Welcome to Human-Centered Intelligent Systems

A cooperation of b-it, RWTH Aachen University, University of Bonn and Fraunhofer FIT and IAIS

Head of Program: Prof. Ulrike Meyer, Prof. Stefan Decker
Academic Advisor: Dr. Lubna Ali, Yixin Peng M.Sc.

Computer Science 5 - Information Systems and Databases

RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

Academic Advisor Team

- Lubna Ali
  - Responsibilities:
    - All issues during your studies (e.g. exams, courses, thesis)

- Yixin Peng
  - Responsibilities:
    - General Questions, Fraunhofer Labs, b-it activities

Contact Us: msc-hcis@b-it-center.de

Greeting!

Hello!

Get To Know Each Other!

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About b-it

Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology

- Cooperation of leading universities and research institutes of the information technology region Bonn-Aachen
- Strategic partner of the regional economy
- Three study programs
  - ~~Media Informatics~~ **Human-Centered Intelligent Systems (HCIS)**
  - Life Science Informatics
  - Autonomous Systems

About RWTH Aachen University

Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen

- Founded in 1870.
- Over 45000 students, 560 professors, 6000 academic staff and 2800 non-academic staff members (June 2019).
- RWTH Aachen University exploits strong research networks and the intellectual curiosity of its staff to address bold scientific questions, transfer forefront knowledge and drive innovative discoveries that impact global challenges.

About University of Bonn

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

- Founded in 1818.
- Over 38000 students, 500 professors, 4000 academic staff, 1800 non-academic staff members (June 2019).
- Outstanding reputation, e.g. recently announced as an Excellence University in the German Excellence Initiative.
- University of Bonn is a research university that operates on an international level and in doing so, we continually maintain our long-standing traditions.

About Fraunhofer FIT and IAIS

Fraunhofer-Institut für Intelligente Analyse- und Informationssysteme IAIS

- One of the largest research centers for informatics and applied mathematics in Germany.
- About 600 scientists in different institutes work on application-oriented solutions for industry and society.
- Selected research areas:
  - Grid and Cloud Computing
  - Data Mining
  - Human Computer Interaction
  - etc.

The Enrollment Process

Cooperative Study Program

- You are a student of **Human-Centered Intelligent Systems (HCIS)**.
- Officially, you are enrolled at RWTH Aachen University but your first year you will study at b-it in Bonn.
- Courses are offered at b-it, RWTH Aachen and Uni Bonn. Special lab courses are offered at Fraunhofer FIT and IAIS.

If you are not enrolled yet…

- Check the following pages for enrollment information.
- You will study at b-it first, but you can participate in the Welcome Week for International Students at RWTH Aachen University.
- In case of enrollment questions(e.g., **English language certificate**), please contact the International Office international@rwth-aachen.de.

After enrolling at RWTH Aachen University

- You are an official student of RWTH Aachen University.
- Make sure to pay the „student body and social contribution fee.“

- You will have access or receive the following ‚things‘:
  - Identity Management „RWTH Single Sign-On“ (see details)
  - Student ID „Blue Card“ (see details)
  - Transportation Ticket „Semester Ticket“ (see details)
  - RWTH-Mail „firstname.lastname@rwth-aachen.de“ (see details)

- Please check here for more details on what to do!

After Enrolling…

Studying at RWTH, Uni Bonn and b-it

- After Immatriculation at RWTH Aachen
  - Access to RWTH services
  - Access to RWTHonline and RWTHmoodle

- Check the RWTHonline -> Documents
- Download the Enrolment Certificate

- However, you can start your studies at b-it and be able to access to services of b-it and Uni Bonn as well.

Accounts/Cards/IDs

Student ID @ RWTH

- BlueCard
- Public Transit Ticket

Single Sign-On @ RWTH Identity Management

- Services at RWTH
- Mail address: <yourname>@rwth-aachen.de [NOT USED BY UNI BONN]

Uni Bonn ID @ HRZ Uni Bonn

- eCampus with internal messaging system (not email)
- Uni Bonn mail address: <alias>@uni-bonn.de [NOT USED BY RWTH]

CS department/b-it account

- Computer pool rooms
- Services by CS department/b-it working groups

Mensa Card Studierendenwerk Bonn

- Payments in Canteens or Cafés (no cash allowed!)

Accounts/Cards/IDs

Student ID @ RWTH

- BlueCard
- Public Transit Ticket

Single Sign-On @ RWTH Identity Management

- Services at RWTH
- Mail address: firstname.lastname@rwth-aachen.de [NOT USED BY UNI BONN]

You should have both after your enrolment at RWTH

Uni Bonn ID @ HRZ Uni Bonn

- eCampus with internal messaging system (not email)
- Uni Bonn mail address: <alias>@uni-bonn.de [NOT USED BY RWTH]

CS department/b-it account

- Computer pool rooms
- Services by CS department/b-it working groups

Mensa Card Studierendenwerk Bonn

- Payments in Canteens or Cafés (no cash allowed!)

Getting your Uni Bonn ID (1/3)

- You need a Uni Bonn ID to use various Uni Bonn services (e.g. eCampus)
- Please visit the following site to fill out a online registration form:
  - ➢ https://www.hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/all-services/uni-id-identity-management
  - – Select „New application“
  - – Enter personal information etc.
  - – Select „Guest“ -> „Cooperative study program Aachen“
  - – Important! Enter your German address!
  - – Finally you‘ll receive a printable form that you need to sign.

Getting your Uni Bonn ID (2/3)

- Next steps:
  - Sign and scan the printed registration form.
  - Attach a scan of your passport and the current enrolment certificate (download in RWTHonline -> Documents; after enrolment at RWTH).
  - Now please send your a scan of the signed form, of your passport and the enrolment certificate to idm@uni-bonn.de
    - The Uni-ID will be send to you by e-mail
  - To renew your Uni-ID, send your current enrolment certificate each semester to idm@uni-bonn.de

Getting your Uni Bonn ID

What is it for?

- Access to eCampus and its messaging system <https://ecampus.uni-bonn.de/>.
- A dedicated email address @uni-bonn.de <https://mail.uni-bonn.de/>.

- More info at
- <https://www.hrz.uni-bonn.de/de/services/e-mail-kalender-kontakte/e-mail?set_language=en>,
- via "manage ID" several settings can be seen and some of them modified to your needs.

Accounts/Cards/IDs

Student ID @ RWTH

- BlueCard
- Public Transit Ticket

Single Sign-On @ RWTH Identity Management

- Services at RWTH
- Mail address: <yourname>@rwth-aachen.de [NOT USED BY UNI BONN]

Uni Bonn ID @ HRZ Uni Bonn

- eCampus with internal messaging system (not email)
- Uni Bonn mail address: <alias>@uni-bonn.de [NOT USED BY RWTH]

CS department/b-it account

- Computer pool rooms
- Services by CS department/b-it working groups

Mensa Card Studierendenwerk Bonn

- Payments in Canteens or Cafés (no cash allowed!)

You should have both after your enrolment at RWTH

CS department/b-it services

- The CS department and b-it offer services on their own
  - Computer pool rooms
  - Services by working groups
  - etc.

- Here you need another account which you can **setup after you received your Uni Bonn ID**
  - https://startup.informatik.uni-bonn.de/language

- For more details, visit:
  - https://gsg.informatik.uni-bonn.de/doku.php?id=en:accounts:students:manage (English Version)
- - https://gsg.informatik.uni-bonn.de/doku.php?id=de:accounts:students:manage (German Version)

Accounts/Cards/IDs

Student ID @ RWTH

- BlueCard
- Public Transit Ticket

Single Sign-On @ RWTH Identity Management

- Services at RWTH
- Mail address: <yourname>@rwth-aachen.de [NOT USED BY UNI BONN]

Uni Bonn ID @ HRZ Uni Bonn

- eCampus with internal messaging system (not email)
- Uni Bonn mail address: <alias>@uni-bonn.de [NOT USED BY RWTH]

CS department/b-it account

- Computer pool rooms
- Services by CS department/b-it working groups

Mensa Card Studierendenwerk Bonn

- Payments in Canteens or Cafés (no cash allowed!)

You should have both after your enrolment at RWTH

Mensa Card of Studierendenwerk Bonn

- With the Mensa Card, you can use cashless payment in all our cafés and canteens.
- If you are a resident of one of our dormitories, you will need the Mensa Card to operate the washing machines and dryers.
- You can get your Mensa Card at any canteen. Bring your RWTH student ID card to proof you are a student and 5.00 Euro for deposit.
  - Alternatively, you may download your Enrolment Certificate under Documents in RWTHonline!
- Check the following page for more information
  - https://www.studierendenwerk-bonn.de/en/food-drink/
- In case of questions, also contact:
  - https://www.studierendenwerk-bonn.de/ueber-uns/infopoint/

Accounts/Cards/IDs

Student ID @ RWTH

- BlueCard
- Public Transit Ticket

Single Sign-On @ RWTH Identity Management

- Services at RWTH
- Mail address: <yourname>@rwth-aachen.de [NOT USED BY UNI BONN]

You should have both after your enrolment at RWTH

Uni Bonn ID @ HRZ Uni Bonn

- eCampus with internal messaging system (not email)
- Uni Bonn mail address: <alias>@uni-bonn.de [NOT USED BY RWTH]

CS department/b-it account

- Computer pool rooms
- Services by CS department/b-it working groups

Mensa Card Studierendenwerk Bonn

- Payments in Canteens or Cafés (no cash allowed!)

Finally – On-boarding completed!

- After receiving all your accounts and IDs, your on-boarding at RWTH, Uni Bonn and b-it is completed.

- In case of any questions regarding …
  - … enrolment and RWTH services, please contact the International Office
  - … Single Sign-On Credentials, please contact the IT-Service Desk at RWTH
  - … Uni ID Bonn, please contact the HRZ at Uni Bonn
  - … CS/b-it Account, please contact the Systemgruppe IfI/b-it
  - … Mensa Card, please contact the Studierendenwerk Bonn

The study program

Studying at b-it

https://www.b-it-center.de/b-it-programmes/msc-in-human-centered-intelligent-systems-hcis

- All mandatory(compulsory) courses are offered at b-it in Bonn.
- Additional elective courses, seminars and labs are offered at Uni Bonn, RWTH Aachen or in cooperation with Fraunhofer FIT and IAIS.
- We recommend starting at b-it and living in Bonn for at least the first year.
- After completing all mandatory courses you can move to Aachen and take further elective courses at RWTH Aachen.

Study Program

- 4 semesters = 2 years
- 120 CP (credit points*) = 30 CP per semester

Compulsory Modules	At least 78 CP	12 CP
Compulsory Elective Area: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning		Min. 12 CP
Compulsory Elective Area: Human-Centered and Interactive Technologies		Min. 12 CP
Compulsory Elective Area: Use and Societal Impact		Min. 8 CP
Compulsory Elective Area: Labs, Seminar and German Language Course		24 – 26 CP
Elective Area: Computer Science Electives		0 - 12 CP
Module Component: Scientific Integrity	Just pass before thesis registration	
Master's Thesis		30 CP
Sum		**120 CP**

* We use the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Curriculum

Curriculum	Semester	Credit Points
Compulsory Modules		
Introduction to Learning Systems and Data Science	1. Semester	6
Designing Interactive Systems I	1. Semester	6
		12
Compulsory Elective Area: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning		
At least 2 Compulsory Elective Modules	1.-3. Semester	each 4, 6 or 8
		Min. 12
Compulsory Elective Area: Human-Centered and Interactive Technologies		
At least 2 Compulsory Elective Modules	1.-3. Semester	each 4, 6 or 8
		Min. 12
Compulsory Elective Area: Use and Societal Impact		
At least 2 Compulsory Elective Modules	1.-3. Semester	each 4, 6 or 8
		Min. 8
Compulsory Elective Area: Labs, Seminar and German Language Course		
Fraunhofer Lab	2.-3. Semester	9
Second Lab(1)	2.-3. Semester	7 or 9
Seminar	2.-3. Semester	4
German Course (or additional seminar(2))	2.-3. Semester	4
		24 – 26
Elective Area: Computer Science Electives		
Max. 2 elective modules	1.-3. Semester	each 4, 6 or 8
		0 - 12
Module Component: Scientific Integrity	Just pass before thesis registration	
Master's Thesis		
Master's thesis	4. Semester	30
		30
Sum		**120**

Notes:

(1) The second lab can be chosen either from the courses offered by the Department of Computer Science at RWTH Aachen University or from the courses offered by the Department of Computer Science at the University of Bonn. If the workload permits, the second lab may also be another Fraunhofer lab.

(2) Students who have acquired their study qualification at a German-speaking institution or who have German as their mother tongue must complete an additional seminar instead of the German course.

What is a module?

Modules are academic units for courses and examinations

- A module usually consists of:
  - A course
  - An examination

- E.g.:
  - The module „Foundations of Data Science“ consists of:
    - The lecture
    - The exercises
    - The examination, i.e. a written exam

  - The module „Fraunhofer Lab“ consists of:
    - A lab course offered by Fraunhofer
      - Not explicit examination as a lab course is basically a pratical exam with milestones and deliverables

Academic Calendar

- Winter semesters: October – March
- Summer semesters: April – September

- Classes:
  - Winter Semester: Mid/Begin of October – End of January
  - Summer Semester: Mid/Begin of April – Mid/End of July

- Exam periods:
  - Winter Semester: End of January – End of March
  - Summer Semester: Mid of July – End of September

- Christmas break: 2 weeks in December/January

First semester (recommendation)

- Bridging Course

- Two compulsory modules:
  - **Introduction to Learning Systems and Data Science (6 ECTS)**
  - **Designing Interactive Systems I (6 ECTS)**

- Three modules in these four elective areas at b-it (each 4, 6 or 8 ECTS):
  - **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**
  - **Human-Centered and Interactive Technologies**
  - **Use and Societal Impact**
  - **Computer Science Electives**

Bridging course „Foundations of Informatics“

https://crypto.bit.uni-bonn.de/teaching/25ws/brico

- Theoretical Computer Science Course offered by Dr. Michael Nüsken, Prof. Dr. Thomas Noll, Prof. Dr. Martin Hoefer
- Recommended due to the strong theoretical background of computer science bachelor programs in Aachen and Bonn.

- Mandatory for some of you
  - Check your acceptance letter or ask at msc-hcis@b-it-center.de
  - If it is not mentioned; you are not required to take it.

- Open and Free for everybody
  - No Credit Points

Dates for Winter Semester 2025/26

- Semester starts in October 2025
- **Bridging Course**
  - *First Phase* starts October 13th, 2025
- Details: https://crypto.bit.uni-bonn.de/teaching/25ws/brico
- All other **classes at b-it** start on October 27th, 2025
- **Classes at RWTH Aachen and Uni Bonn** start on October 13th, 2025 [Overlaps with Bridging Course]
- Further details about the academic calendar can be found here.

Courses at Uni Bonn

https://basis.uni-bonn.de/

- HCIS students are allowed to take many courses from the CS department at Uni Bonn.
- You can review all offered courses at the BASIS system of Uni Bonn.
- You can find in the module handbook of HCIS Master Program, which course can be accepted for HCIS.
- https://online.rwth-aachen.de/RWTHonline/pl/ui/$ctx/wbModhbReport.downloadPublicMHBVersion?pOrgNr=14194&pStpStpNr=2053
- If you are interested in a course at Uni Bonn, but can't find it in module handbook, please contact us msc-hcis@b-it-center.de.

German Language Courses

- German Language Course is mandatory.
  - 4 ECTS, 4 SWS, one semester
  - Students who have acquired their study qualification at a German-speaking institution or who have German as their mother tongue must complete an additional seminar instead of the German course.

- You can take this course at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen

- At RWTH Aachen the language center handles course registrations:
  - https://www.sz.rwth-aachen.de/cms/SZ/Das-Sprachenzentrum/Anmeldung-und-Einstufung/~yjldk/Kursplatz/lidx/1/
  - In case of questions, please contact the Language Center at RWTH

- At Uni Bonn the international office handles course registrations:
  - https://www.uni-bonn.de/de/studium/internationale-studierende/deutsch-lernen/sdk
  - In case of questions, please contact Sonja Hammer at Uni Bonn.

Seminar & Lab Courses in 2. and 3. semester

Two types of labs and one seminar

- One Fraunhofer lab
- One additional lab from CS departments at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen University
- One seminar from CS departments at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen University

Fraunhofer Labs

- The Fraunhofer labs are for HCIS students only – they are in cooperation with one of the Fraunhofer institutes
- There will be a special registration for Fraunhofer labs
- Past (and sometimes reoccurring) offers:
  - *Data Visualization and Analytics Lab*
  - *Blockchain Experience Lab*
  - *AI Language Technology Lab*
  - *Hybrid Learning and Applications*
- Reminder E-Mail with instructions will be sent!

Seminars & Labs from RWTH Aachen

https://supra.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/

- **Central allocation procedure for CS department**
  - Interim solution – the department is working on a bilingual modern version
- Selection takes place end of preceding semester's lecture period
  - in January/February for summer term
  - in June/July for winter term
- Register and choose which seminar(s)/lab you want
- Slots are being allocated theresupon
- Provide meaningful information, choose carefully!
- Reminder E-Mail with instructions will be sent!

Seminars & Labs from Uni Bonn

https://basis.uni-bonn.de/

- Seminar and Lab allocation at Uni Bonn is done decentralized. You can contact instructors directly and ask to participate in labs and seminars.

- Take a look at the BASIS system or the different chairs for upcoming offers.

Transfer of Credits

- What can be transferred:
  - Credits from your “4+ year” bachelor and other master programs
    - Your Bachelor programs should have been at least four years!
  - Courses must be Master’s-level CS courses (or 4th year courses)
    - Similar to courses in the HCIS program
  - Maximum: 30 credits
  - Grades of transferred courses have to be better than the German grade of 2.7

- Deadline: **Mid of November (we will send detailed instructions)**

- We need:
  - letter containing which courses you want to be transferred (incl. your name, email, student ID, prioritization)
  - Mapping of your courses to existing courses at b-it
  - copy of the transcripts of your previous studies
  - (official) description of grading scheme

Thesis registration

You can register your thesis if the following prerequisits are fulfilled:

- All credits in **Compulsory modules**(12 ECTS):
  - Introduction to Learning Systems and Data Science
  - Designing Interactive Systems I
- Passing one Seminar and German Course (or additional Seminar) **in "Compulsory Elective Area: Labs, Seminar and German Language Course"**
- At least 60 ECTS overall have been achieved.
- Passing the bridging course (if you are required to take it -> see admission letter or ask msc-hcis@b-it-center.de)
- Passing the online course „Scientific Integrity" (all students)
- More Details you can check the Module Handbook and Prüfungsordnung:
  - https://online.rwth-aachen.de/RWTHonline/pl/ui/$ctx/wbModhbReport.downloadPublicMHBVersion?pOrgNr=14194&pStpStpNr=2053
  - https://www.rwth-aachen.de/global/show_document.asp?id=aaaaaaaadfenwro

Systems & Services

RWTHonline – Campus Management System

https://online.rwth-aachen.de/

- This system bundles most study related services.

- It contains…
  - module catalogue and module offers for each semester
  - module and course registrations, timetables, room information
  - exam registrations and grades
  - administrative documents (transcript, payment receipts)
  - further organizational information

- You should be able to login with your Single Sign-On credentials
  - In case of problems please contact the IT-Service Desk

Central Examination Office (ZPA)

http://www.rwth-aachen.de/zpa

- Any issue with **exams, grades, registrations, withdrawals** etc. are handled by the ZPA of RWTH Aachen University.
- If you are sick on an exam date, you'll need to inform the ZPA and attach a medical attestation form by your doctor (see details).
- The ZPA handles thesis registration and checks if you are eligible.
- Your contact person can be found here: Luisa Tylewski.
- Further information on ZPA, see here.

Examination Board

https://pa.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/

- The Examination Board is a committee of the CS department
- It consists of Professors, Employees and Students
- It decides on program-related issues and individual appeals by students, e.g. late registration for exams, transfer of credits.
- All appeals can be done online.
- Average processing time of an appeal is 4-8 weeks.
- In case of questions, please ask your academic advisory team via msc-hcis@b-it-center.de before sending an appeal.

Prolongation of Residence Permit/Visa

- If you cannot finalize the program in time, it is possible to prolong your residence permit
- In most cases, your visa office informs you about the upcoming end of your visa
- Procedure:
  - Get your intermediate transcripts at RWTHonline
  - Get a certificate at the International Office or Visa office
  - Fill out an appeal at Paperless

Sports at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen

- As students of RWTH Aachen and Uni Bonn, you have access to various sport offers.
- Registration happens online in specific time periods.
- Please check the websites of both sport departments
  - https://www.sport.uni-bonn.de/?set_language=en
  - https://hochschulsport.rwth-aachen.de/cms/~icgi/HSZ/?lidx=1
- In case of questions, please contact the respective sports department.

Student groups at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen

- There are various student groups (e.g. environmental, social, music, arts, etc.) that you can join!
- See these links for groups at Uni Bonn or RWTH Aachen
  - http://www.asta-bonn.de/Services#Student_Groups
  - https://www.uni-bonn.de/en/studying/studying-in-bonn?set_language=en
  - https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/~ejt/Engagement-Freizeit/?lidx=1

Libraries at Uni Bonn and RWTH Aachen

- As a student you are allowed to use library services at Uni Bonn and RWTH Aachen
- At the library of RWTH Aachen you can use your BlueCard (on the back you‘ll find your library number)
  - https://www.ub.rwth-aachen.de/cms/~hame/UB/?lidx=1
- At the library of Uni Bonn you‘ll need a library card, for more details see
  - https://www.ulb.uni-bonn.de/en/using-the-library/library-card-and-user-account

That‘s all for now!

Too much information?

- The start of your studies might be overwhelming.
- You are (most likely) in a new country with a different language and at a new university with different structures.
- You are also in a cooperative Master program by RWTH Aachen, Uni Bonn and the b-it.
- Things to do next: **Take a look at the HCIS web page for further information.**
  - https://www.b-it-center.de/b-it-programmes/msc-in-human-centered-intelligent-systems-hcis/description
- When contacting any service please provide your full name, student ID and e-mail address.

Save the date!

- **Bridging Course**
  - **When:** from 13. October 2025
  - **Details:** https://crypto.bit.uni-bonn.de/teaching/25ws/brico

- **Welcome Party**
  - **When:** On 29. October 2025, 16:30 – 19:00.
  - **Location:** Friedrich-Hirzebruch-Allee 6, 53115 Bonn (At Room 0.109)

- **Company Visit @ Deutsche Telekom (ExplorAltion Day!)**
  - **When:** On 18. November 2025, all day event
    Location: Telekom Headquarters, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 140, Bonn
  - **Details:** **https://www.open-telekom-cloud.com/de/events/exploraition-day**

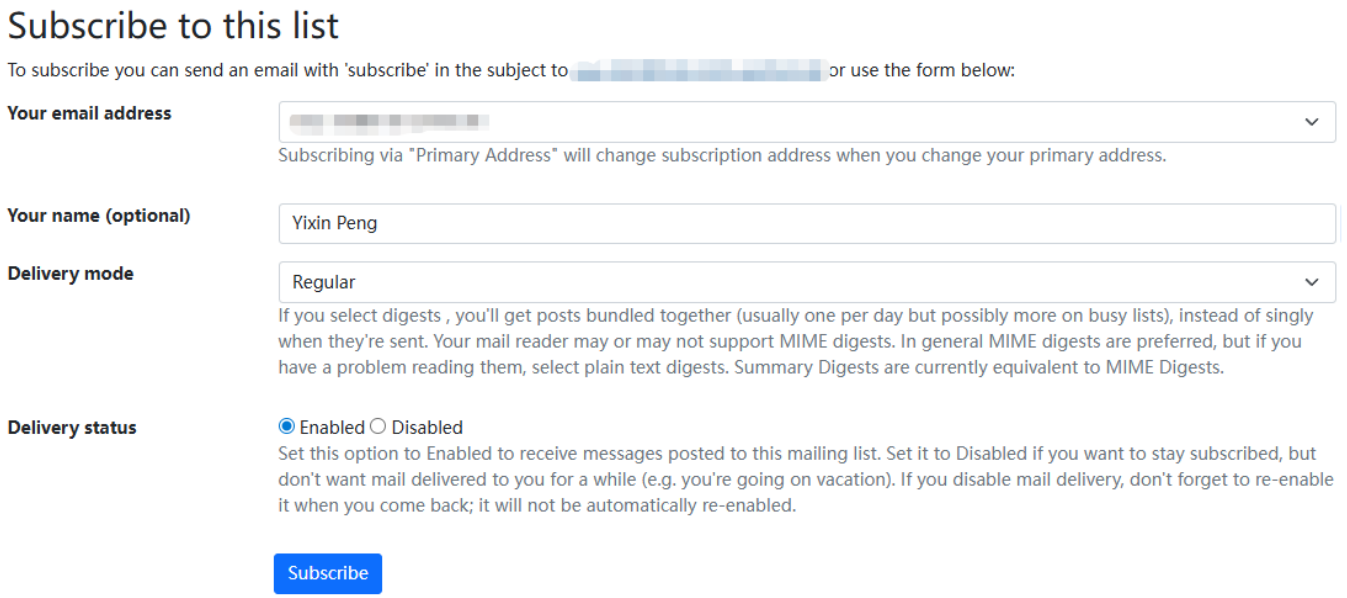
Subcribe Our Mailing List!

1. Click here to sign up with **your RWTH Email**:

   https://lists.rwth-aachen.de/accounts/signup/?next=/accounts/login/

2. Find the mailing list: hcis-students@lists.rwth-aachen.de (List Name: Hcis-students)

3. Subcribe by filling the fomular as this example:



Welcome at b-it
Welcome to Bonn/Aachen
Welcome to Germany

We wish you a very successful start in the HCIS program!

In case of questions contact …

- msc-hcis@b-it-center.de for study-related issues.
- the IT-ServiceDesk at RWTH for technical issues.
- the ZPA for exam-related issues.
- the International Office for organizational issues on your stay.
- the HRZ at Uni Bonn for issues with your Uni Bonn ID.
- the Systemgruppe IfI/b-it for issues with your b-it account.
- the Studierendenwerk Bonn for issues around housing and Mensa Card.