Essential Lectures in CS + Elective Courses in CS)
 - 2 MSE (Advanced MSE + Concentration Area in MSE)
- Remaining 18 ECTS have to be distributed among
 - Either one or more of the above mentioned areas
 - And/or the (optional) area of Customized Course Selection (Please Note: This is not the name for these 18 "flexible" credits! It's a colorful selection of different pass/fail courses.)
- You are not allowed to take more courses than necessary to meet these requirements
- In general, you have to aim at 90 credits in your course planning (no massive "overshooting" of credits – this is especially important with projects)

Syllabus: General structure

18 ECTS

(3 lectures)
from
Essential
Lectures
in Computer
Science

18 ECTS

from
Elective
Courses
in Computer
Science

Specialization
Courses
(6 ECTS each)
and/or up to
2 Seminars
(3 ECTS each)
or 1 Study project
(18 ECTS)

18 ECTS

(3 lectures)
from
Advanced
Microsystems
Engineering
(MSE)

18 ECTS

one of the Concentration Areas in Microsystems
Engineering

18 "flexible" ECTS: courses chosen from one or more of the 4 areas above and/or from the so-called Customized Course Selection

30 ECTS Master Thesis + Colloquium

For optional specialization in one of the areas (AI, CPS, Circuits and Systems, Materials and Fabrication. Biomedical Engineering, Photonics): at least 30 ECTS from according courses (not project) + Master Thesis with related topic

Essential Lectures in Computer Science

Module (take courses up to at least 18 ECTS)	ECTS	Semester (recommended) when starting in winter semester
Algorithm Theory	6	1 or 3
Cyber-Physical Systems – Discrete Models	6	1 or 3
Databases and Information Systems	6	1 or 3
Introduction to Embedded Systems	6	1 or 3
Machine Learning	6	1 or 3
Computer Architecture	6	1 or 3
Foundations of Artificial Intelligence	6	2
Image Processing and Computer Graphics	6	2
Software Engineering	6	2

Elective Courses in Computer Science

You have to take courses up to at least 18 ECTS.

The maximum (if you do not take more than the bare minimum 18 ECTS anywhere else) would be 36 ECTS.

You can choose from

- Specialisation Courses in Computer Science (6 ECTS each)
- And/or up to 2 Seminars (3 ECTS each)
- And/or 1 Study project (18 ECTS)
 (Please be aware that you cannot massively surpass the 36 ECTS here or the 90 ECTS overall, so plan carefully if you intend to take the study project!)

Advanced Microsystems Engineering (MSE)

Module (take courses up to at least 18 ECTS)	ECTS	Semester (recommended) when starting in winter semester
Assembly and Packaging Technology	6	2
Micro-electronics	6	1 or 3
Micro-mechanics	6	1 or 3
Micro-optics	6	1 or 3
Modelling and System Identification	6	1 or 3
MST Technologies and Processes	6	1 or 3
Sensors	6	1 or 3
Signal Processing	6	2
Probability and Statistics (This can't be taken as part of the 18 mandatory credits, only if you opt to do more ECTS in this area!)	6	1 or 3

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Concentration Areas in MSE

You have to choose **one** area and complete courses up to at least 18 ECTS. If you choose to take more than this, the surpassing courses can be from another area.

(The maximum would, again, be 36 ECTS, if you do no courses in any other area.)

The 4 Concentration Areas are:

- Circuits and Systems
- Biomedical Engineering
- Materials and Fabrication
- Photonics

Customized Course Selection What it is:

Instead of completing some or all of the 18 "flexible" credits by taking courses in one or more of these 4 areas, you can take some courses in the so-called Customized Course Selection.

Here, you can choose from

- Pass/fail courses (SL, Studienleistungen) from Computer Science or MSE (like lab courses in CS, Scientific Writing or Project Management in MSE)
- One language course (esp. German courses from SLI for international students) (please note: not from the "Zentrum für Schlüsselqualifikationen" / BOK area!)
- Selected courses from other departments / faculties
 (not in planner of studies application to study advisor (me) required)

Customized Course Selection What it is *not*:

The Customized Course Selection ist NOT the name for the 18 "flexible credits"!

That seems to be a common misunderstanding. But Customized Course Selection is simply the name for these selection of pass/fail courses.

So, please don't ask the examination office or myself to *"move the MSE concentration course XY"* or *"the lecture YZ from Elective Courses in Computer Science"* **to** the CCS. Because that is **impossible**.

Courses have their defined area(s) and they stay where they are.

Be aware that the rules regarding the Customized Course Selection are different in the MSE and CS study programmes, when talking to other students or lecturers!

Master Thesis

- Master thesis (27 ECTS) graded
- Colloquium (= Presentation / Defense) (3 ECTS) graded
- Admission to thesis: at least 72 ECTS credits
 (plus conditional courses from admission, if applicable)
- Duration: 6 months

More information:

https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/thesis

Optional specialization

You can choose to do a specialisation in your study programme (which will be shown on the final documents).

There are 6 specialisations available:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) (courses see website)
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) (courses see website)
- Circuits and Systems (i.e. the MSE Concentration)
- Materials and Fabrication (i.e. the MSE Concentration)
- Biomedical Engineering (i.e. the MSE Concentration)
- Photonics (i.e. the MSE Concentration)

The requirements are:

- You have to take courses with at least 30 ECTS from the according specialisation category
 - (please note: study project in C. S., seminars or lab courses in C.S. do not count for AI or CPS)
- You have to do a Master Thesis with a related topic

Administrative things



Some practical advice and general facts

- Most courses are offered every other semester (i.e. once a year).
 Some can be held more irregularly; should be mentioned in the module handbook.
 (see HISinOne or PDF)
- Overlapping courses...
 With the amount of courses and the flexible curriculum, this just happens.
 Basically: Find a way to deal with it!
 (Meaning: Choose one course for this semester, do the other one in year; or check for lecture recordings, or cooperate with co-students...)
- Be aware that you might need to adapt your original study plan!
 (Have a plan A, B and C...)

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Some practical advice and general facts

- Usually no dependencies regarding order of courses
 - Nevertheless, check with lecturers for appropriate combinations or recommended order of courses
- Most prerequisites stated in the course catalog are recommendations, they are not mandatory; well, a few of them are...

Just read the information given in the description!

Conditional admission: What does this mean?

- Conditions have to be fulfilled in addition to the normal Master's curriculum → likely to extend your study time
- You have to complete the required modules by the end of the second semester.
 - They should be your top priorities! (Especially in case of course collisions/overlaps)

- You will be automatically registered for these courses as well as exams.
 If you should decide *not* to take the exam in the intended semester (directly after the course), you have to contact the examination office to deregister.
- Exams required for conditional admission can only be repeated once.

Advice for your next steps

- Study the course catalog / planner of studies (What courses are offered right now?)
- Check out a few more courses than you intend to complete in the given semester
 - Go to the lectures for about 2-3 weeks and then decide which courses to continue, de-register from those you don't want to pursue
- Register (via HISinOne → "Booking of courses") for the courses you want to take as soon as possible
- Information on dates and deadlines for course booking: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/calendar-dates
 - → Booking deadlines for Bachelor and Master courses
- Read the official exam regulations!
 (= terms and conditions of your study programme)

https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/bilder/studium_lehre/englische-poen/exam-regulations-msc-ese-po-2021

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Registering for/ Booking of / Enrolling in courses

- Have a look at your Planner of studies https://campus.uni-freiburg.de
- Follow instructions from the following explanation / slides
- If you have questions or made a mistake while booking:
 Contact Ms. Moses in the Dean's office: moses@tf.uni-freiburg.de or

(Screenshots are really helpful)

Be aware: Different course types have different deadlines!

(See https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/calendar-dates

→ Booking deadlines and seat allocation for Bachelor and Master courses)

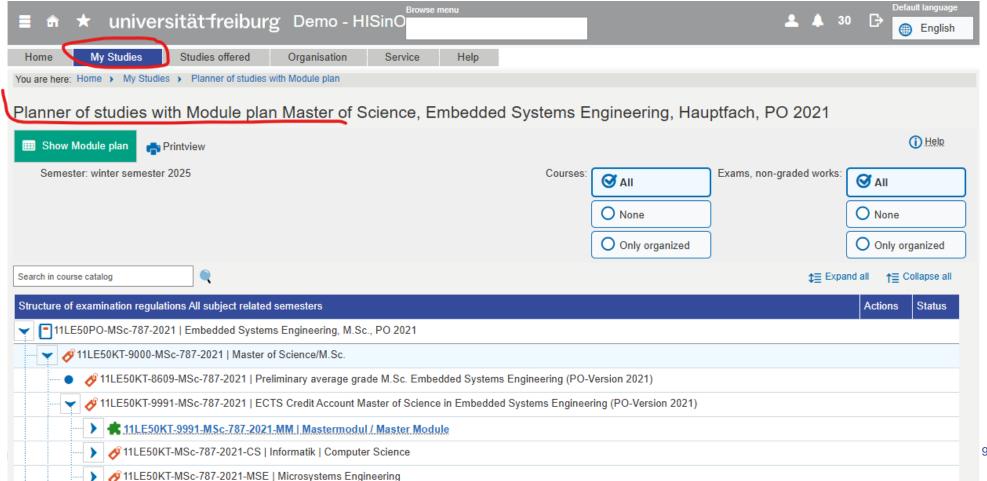
If you forgot to book a course:

- Contact the lecturer and ask if there are still seats available and if it generally makes sense to start late
- The examination office can't help you with the booking of courses!

myself

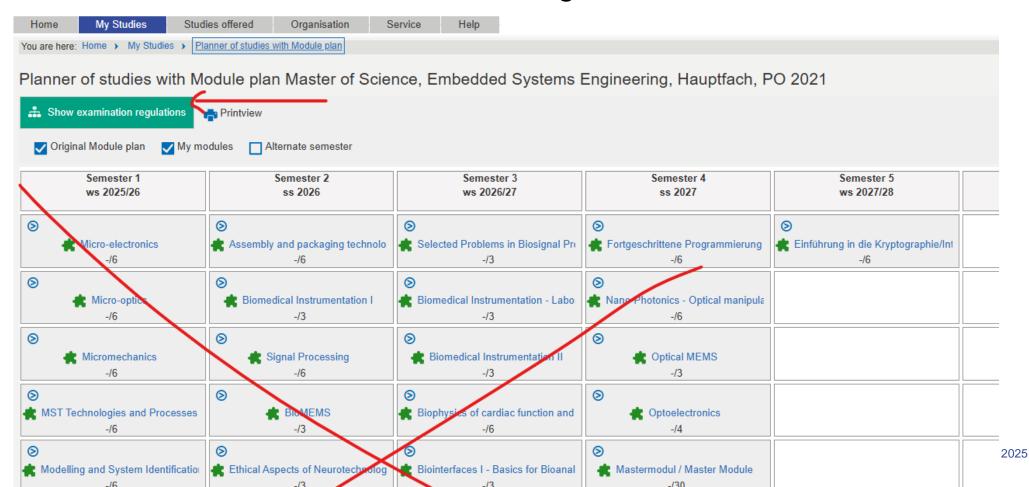
HISinOne Demo: Login and Planner of Studies

Log in to https://campus.uni-freiburg.de/

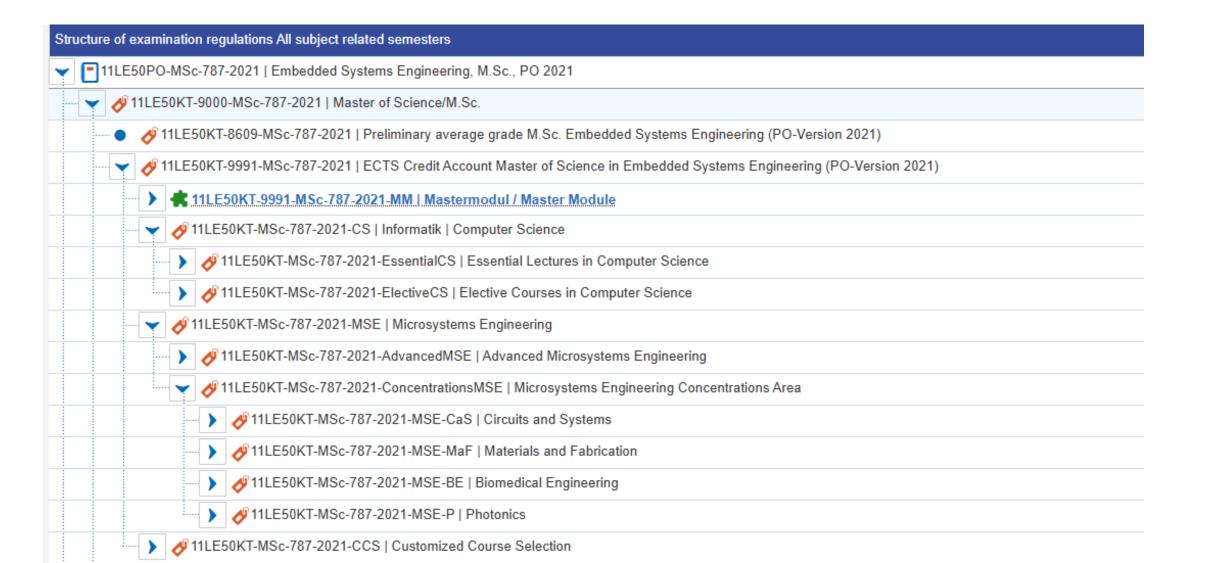


HISinOne Demo: Planner of Studies – Different views

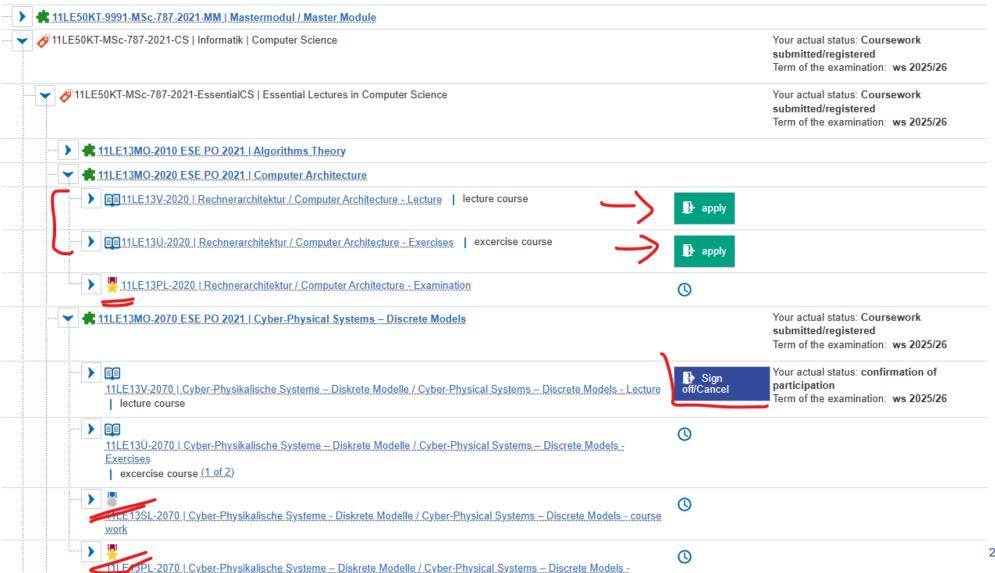
Use the correct view: Examination regulations



HISinOne Demo: Examination regulations structure



HISinOne Demo: Module – Courses – Assessments



HISinOne Demo: Registration procedure for seminar or project

Check out how to book seminars and how to register for projects!

https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/booking-of-pro-seminars-in-computer-science https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/registering-for-projects



HISinOne Demo: Advanced MSE and Concentrations



HISinOne Demo: Customized Course Selection

Optional; only courses completing with pass/fail assessments

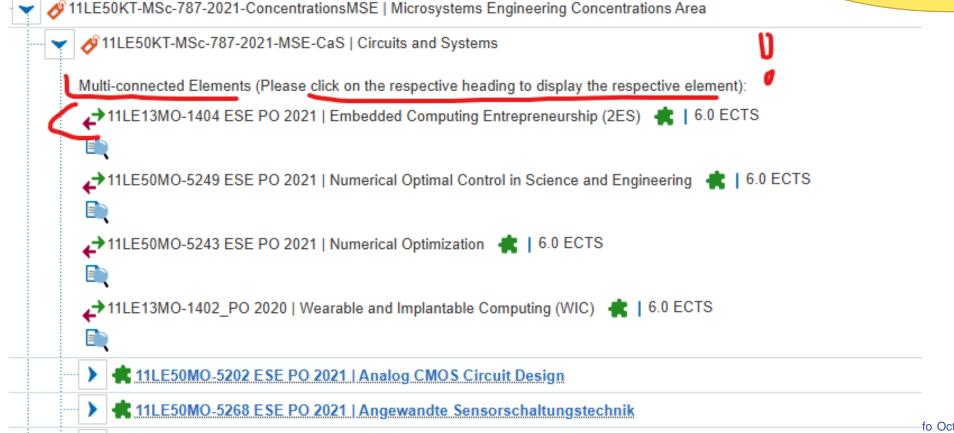


HISinOne Demo: Multi-connected Elements

Green and red arrows? Don't panic!

11LE50MO-5290 PO 2021 | Basics of Applied Mathematics

Upcoming update for Planner of studies will not have this anymore! It should look better and be more user friendly as well...



HISinOne Demo: Other useful menu items

My Studies

Planner of studies with Module plan

Remark moduls, enroll lectures and sign in for examinations

Schedule

See events and examinations in your personal schedule

My course enrollments and exam registrations

Get an overview of your examinations and courses

My achievements

Get an overview of your achievements, i.e. examinations or visited lectures.

Import results with EMREX

Imports achievements completed at another university.

module handbook

View your module manual(s)

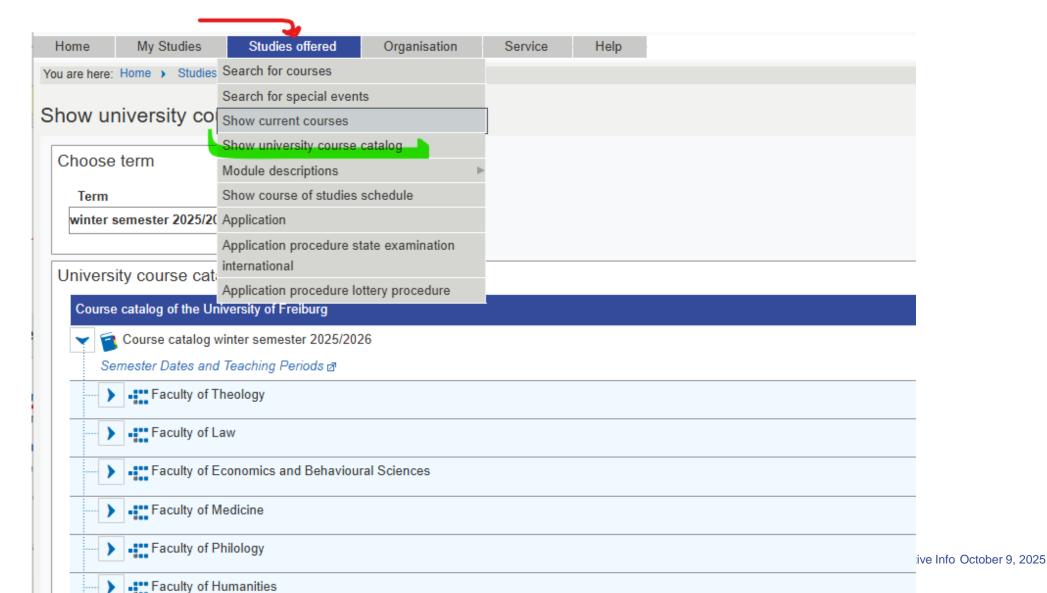
Student Service

Here you can create your confirmations of study, find out about your re-registration status, semester fees due or your payments, make changes to your contact details or create requests and notifications of change.

Course plan

Course plan, filled with my semester and course(s) of study.

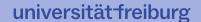
HISinOne Demo: Course catalogue for university overall





More details will be offered by the examination office team in a presentation in a few weeks.

You'll receive an invitation e-mail in time...



Registration for exams / graded assessments (PL)

- It's a second, independent step from booking the course.
 It's not done automatically!
- The procedure is similar to booking the courses. For a how-to, see
 https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/examinations

 Deadlines for the registration (and de-registration) for exams are also mentioned on this website.
- Without registering for an exam you are not allowed to take it, so do not forget!
- To make sure you are correctly registered, we recommend saving/printing the pdf of the in HISinOne
 - → My studies → My course enrollments and exam registrations

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How to proceed if you failed an exam

- Number of attempts are limited:
 - 2 attempts for every exam / graded assessment (if needed)
 - 2 oral or written exams can be attempted 3 times
- You are registered automatically for the repetition(s) and cannot sign off!
- Repetition exam will take place in the very next semester.
- You can replace one failed exam (oral or written) from a course in CS or MSE with another one; but it has to be done after the first failed attempt.
 So: Either repeat or replace (once).

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Improvement of a grade

- Repeating an exam that you have passed, to improve your mark, is possible in one module you did in your first year of studies here
- This rule applies only to written or oral exams (not other kinds like homework or presentations)
- You have to take the "repetition" exam directly in the following semester.
- The examination with the better grade will be considered official

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Missing an exam: Unexcused or authorized withdrawals

- If you do not attend an exam that you registered for, it counts as failed, unless you have a valid excuse.
- Valid excuses can be
 - Due to illness
 - → Doctor's note required, see https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq
 - Due to emergencies in family etc.
 (please contact examination office immediately)

Intellectual honesty / plagiarism

- Plagiarism is:
 - Using someone else's texts, pictures, reports, data, solutions, whatever....
 - ... without citing the source
- Sources include:
 - Books, the internet, colleagues, ...
- To make it clear: Plagiarism is illegal! It is cheating!

What about AI like ChatGPT?

→ If lecturers don't explain their rules about this, please ask them about this!

Don't just assume it's fine to use, it might be seen as cheating!

- The simple "if…then" loop:
 - If you cheat (once)
 - → then you fail the course
 - If you cheat repeatedly (twice)
 → then you are thrown out of the programme and your academic career is over
- Intellectual honesty is important!
 Don't pass off someone else's work as your own!

Finding information and help

Students are responsible to stay informed

- You are independent persons, expected to self-organize and self-motivate.
 We are no service establishment catering to all your needs.
- We provide the necessary information through different sources:
 - Websites
 - Introductory events
 - Official documents (like exam regulations)
 - Information e-mails
 (Make sure to have access to your faculty user account and forward or use that e-mail address!)
- Reading is essential! Please read! The whole text, all the lines in an email, the complete instructions in exercise or exam sheet...
- "I did not know!" is not an acceptable excuse!

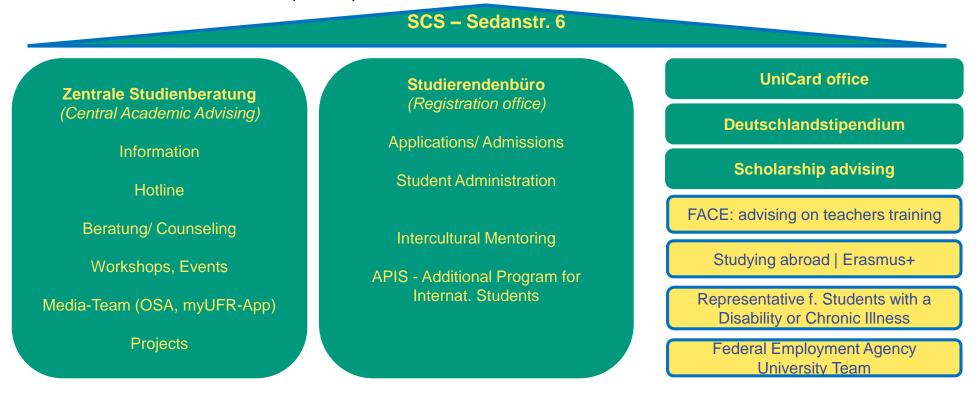
If you don't find the information, maybe try using a search engine...

Check out the information on our websites

- For new students: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/freshers-info
- Dates and deadlines: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/calendar-dates
- A to Z Study FAQs (especially useful for information about examination related things):
 - https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq
- Website for your study programme
 https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/study-programs/embedded-systems-engineering/m-sc-embedded-systems-engineering
- Contacts for advisory services at TF etc.: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/study-programs/counseling

Further contact points outside TF:

- SWFR (Housing, Financial Aid / Bafög, Social and Psychotherapeutic Counselling...)
- Student Service Center (SCS) in Sedanstraße 6



Whom to ask about what?

Programme related matters

Lecturers/ Professors

e.g. thematic questions, literature and learning material etc.

Programme coordinators / Study advisors

e.g. study planning, decisions, setting priorities, examination regulations, credits etc.

General matters

Registration office (in SCS)

e.g. advice for international students, preliminary certification by the university, issue of certificates for international students, questions about leave of absence and tuition fees etc.

→ https://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/student-services/ registration-office

Central Academic Advising (in SCS)

e.g. motivation, reorientation, decision-making, learning process, study organisation, stress, crises, etc.

- Confidential, anonymous if necessary, open-ended
 If necessary, referral to other contacts (representatives for students with chronic illnesses/disabilities, psychotherapeutic counselling centre, employment agency, etc.)
 - → www.zsb.uni-freiburg.de

When writing an e-mail to an advisor or the examination office...

- Please do use a subject preferably a sensible one
- Assume we do not know you, and we are not clairvoyant.
 So, please sign the email with your full name; your matriculation number can also be helpful, and it would be great if you mention your study programme...
- Use full names of professors, supervisors or lecturers (we are not on first name base with everyone at the faculty)
- Please write a new mail to the person you wish to contact.
 Don't "answer" to general information mails from us, if it's not a direct question about the content of that mail.
- If it is urgent, indicate this in the subject line! Our responses to mails not classified as urgent can take quite a while and we try to prioritize.

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Checklist of important things to remember:

- Set up your Faculty account correctly; forward those emails!
- Learn about and observe the various deadlines:
 https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/calendar-dates

According to the pool managers, the account information will be mailed to you next week.

- Register for all the elements (especially all the assessments) in a module you
 want to complete (not just in lectures, but also in seminars or lab courses)
- Know your exam regulations!
- Learn about registration for seminars and projects:
 https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq
- Re-enroll for the next semester
 https://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/student-services/registration
- Contact someone when in need of help: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/study-programs/counseling

Have a good start!

And remember to meet your Campus tour guide here in this lecture hall!

