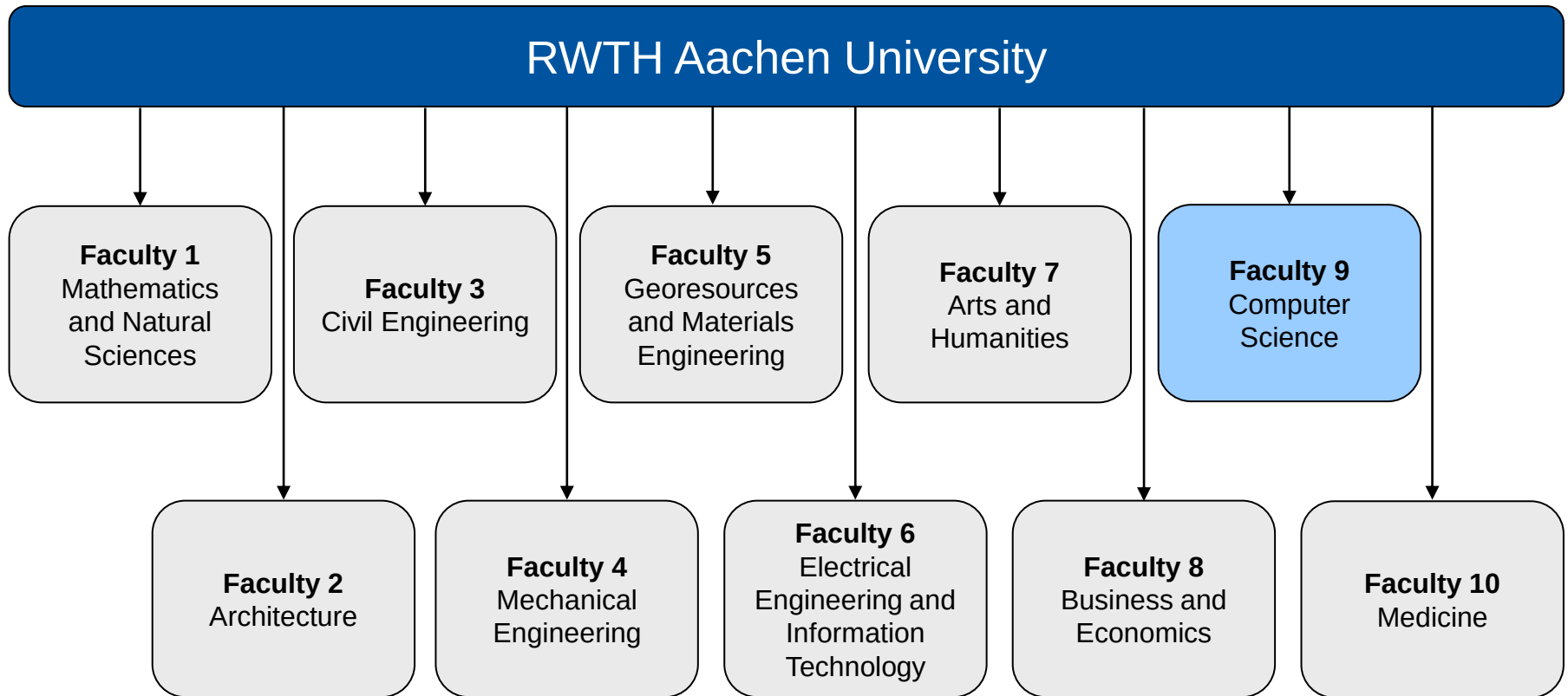




Staying Abroad at RWTH Aachen, Faculty of Computer Science

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Study advisor for exchange students



Faculty of Computer Science

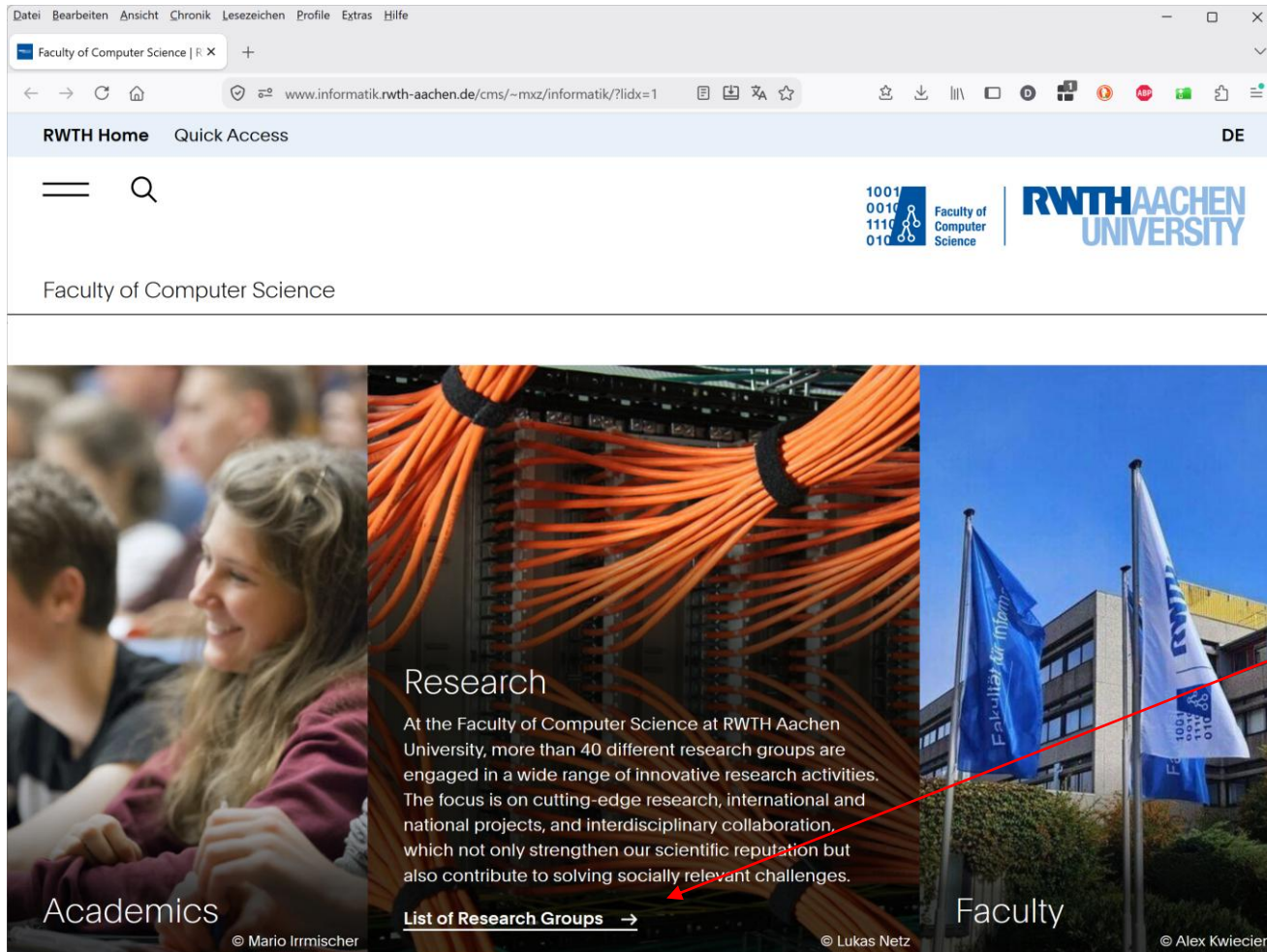
37 professors

**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

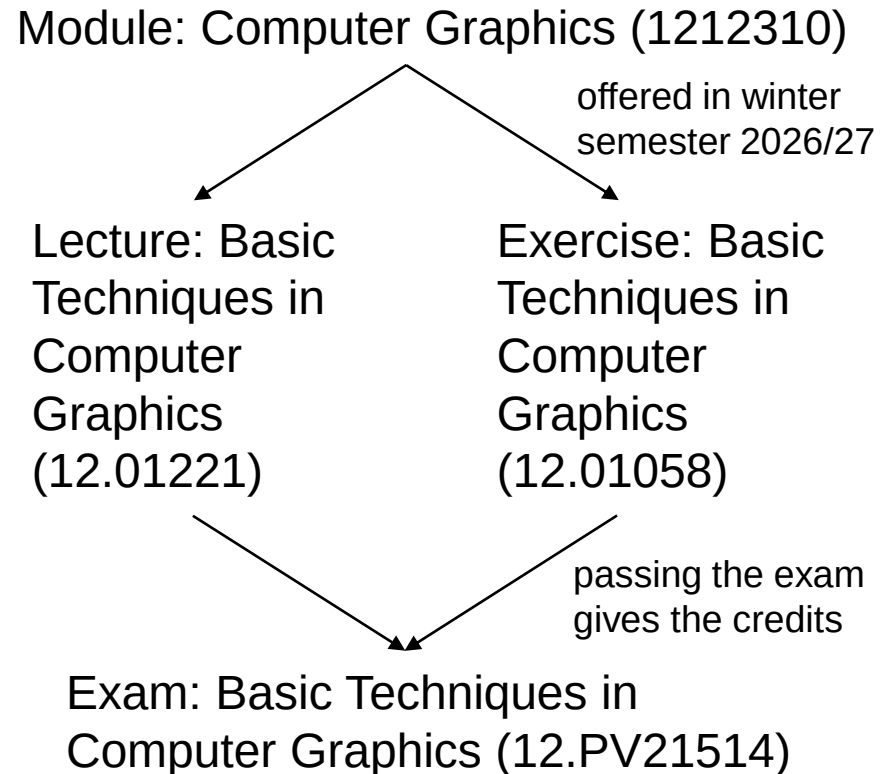
- You are enrolled in virtual study programs „degree outside Germany“
 - ▶ Effect: *you have no curriculum!*
 - Positive:
 - No limitation to certain curriculum
 - You can choose any course, you can register any exam
 - You do a „*free registration*“, i.e. outside of any curriculum
 - Negative:
 - You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

Maybe also important

- **Module? Course? Codes?**

- ▶ Module: one teaching unit with defined contents / learning outcomes
- ▶ Course: instance of (parts of) a module in a certain semester
- ▶ Exam: examination to determine the grade for a module
- ▶ All might have different names and codes!

- **Example**



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* (see next slide)

- 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 Organization or Curriculum

The screenshot shows the RWTHOnline interface. The 'Courses' tab is selected in the top navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, there are three filter dropdowns: 'Term' (set to '2026 W'), 'Curriculum' (set to 'All'), and 'Organisation' (set to 'Faculty of Computer Science'). A search bar is present with the placeholder text 'Filter by course number, course title or person'. To the right of the search bar are two buttons: 'FILTER' and 'TITLE (ASCENDING)'. Below these filters is a list of courses. Each course entry includes a course number, title, semester/credits (SWS), lecturer information, and a status indicator. Some courses have a 'View course registration details' button.

Course Number	Course Title	SWS	Lecturer	Status	Action
12.00086	Advanced Algorithms	SE 2 SWS	Hoefer, Martin Karl Wilhelm	No registration procedures for this course	>
12.00085	Advanced Network Security	LE 4 SWS	Meyer, Ulrike Michaela; Drichel, Arthur; Lux, Luisa Georgia	Course open for registration	View course registration details >
12.00025	Advanced Operating Systems	L 3 SWS	Gouicem, Redha	Course open for registration	View course registration details >
12.00038	Advanced Operating Systems	E 2 SWS	Gouicem, Redha	Course open for registration	View course registration details >
12.00119	Advanced Simulation and Web Application of Renewable Energy	LA 4 SWS	Abraham, Erika	No registration procedures for this course	>
12.05704	Advanced Study Group: Programming Verification	E 2 SWS	Giesl, Jürgen	No registration procedures for this course	>
12.29000	Advanced Topics in Logic	L 3 SWS	Grohe, Martin	No registration procedures for this course	>

Finding Courses of a certain Module

The screenshot shows the RWTH Aachen online portal. The top navigation bar includes 'Modules / Computer Graphics' (circled in red). The left sidebar has 'Overview' (selected) and 'Courses and Exams' (circled in red). The main content area has an 'Overview' section and a 'Courses and Exams' section (circled in red). The 'Overview' section displays the following information:

Term	2026W
Name	Computer Graphics
Module ID	1212310
ECTS credits	6 ECTS may vary according to SPO version
Version	Angelegt über RWTH API als 1
Valid	from Winter semester 2007/08
Responsible for Module	-
Organisation	Faculty of Computer Science
Note	-

The 'Courses and Exams' section displays a list of courses:

- Exercises Introduction to Computer Graphics 121231002** - ECTS 5, SEMESTER (W), SEMESTER (S)
COURSE 12.01058 Basic Techniques in Computer Graphics
E | 2 SH | 2026 W | Next date AH III (2350|314.1) on, THU, 15.10.2026, 16:30 - 18:00
Lecturer: Kobbelt, Leif
- Lecture Introduction to Computer Graphics** 5, SEMESTER (W), SEMESTER (S)
COURSE 12.01221 Basic Techniques in Computer Graphics
L | 3 SH | 2026 W | Next date AH V (2356|050) on, TUE, 13.10.2026, 14:30 - 16:00
Lecturer: Kobbelt, Leif

Alternatively / in addition: presentation videos

- **All (or at least: several) electives of our faculty will be presented by short videos:**
 - ▶ <https://sc.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/en/wahlpflicht/>
 - ▶ Goes online end of this or next week (hopefully)
 - ▶ Website also contains ECTS credits for exchange students, links to module handbook and time/room of first lecture
- **But:**
 - ▶ Mostly electives, nearly no compulsory courses of our Bachelor program
 - Most compulsory courses anyway are in German
 - The English-taught ones are included
 - ▶ Only courses of our faculty

Course choice: where to choose from

- ***At least 60% 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 40% 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 RWTHonline interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the RWTH Aachen University logo, the text 'RWTHonline', a maintenance notice for 27.09.2023, and a login button. Below this is a 'Courses' section with filters for Term (2023 W), Curriculum (Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject)), and Organisation (RWTH Aachen University). A search filter 'Communication' is applied. The course list shows four entries. The third entry, '12.45207 Communication Systems Engineering', is circled in red. It is a 'LE' (Lecture + Exercise) course with 4 SWS, offered by Thißen, Dirk. The other courses are 'Advanced Topics in Signal Processing and Communication' (L and E versions) and 'Research Focus Class on Communication Systems'.

Course ID	Course Name	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 filters are set to Term: 2023 W, Curriculum: Informatik [2023], Master (1-Subject), and Organisation: RWTH Aachen University. The search results show two courses under the filter 'concur':

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

The first course (12.38074) is circled in red. The page shows 1 - 2 from 2 entries.

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 abschließend

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

Filter: 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 >

- ***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 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**

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

- ▶ You can *download your transcript* via RWTHOnline (see before)
- ▶ *If a signature is needed, send the transcript 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

- **A short note**

- ▶ *Credits for courses shown on your grades certificate may differ from your learning agreement*
 - Side effect in RWTHonline for exchange students – contact me if this causes trouble, I can set up the transcript manually with correct numbers
- ▶ *No course/module 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**

- ▶ next week
- ▶ 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://esa.rwth-aachen.de/schedule/8/pdf>
- ▶ <https://fsmpi.eu/erstiwoche> (Registration)

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>