

Your Start at KIT

To help you transition smoothly into your studies, we've compiled key resources and support services here for you.

Orientation Week and Peer-to-Peer Support by the Student Council

The Student Council ([Fachschaft](#)) represents all students of the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science. The [Orientation Week](#), so called "O-Phase", is provided "by students for students" from October 19th–24th. The program is designed to help you navigate your way at KIT and the Mathematics Department, and build a supportive network among your fellow students.

The Student Council also offers engaging opportunities beyond the O-Phase:

- Social events to connect with peers and explore your new environment, such as a regular Breakfast or Karaoke,
- Peer-to-peer advice from current students who've navigated similar experiences,
- Opportunities to get involved in the decision-making bodies of the department.

💡 Think of the Student Council as your go-to hub for sharing experiences, shaping your student life, and everything related to life at KIT. Make the most of it—it's there for *you*!

For International Students: Navigating a New Academic Environment

Starting your studies in a new country and educational system comes with unique challenges. The International Student Office (IStO) offers tailored services to support your transition. You're not alone—connect with others and take advantage of IStO's workshops and programs. The International Student Office (IStO) provides dedicated services for international students including:

- A pre-arrival course was already held in August. Yet, the [slides are available online](#) and might still be very helpful.
- The [Start of Studies for Internationals program](#) from October 12th-23rd, including some online events as well as in person socializing and cultural offers around Karlsruhe. For international students who are unable to arrive until a later date, there will be [additional workshops](#).
- An [International Buddy Program](#) – a platform to connect newly arrived students from all over the world and experienced students at KIT, [the International Student Hub](#) – offering international degree-seeking students comprehensive advice and support as well as [Support Services](#) during your studies.

🔗 Explore more about these services and how to contact IStO here:
<https://www.intl.kit.edu/istudies/index.php>

There's also some **general information available on [Starting Your Studies at KIT](#)** including the [video series "How to Ersti"](#) (English subtitles available).

Begin of Classes and your Individual Study Plan

This master's program is intentionally flexible, consisting almost entirely of elective modules.

This structure lets you tailor your academic path based on your previous qualifications, interests, and career goals. This freedom is empowering—but it also comes with responsibility. You'll need to navigate the program's requirements thoughtfully ([Study and Examination Regulations](#) of M.Sc. CDS). You can find a summary of the requirements in the study plan, which is an introductory component of the module handbook.

Lectures begin on Monday, October 26th, 2026. Please select your lectures and courses independently before the lectures start. Consult your [module handbook](#) for guidance:

Review the introductory chapter "Study Plan" for an overview of subjects and program conditions; check the module listings (chapter "Study Program Structure") for language of instruction and frequency. Module descriptions include one or several module components, which usually provide links to the current course catalog with additional details on contents, dates/times/places, and whether or not registration is required.

All courses offered by the Department of Mathematics in the Winter Term 2026/27 are also listed on [this webpage](#). When using this list, you'll have to countercheck, if this course is part of the program (i.e. if it is also listed in the module handbook).

Note: **The SEE-profile Computational Earth System Sciences (CESS) includes an [obligatory introductory course](#).** The course "Overview and selected topics" is to help CESS students plan their studies in this profile, as CESS offers a wide range of choices from the atmospheric, hydrological, ecological and geo-sciences, and earth observation sciences. If you plan to study this profile, please make sure you attend this course and especially **the first lecture** of M-BGU-107872 "Overview and selected topics":

Time: Wednesday, October 28, 14:00 - 15:30

Place: 10.50, R 702, see <https://www.kit.edu/campusplan/>

Academic Guidance and Service

For **general advice** and individual counseling [The Student Advisory Services \(ZSB\) of KIT](#) offer their services to students of all study programs at KIT. Advice on general organizational matters, a change of subject, doubts and crises, or studying in special circumstances (such as family responsibilities, health impairments, etc.) can be found there. 📩 Check the [webpage](#) for business hours and directions.

For questions about your academic path **within the program**, the [student advisory service](#) of the Department of Mathematics is here to help. Whether you need guidance on structuring your studies, advice for recognizing prior coursework, or general support with planning, the program advisor provides support with individual program-specific questions. 📩 Contact: [Prof. Dr. Willy Dörfler](#).

Student Center: Exam-Related and Administrative Support

The [Student Center for Mathematics](#) offers comprehensive advice and service for students.

Need help with

- study and examination regulations, deadlines,
- general administrative questions relating to examinations, such as forms and applications to the examination board,
- special cases of exam registration and deregistration
- individual modifications of study plans, such as adding modules that are not part of your program?

The Student Center is here to guide you.



Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 AM; Thursdays, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM
(and by phone or email upon request).