How to make your study plan

For further questions contact the study advisor, Martina Nopper: studienberatung@informatik.uni-freiburg.de
Web: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/study-programs/counseling
→ Academic Advising Computer Science

Consulting hours:
Monday + Wednesday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday + Thursday 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Course types in Computer Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course type (English)</th>
<th>Kursart (German)</th>
<th>Short description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture and exercise / tutorial</td>
<td>Vorlesung und Übung</td>
<td>Presentation with questions / discussions from a lecturer/professor; tutorials provide (practical) exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Mostly theoretical research; summarizing and presenting (writing paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab course</td>
<td>Praktikum</td>
<td>Practical course with structured assignments (sometimes in special lab rooms), sometimes in groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Master) Project (≠ Master Thesis!)</td>
<td>(Master-)Projekt</td>
<td>Individual project with practical and theoretical parts, written portion and final presentation (used as preparation for Master's Thesis)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important notes on course types

- Lectures and exercises belong together even though they are mentioned separately in the course catalogue → you have to register for both!
- Seminars can be held weekly or as a compact course ("Blockseminar" → sometimes no time given in course catalogue or only for first meeting)
- Seminars and Lab courses may vary from semester to semester, as most lecturers like to keep up-to-date with their research areas
What’s in the word „course“?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English name</th>
<th>German name</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key course</td>
<td>Kursvorlesung</td>
<td>6 specific lectures + tutorials offered annually 3 in winter term, 3 in summer term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialization course</td>
<td>Spezialvorlesung</td>
<td>Lots of different lectures + tutorials on various topics, mostly sorted into 3 big categories depending on the research topics (matching the 3 specialization areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application course</td>
<td>Fachfremdes Wahlmodul</td>
<td>Courses of all kinds in some subjects different than Computer Science (sometimes referred to as Nebenfach or Elective, meaning minor subject)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: „Study course“ (=Studiengang) is mostly called study program

Key courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Related specialization area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Software Engineering / Softwaretechnik</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Cyber-Physical Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Architecture / Rechnerarchitektur</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Cyber-Physical Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Artificial Intelligence / Grundlagen der Künstlichen Intelligenz</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Cognitive Technical Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algorithm Theory / Algorithmentheorie</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Databases and Information Systems / Datenbanken und Informationssysteme</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study plan – what kind and how many courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Category in HISinOne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Key courses</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>6 each</td>
<td>Mandatory modules: core field (also called core area in Comp. Sc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or 1</td>
<td>Specialization courses</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>6 each</td>
<td>Mandatory modules: deepening (also called Advanced Comp. Sc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Specialization courses</td>
<td>Specialization area</td>
<td>6 each</td>
<td>Elective modules: specialisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Specialization area</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Elective modules: specialisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Elective modules: specialisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lab course</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mandatory modules: laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Master project (≠ Master thesis!)</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mandatory modules: master project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Application courses (number depends on chosen subject 18 ECTS in total)</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Elective modules: application area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Master Thesis</td>
<td>Any area</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study plan – graphic representation

- 1 or 2 key courses (Core field / area)
- 2 or 1 specialization courses (Deepening / Advanced C.S.)
- 3 courses in total
- 1 lab course
- 1 master project
- 4 specialization courses
- 1 seminar
- Specialization area (in elective modules: specialisation in HISinOne)
- Application area (in mandatory modules: HISinOne)
- any area (in mandatory modules: HISinOne)
- Master Thesis
Language of instruction

- **Key courses:** Databases is always in German. Algorithm Theory is always in English. The remaining courses are in English every other year:
  (at least that’s the current plan…)
- **Specialization courses** generally in English
- **Seminars, lab courses, projects:** Language might be negotiated (but no legal claims!)

Specialization areas in Computer Science

- **Recommended „initial courses“ for the 3 specialization areas:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialization Area</th>
<th>Winter term</th>
<th>Summer term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Technical Systems</td>
<td>Computer Vision</td>
<td>Introduction to Mobile Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyber-Physical Systems</td>
<td>CPS – Discrete Models</td>
<td>CPS – Program Verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>Information Retrieval</td>
<td>Distributed Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application areas

- Archeology (German only)
- Bioinformatics (in English, no previous knowledge required)
- Cognitive Sciences (mostly in German, few English courses available)
- Economics (mostly in English, usually no previous knowledge required)
- Environmental Natural Sciences (German only)
- Mathematics (German only)
- Medicine (German only)
- Microsystems Engineering (in English, no previous knowledge required)
- Neuroscience (in English, no previous knowledge required)
- Physics (German only)
- Political science (German only)
- Psychology (German only; only 3 students per year allowed)

For these two areas: Beforehand: Registration with academic advisor Martina Nopper necessary!

In the application area, at least 18 ECTS have to be completed.

General Rules and Recommendations

- Most courses are offered every other semester; some can be held irregularly, but that would be mentioned in the module handbook (see HISinOne)
- Usually no dependences in the order of courses
  - Nevertheless, check with lecturers for appropriate combinations or order of courses
- Be aware that you might need to change your original study plan
- It is recommended that the Master’s Thesis fits your specialization area

Tips for your first week

- **Read the official exam regulations!**
  (= terms and conditions of your study program)
- Study the online course catalogue
- Check out a few more courses than you intend to complete
- Most prerequisites stated in the course catalogue are recommendations, they are not mandatory
- Please note: The first exercise/tutorial might take place after the first lecture only; check with lecturer, if unsure
- Register (via HISinOne) for the courses you want to take as soon as possible
- You can cancel again any courses till the end of the lecture period!
- For Seminars there is a special registration period: October 15th till 24th!
- Information on dates for course registration:
  [https://campus.uni-freiburg.de](https://campus.uni-freiburg.de) → Booking deadlines for Bachelor and Master courses

What to do if you forgot to register/book a course

- If you forgot to register for a course (or decide very late you would like to try it):
  - Go to the lecturer and ask if there are still places available and if it generally makes sense to start late
  - For lectures, you can register yourself till the end of the lecture time, but the lecturer might also add you manually in the HISinOne system
  - The examination office can't help you here!
- Registration for an exam in HISinOne is only possible if you are registered for the course!

Registering for/ booking of courses

- Have a look at the course catalogue:
  [https://campus.uni-freiburg.de](https://campus.uni-freiburg.de)
  → Studies offered
  → Show university course catalog
  → Technische Fakultät
  → Master of Science (M.Sc.)
  → Informatik, PO 2011
- For information on handling the Campus-Management-System see [https://campus.uni-freiburg.de](https://campus.uni-freiburg.de) → Help → Guide for students
- If you have questions or made a mistake while registering: Contact us!
  (me or Ms. Moses in the Dean's office: moses@tf.uni-freiburg.de)

Registration for exams

- 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://campus.uni-freiburg.de](https://campus.uni-freiburg.de) → Studies and teaching → How to register for exams
- 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
How to proceed if you failed an exam

- Number of tries are limited:
  - Every exam can be tried 2 times
  - **Three exams** for courses in the required or elective modules can be tried 3 times
    This rule does not include lab courses or seminars.
- You are registered automatically for the repetition(s) and **cannot sign off**!
- You **cannot** substitute a course you already took an exam in with another one!

What to do in case of illness…

1. If you are ill on the exam day…
   - You should not take the exam! (You can’t „take it back“ once you did it…)
2. print the Medical certificate for Master students
   (https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq/forms-examinations-offices)
   (yes, there is a slight typo at the end of the URL…)
3. go to a general practitioner **on the day of the exam** and ask him to fill in the medical certificate
4. submit the completed medical certificate within **three work days** to the examination office
   (If you are too late, it will be counted as a fail!)
   If you are not sure what to do: Ask in time!

Conditional admission

- It is not sufficient to take the exam, you have to attend the course.
- If the lecturer requires any exercises or mid-term exams for admission to the final exam, you also have to fulfill these requirements.
- Exams required for conditional admission can only be repeated once.
- If a conditional course collides with one of your mandatory or elective courses, the conditional course should always have **higher priority**!
- You will be automatically registered for these courses, but have to register for the exams yourself
  → Registration for these exams have to be done via PDF form:
  https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/de/studium-lehre/a-bis-z-studium/dokumente/examregistration.pdf

Information via Internet

Some useful links:
- Faculty of Engineering: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching
- calendar, dates and deadlines: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/calendar-dates
- information about exams etc.: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/a-to-z-study-faq
- study plans, syllabus, academic rules: https://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/en/studies-and-teaching/module-handbooks