

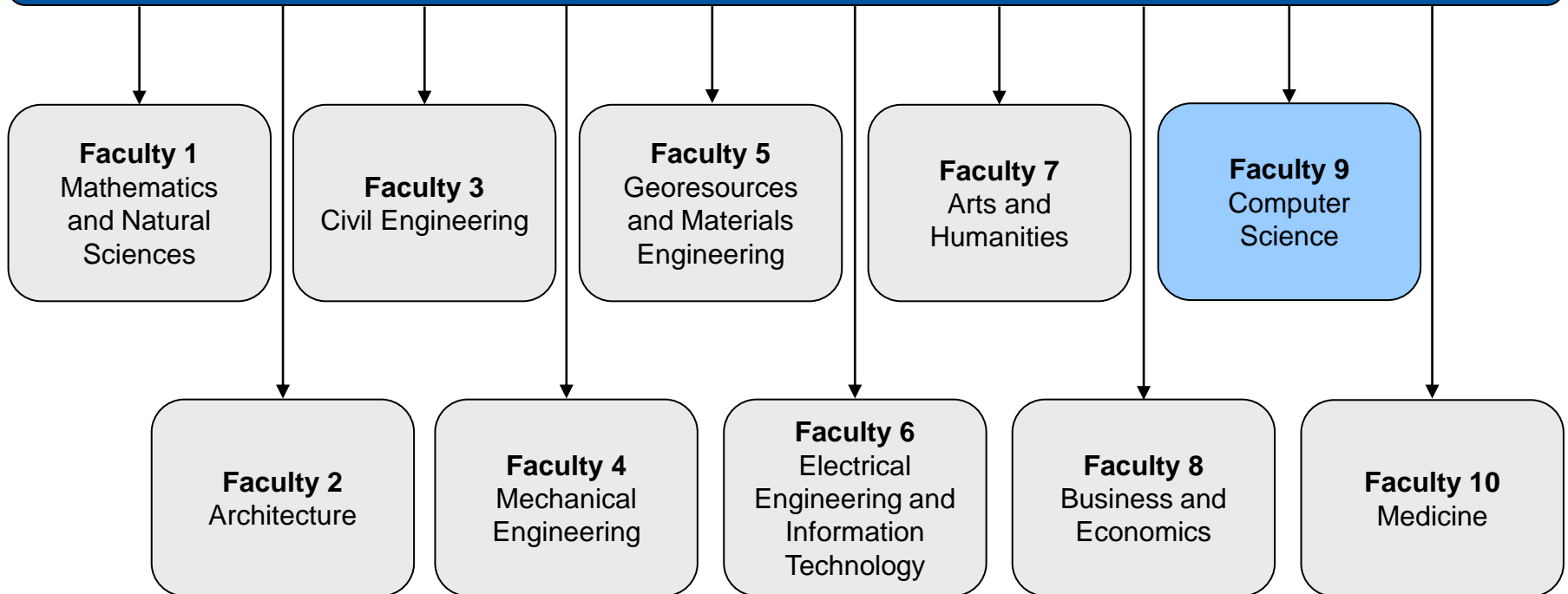


Staying Abroad at RWTH Aachen, Faculty of Computer Science

Dirk Thißen

thissen@informatik.rwth-aachen.de
Study advisor for exchange students

RWTH Aachen University



Faculty of Computer Science

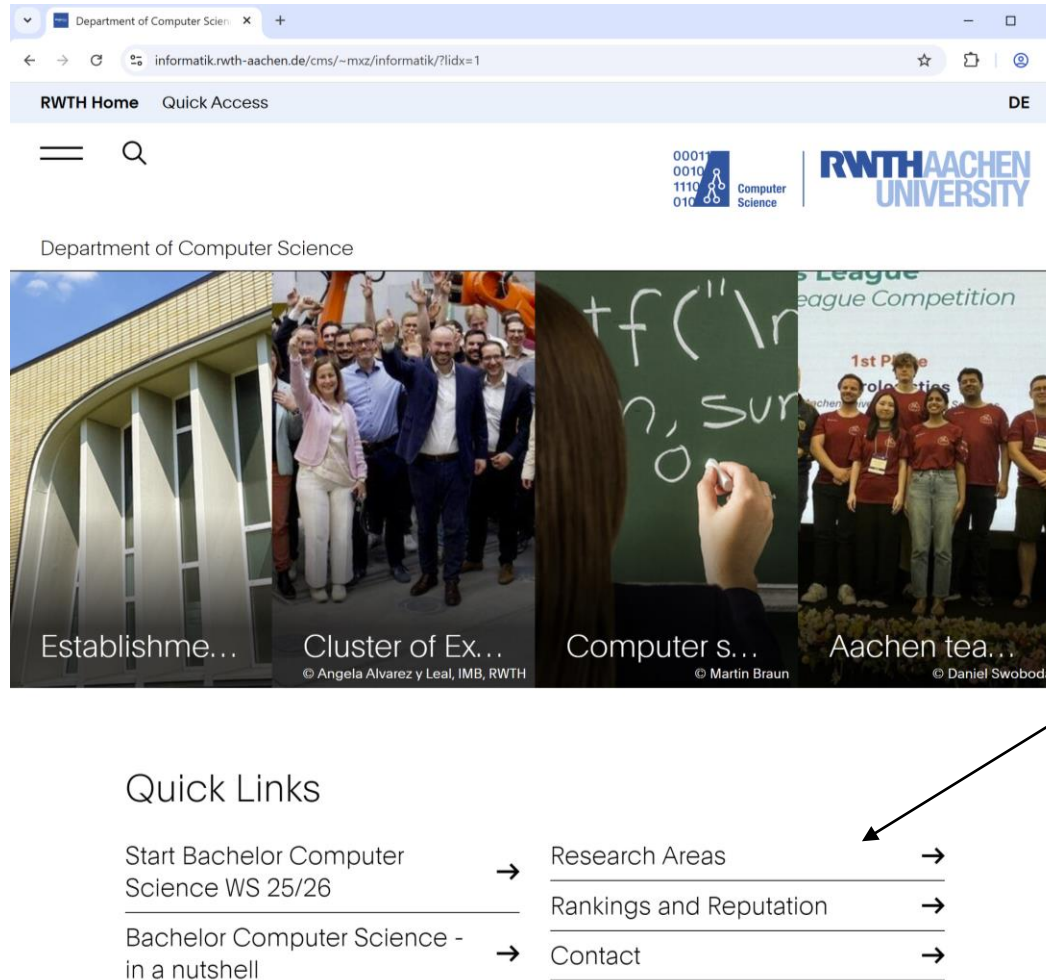
39 professors

**about 250 PhD students
and postdocs**

about 4500 students
→ **29% international students**
→ **60% bachelor students**

Faculty of Computer Science

- <https://www.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/cms/~mxz/informatik/?lidx=1>



List of all research groups

- **How to choose courses?**
 - ▶ How to register them?
- **When do the exams take place?**
 - ▶ And how to register for them?
- **What do do at the end of the stay?**
 - ▶ How to get the Transcript of Records?
 - ▶ What about the study confirmation?
- **What else should I know?**

Important to know

- **You are enrolled in virtual study programs „degree outside Germany“**
 - ▶ Effect: *you have no curriculum!*
 - Positive:
 - No limitation to certain curriculum
 - You can choose any course, you can register any exam
 - You do a „free registration“, i.e. outside of any curriculum
 - Negative:
 - You sometimes cannot register courses because registration is limited to certain curricula (which forbids free registrations)
 - In case you cannot register a course, contact me!

How to choose courses?

- **Get an overview about courses in RWTHOnline**

- ▶ See „Introduction to RWTHOnline for students:

- <https://wiki-intern.rwth-aachen.de/download/attachments/129206449/Introduction%20to%20RWTHOnline%20for%20Students.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1737116732017&api=v2>

- FAQ: <https://wiki-intern.rwth-aachen.de/display/RD/FAQ+for+Students>

- ▶ Choose „*courses*“ to search for a list of courses, maybe *filtered by curriculum*

- Informatik [2022], Bachelor (1-subject)

- Informatik [2023], Master (1-subject)

- including courses from minors

- Software Systems Engineering [2025], Master (1-subject)

- no minor courses, you can focus on computer science

RWTHonline: filter by curriculum

The screenshot shows the RWTHonline interface. The 'Courses' tab is selected. The 'Curriculum' filter is set to 'Informatik' and the 'Organisation' filter is set to 'Department of Computer Science'. A dropdown menu for 'Informatik' is open, showing a list of courses: 'Grundlagen der Informatik [2013], Master (2-Subject)', 'Informatik [2009], Master (1-Subject)', 'Informatik [2018], Bachelor (1-Subject)', 'Informatik [2022], Bachelor (1-Subject)', and 'Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject)'. The main table lists courses with details like ID, title, SWS, and lecturer. A red arrow points from the 'Department of Computer Science' filter to the text on the right.

Term	Curriculum	Organisation
2025 W	Informatik	Department of Computer Science

Course ID	Course Title	SWS	Lecturer	Registration Status
12.00076	Across B	4	Ehlen	No registration procedures for this course
12.00086	Advanced	2	Hoefer, Martin Karl Wilhelm	No registration procedures for this course
12.00085	Advanced Network Security	4	Meyer, Ulrike Michaela, Drichel, Arthur, Lux, Luisa Georgia	Course open for registration
12.00025	Advanced Operating Systems	3	Gouicem, Redha	Course open for registration
12.00038	Advanced Operating Systems	2	Gouicem, Redha	Course open for registration
12.00082	Advanced Topics in Learning Technologies: Integrating AI in Education	2	Ali, Lubna Kamel Nazih, Schroeder, Ulrik	No registration procedures for this course
12.00047	Advanced Topics in Network Science	2		No registration procedures for this course

... or filter for courses of our faculty by „Organisation“ – choose

- „Department of Computer Science“ or
- „Faculty of Computer Science“

Alternatively / in addition: presentation videos

- **All (or at least: most) electives of our department will be presented by short videos:**
 - ▶ <https://sc.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/en/wahlpflicht/>
 - ▶ Goes online end of this or next week (hopefully)
- **But:**
 - ▶ Only electives, no compulsory courses
 - Most compulsory courses anyway are in German
 - ▶ Only courses of our faculty

Course choice: where to choose from

- ***At least 50% of courses should be selected from our faculty***
 - ▶ BSc. + MSc. Informatik (Computer Science), MSc. Software Systems Engineering, MSc. Data Science, MSc. Human-Centered Intelligent Systems
 - *Warning:* MSc. Human-Centered Intelligent Systems is joined programme together with University of Bonn. *Do not choose courses from University of Bonn!*
 - All our courses are also included in the other programmes, so *please ignore MSc. Human-Centered Intelligent Systems*
 - MSc. Data Science includes lot of courses from Mathematics, BSc./MSc. Informatik has lot of courses from minors
 - Codes of courses from our faculty always start with 12 .xxxxxx
- ***The other 50% can be chosen by interest***
 - ▶ ... given that the teachers agree to your participation

Types of courses

- **Most courses: lecture + exercise (LE)**

The screenshot shows the RWTH Aachen University online course catalog. The header includes the university logo, the text 'RWTHonline', and a maintenance notice for 27.09.2023. The main content area displays a list of courses filtered by 'Communication'. The course '12.45207 Communication Systems Engineering' is highlighted with a red circle, showing it is a Lecture + Exercise (LE) course with 4 SWS. Other courses listed include 'Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication' (Lecture and Exercise) and 'Research Focus Class on Communication Systems' (Lecture + Exercise).

Term	Curriculum	Organisation
2023 W	Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject)	RWTH Aachen University

Filter: Communication

Course ID	Course Title	Course Type	SWS	Lecturer	Registration Status
61.26118	Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication	L	2	Ohm, Jens-Rainer	Course open for registration
61.26119	Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication	E	1	Rohlfing, Christian; Ohm, Jens-Rainer	Course open for registration
12.45207	Communication Systems Engineering	LE	4	Thißen, Dirk	Course open for registration
12.29418	Research Focus Class on Communication Systems	LE	5	Wehrle, Klaus; Thißen, Dirk; Lohmöller, Johannes	No registration for this course

Lecture +
exercise, 4
hours per
week
(3L + 1E)

Types of courses

- **Most courses: lecture + exercise (LE)**

▶ You have to take both to get the credits

The screenshot shows the RWTH Aachen University online course catalog. The search results for 'concur' show two courses:

Term	Curriculum	Organisation
2023 W	Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject)	RWTH Aachen University

Filter: concur

Course ID	Course Name	Course Type	SWS	Lecturer	Registration Status	Action
12.38074	Concurrency Theory	L	3	Noll, Thomas; Katoen, Joost-Pieter	Course open for registration	View course registration details
12.38073	Concurrency Theory	E	2	Noll, Thomas; Katoen, Joost-Pieter	Course open for registration	View course registration details

Entries per page: 20 | 1 - 2 from 2

Lecture +
exercise, 5
hours per
week
(3L + 2E)

Types of courses

- **Most courses: lecture + exercise (LE)**
 - ▶ You have to take both to get the credits
 - ▶ Sometimes, L + E are having a single RWTHOnline entry
 - ▶ Sometimes, L and E have separate entries
 - But only for time/room planning, has no meaning for you

Types of courses

- **Other course types:**

- ▶ IS/SE: seminar

- You have to do a literature survey on a given topic, write a paper, give a presentation

- ▶ LA: lab/practical

- Software development project

- ▶ TU: tutorial (exercise)

- Small exercise groups, typically only for compulsory courses on bachelor level

Where do courses take place?

- **Most computer science courses take place in Computer Science Center**
- **Others in ITC, C.A.R.L., Audimax, ...**
- **To find the buildings/room, you can use RWTH Navigator**
 - ▶ <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/die-rwth/Kontakt-Anreise/~epe/RWTH-Navigator/?lidx=1>

How to register for courses

- Via RWTHonline

online.rwth-aachen.de/RWTHonline/ee/ui/ca2/app/desktop/#/slc.tm.cp/student/courses?\$ctx=design=ca;lang=en... Update abschließen

RWTHonline Maintenance: 27.09.2023, 07:00 - 08:00 Login DE

Courses

Term: 2023 W Curriculum: Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject) Organisation: RWTH Aachen University

Communication x >

Filter Title (ascending)

61.26118 Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication L 2 SWS Lecturer: Ohm, Jens-Rainer	Course open for registration View course registration details >
61.26119 Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication E 1 SWS Lecturer: Rohlfing, Christian Ohm, Jens-Rainer	Course open for registration View course registration details >
12.45207 Communication Systems Engineering LE 4 SWS Lecturer: Thißen, Dirk	Course open for registration View course registration details >
12.29418 Research Focus Class on Communication Systems LE 5 SWS Lecturer: Wehrle, Klaus Thißen, Dirk Lohmöller, Johannes	No registration for this course >

Course registration

- ***Registration for lectures/exercises mandatory***

- ▶ You get *access to an associated Moodle room*
 - All course material, exercises, announcements, e-mail lists only available in the Moodle room

- **Note:**

- ▶ Not all teachers have activated registration yet
- ▶ Usually, registration is open for months, but for some courses the registration closes one or two weeks after start of lecturers
 - Especially if course is limited and places have to be assigned
- ▶ Registration for courses of other departments/faculties may have additional rules
- ▶ *If no registration is possible for some course, contact me*

Course registration

- **Seminars/labs:**

- ▶ No registration on your own possible
- ▶ Places in seminars/labs are centrally distributed in our department
 - June/July for winter semester
 - January for summer semester
- ▶ If you stay for two semesters, you can apply for a place during these times via <https://supra.informatik.rwth-aachen.de>
- ▶ If you are interested in a seminar/lab now, contact the teachers to ask if places are available

- **Thesis**

- ▶ Find a topic/supervisor
- ▶ Registration: <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/studium/im-studium/internationales/exchange-incomings/bewerbung/~bjgonk/anmeldung-zur-abschlussarbeit-fuer-austa/?lidx=1>

Courses and examinations

- ***Registering for courses as before is only for getting access to learning material and information***
 - ▶ *You can register for as many courses as you like to have a look at them*
 - ▶ When being sure about the courses you want to really take, register exams for them
 - *Only courses with exam registrations end up in your transcript of records!*

Courses and examinations

- **Note:** *teachers decide on criteria for exam admission*
 - ▶ *Attend the first lecture (or study the slides) to find out about them*
 - For some courses you can just attend the exam
 - For some courses you have to get 50% of points in e-tests during the semester
 - For some courses you have to get 50% of points in homework during the semester
 - For some courses you have to pass a midterm exam
 - ... or variants/combinations
 - ▶ *Carefully listen to the information given in the first lecture!*

Exam registration

- **Has to be done via „exams“ in RWTHOnline**
 - ▶ *Registration opens in general on 15 November*, maybe earlier for some courses
 - ▶ Registrations for exams in *1st period* (~February) *closes on 15 January*
 - *Keep the deadline! Later registration not possible!*
 - ▶ Registration for exams in *2nd period* (~March) closes individually – *one week before the corresponding exam date*
 - ▶ *Deregistration* is possible till 3 workdays before an exam

End of your stay


























- ***Study confirmation (Confirmation of arrival/departure)***
 - ▶ Issued by Incomings Student Services in *International Office* (begin and end of stay)
 - <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/studium/Im-Studium/Internationales/Exchange-Incomings/~ijhe/Waehrend-des-Aufenthalts/lidx/1/>
- ***Transcript of Records***
 - ▶ You can download own certificate of results from RWTHonline
 - https://www.rwth-aachen.de/global/show_document.asp?id=aaaaaaaaacokklum
 - But it is not signed

Downloading the Transcript of Records

All applications

Filter by application title...

☐ ☐ Title (ascending) ▼

 Applications	 Courses	 Current/Home Address	 Degree Programmes
 Documents	 Examination Regulations	 Exams	 IdM Selfservice
 Language Center	 Modules	 My Achievements	 My Calendar
 My Course Evaluations	 My Degree Programme NEW	 Resource Occupancy	 RWTH Study Spaces
 RWTH-E-Mail	 RWTHmoodle	 Student Dossier	 Study Overview (Curriculum Support)
 Study Status	 Support	 Tuition Fees	 Wiki intern: Help
 Wiki intern: News			

Downloading the Transcript of Records

🏠 Documents / RWTH Aachen University

Name	Semester	Language	Operation
BAföG-Bescheinigung	Wintersemester 2023/24 ▾	English ▾	PRINT
Certificate of Progress of Studies			PRINT
Enrolment Certificate	Wintersemester 2023/24 ▾	English ▾	PRINT
Confirmation of Payment	Wintersemester 2023/24 ▾		PRINT
Application for Leave of Absence			PRINT

Confirmations of Achievement

Name	Semester	Study programme	Operation
Transcript of Grades (All)		2000 Informatik (Abschluss im Ausland) ▾	PRINT
Transcript of Grades (Positive and Negative)		2000 Informatik (Abschluss im Ausland) ▾	PRINT
Transcript of Grades (Only Positive)		2000 Informatik (Abschluss im Ausland) ▾	PRINT
Transcript			PRINT
Certification of Registered Examinations		2000 Informatik (Abschluss im Ausland) ▾	PRINT
Certificate of Fulfilled Requirements			PRINT
Certificate of Fulfilled Requirements (Positive and Negative)			PRINT
Certificate of Fulfilled Requirements (Only Positive)			PRINT
Certificate of Master's Assessments Completed in the Bachelor's Degree Programme (All)			PRINT
Certificate of Master's Assessments Completed in the Bachelor's Degree Programme (Positive and Negative)			PRINT
Certificate of Master's Assessments Completed in the Bachelor's Degree Programme (Only Positive)			PRINT
Transcript (All) for incoming students, virtual students from partner universities, small cross-registered students, dually-enrolled school students			PRINT
Transcript (Only Positive) for incoming students, virtual students from partner universities, small cross-registered students, dually-enrolled school students			PRINT
Certificate		Please select... ▾	PRINT

- **First variant: all exam results**
- **„Only positive“ variant: only passed exams listed**

Transcript of Records

- **Procedure to get the Transcript of Records:**

- ▶ You can *download your transcript* via RWTHOnline (see before)
- ▶ *If a signature is needed, send it to me by e-mail*
 - You will get it back digitally signed
 - Tell me if some other person should receive the transcript, i.e. the International Office of your home university
- ▶ Transcript only includes results of exams registered in RWTHOnline
 - No results of language courses! *To include language courses:*
 - You get a certificate of your language course's results from Language Center
 - Send the certificate to the Central Examination Office (contact see <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/go/id/biofqz/lidx/1>) – they put it into your records
 - Send the certificates there as soon as possible

Transcript of Records

- **A short note**

- ▶ *Credits for courses shown on your grades certificate may differ from your learning agreement*
 - Side effect of a new procedure – contact me if this causes trouble, I can set up the transcript manually with correct numbers
- ▶ *No course codes are printed on the transcript*
 - Contact me if this causes trouble, I can set up the transcript manually including codes
- ▶ *Titles of exams are printed on the transcript*
 - Which might differ from the module titles
 - Contact me if this causes trouble, I can set up the transcript manually with correct titles

Contact persons

- **Academic issues**

- ▶ Courses, exams, registrations, transcript of records, ...

Dirk Thissen (me ☺)

Computer Science Center, building E3, room 9014

e-mail: student-exchange@cs.rwth-aachen.de

<https://www.comsys.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/incomings>

- **Administrative issues**

- ▶ Study certificate (or other certificates), enrollment, visa issues, ...

International Office / Incoming Student Services

Super C

e-mail: incomings@rwth-aachen.de

<https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/Internationales/>

[Exchange-Incomings/~momd/Incoming-Student-Services/?contact=aaaaaaaaaiowd&lidx=1](https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/Internationales/Exchange-Incomings/~momd/Incoming-Student-Services/?contact=aaaaaaaaaiowd&lidx=1)

Maybe interesting for you

- **Master Freshers-Week**

- ▶ 6 to 10 October
- ▶ for bringing together all new Master (degree) students
- ▶ new students can meet other people, connect with fellow students and explore the City & University before the semester starts

- **More info**

- ▶ https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=twXE9mdJrUm2_nQYdmVADIMCz8SsyNtEmvMjgeFI1UVUQ1FROFIwUIZNVzRLV0FKQlpRQzZLQVc0Ry4u&route=shorturl

Useful links

- **RWTHonline:**
 - ▶ <https://online.rwth-aachen.de/>
- **RWTHonline intro:**
 - ▶ <https://wiki-intern.rwth-aachen.de/display/RD/Introduction+to+RWTHonline?preview=/91194983/91194986/Introduction%20to%20RWTHonline%20for%20Students.pdf>
- **Moodle:**
 - ▶ <https://moodle.rwth-aachen.de>
- **Incoming students RWTH:**
 - ▶ <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/incomings>
- **Incoming students Computer Science:**
 - ▶ <https://www.comsys.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/incomings>