



Hier
beginnt's

STUDY CULTURE AT OVGU

Summer semester 2026

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OVGU SAYS

WELCOME!



Presentation Structure

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1. Introduction
2. Course Registration
3. Teaching Formats
4. The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture
5. Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems
6. Formal Academic Communication
7. Important Contacts
8. Tips for a Successful Start at OVGU

1.) Introduction

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Independence & Self-responsibility



- **Building your own timetable**
- **Keeping an eye on deadlines and registration periods for exams**
- **Taking initiative**
- **Managing your own time effectively**
- **Revising regularly**
- **Seeking out and making use of the university's support offers**

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2.) Course Registration



2.) Course Registration

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LSF Workshops during the [International Welcome Weeks](#)

March 25, 10 – 11 a.m., hybrid in Building 22, Room 211 + Zoom

March 30, 10 – 11 a.m., only Zoom

- Course registration, creating your timetable, exam registration (LSF)
- Moodle (e-learning platform)
- Registration for sports courses, language courses

→ **Find Zoom links in „Welcome to OVGU“ app**

2.) Course Registration

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Important documents:

- Module handbook
- Study regulations
- Examination regulations

More Links

- ▶ [Homepage of the study programme](#)
- ▶ [Faculty \(INF\)](#)
- ▶ [Study regulations](#)
- ▶ [Examination regulations](#)
- ▶ [Module handbook](#)
- ▶ [FAQ Study](#)

→ You can find the documents on the website of your study program

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3.) Teaching Formats



3.) Teaching Formats

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Lectures („Vorlesung“)

- Usually held in bigger lecture theatres and halls
- Frontal and less interactive
- Focus on transferring knowledge
- Students independently take their own notes, analogue to teaching materials (Visual presentations, scripts, etc.)

3.) Teaching Formats

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Seminars („Seminare“)

- Group-sized sessions
- Registration of attendance
- Focus on discussing and interacting with teaching contents
- Thrives on **active participation**, constructive criticism and independent preparations before classes

3.) Teaching Formats

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Tutorials, mandatory („Tutorium“/“Übungen“)

- Most common in technical courses
- Practical application and practicing of lecture contents (e.g. in computer labs, etc.)
- Thrives on active participation

Tutorials, voluntary („Tutorium“)

- An extra offer to ask for course specific help and get even more practice
- Discuss difficulties
- Usually held by final year or master students

3.) Teaching Formats

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An extra insider tip...

...it is common to thank the teaching staff at the end of a lecture or seminar by knocking on the table in front of your seat. It is a form of applause.



A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal blue line extending from the left edge of the slide to a solid blue circle. To the right of the circle, the text "Hier beginnt's" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. On the right side of the slide, there are two vertical lines: one blue and one pink. Both lines have a jagged, zig-zag pattern, resembling a stylized staircase or a decorative border. The blue line is on the left of the pink line, and they both extend from the top to the bottom of the slide.

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4.) The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture

4.) The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture

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Importance of Punctuality

- Showing up to appointments on time and informing teaching staff in advance in case of absence
- On German terms- being on time means being 5 minutes early... just in case ;-)

4.) The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture

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An Unspoken Rule...

- **„Akademisches Viertel“** – classes of any kind start a quarter past and end a quarter to the full hour
 - Allows for enough time to change buildings or grab a quick lunch at the Mensa
- This doesn't apply to other appointments (e.g. student advising) on campus, only to courses!

4.) The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture

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Summer semester 2026 - April 01, 2026 - September 30, 2026

Medical Faculty

Classes: April 07, 2026 - July 17, 2026*

All other Faculties

Introductory Days: April 01, 2026 - April 02, 2026

Classes: April 07, 2026 - July 10, 2026

No classes

Labour Day: May 01, 2026

Ascension: May 14, 2026

Whit Monday: May 25, 2026

No written Examinations:** August 10, 2026 - September 12, 2026

Maintenance work on e-learning systems and Mediasite:*** August 17, 2026 - August 29, 2026

Maintenance work in the lecture halls and seminar rooms:*** August 17, 2026 - August 29, 2026

Winter semester 2026/27 - October 01, 2026 - March 31, 2027

Medical Faculty

Introductory Days: October 05, 2026 - October 09, 2026

Classes: October 12, 2026 - February 05, 2027*

All other Faculties

Introductory Days: October 05, 2026 - October 09, 2026

Classes: October 12, 2026 - January 29, 2027

No classes

Christmas Break: December 21, 2026 - January 01, 2027

Epiphany Three Kings: January 06, 2027

University closed

December 28, 2026 - December 30, 2026

Semester dates at OVGU

- To be found on OVGU website

<https://www.ovgu.de/unimagdeburg/en/academiccalendar-p-49226.html>

4.) The Academic Calendar and German Time Culture

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Important dates and examination deadlines

This page serves to provide simple, quick and clear information on important dates and examination deadlines of the institutions involved in the examination administration of Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg.

For information on the ›academic calendar‹ or the ›application periods of the individual study programs‹, please refer to the main page of Otto-von-Guericke University: ›www.ovgu.de‹

The periods for exam registration and deregistration are determined by the examination boards in the faculties. For this reason, registration for and deregistration from examinations is done on a faculty-by-faculty basis. The following table provides a quick overview:

Faculty/Institution	courses of study	regular exam deadlines	
		exam registration	exam deregistration
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	all	winter semester term: 15 th November until 30 th November	up to 3 days before the respective examination date
Faculty of Process and Systems Engineering			
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology			
Faculty of Computer Science			
Faculty of Mathematics	all	winter semester term: 15 th November until 30 th November summer semester term: 15 th May until 31 st May; Oral Examinations: exact date	up to 3 days before the respective examination date

Important dates and examination deadlines

- To be found on the OVGU website

<https://www.servicecenter.ovgu.de/csc/en/Examinations/Important+dates+and+examination+deadlines.html>

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5.) Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems



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The German Grading System

1	• Sehr gut – excellent (1.0, 1.3)
2	• Gut – good (1.7, 2.0, 2.3)
3	• Befriedigend – satisfactory (2.7, 3.0, 3.3)
4	• Ausreichend – sufficient (3.7, lowest passing grade 4.0)
5	• Ungenügend – insufficient (failing grade 5.0)

5.) Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems

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Examination Formats

First of all...

- „Prüfungszulassung“ – occasionally, you are required to submit papers or group projects, take quizzes or hold a presentation **first** in order to be admitted to the final exam
- Registering for a module does *not* automatically guarantee you admission to the final exam

5.) Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems

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Examination Formats

Now... Written/ (Take-home)/ Oral Exams

- Various formats are possible, depending on each module you take (multiple choice, open answer, etc.)
- After an exam is graded, you have the chance to look at it once more to find out what you have done wrong exactly („Klausureneinsicht“)
- There are no official release dates for grades

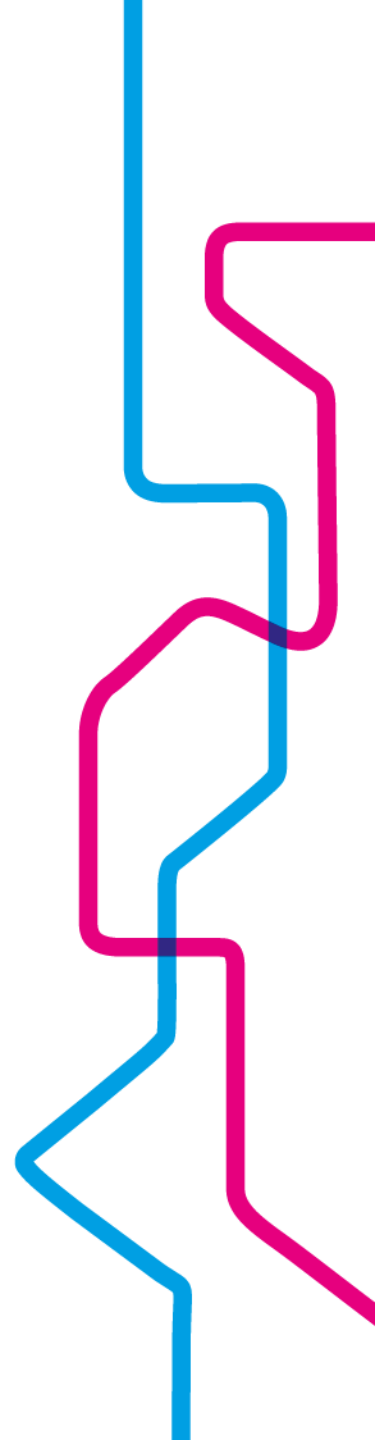
5.) Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems

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Examination Formats

Coursework

- „Hausarbeiten“, usually 12-18 written pages
- Worth 100% of your grade
- **Importance of adherence to academic standards such as correct formatting and referencing to avoid plagiarism**
(some programs include writing courses)



5.) Exams, Coursework, Grades and their Systems

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Examination Formats

Group/ Single Presentations



- Duration of 10-45 minutes
- Often, a handout sheet or leaflet are required, additionally to a visual presentation (MS PowerPoint)
- **Importance of adherence to academic standards**

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6.) Formal Academic Communication



6.) Formal Academic Communication

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German E-Mail etiquette

- Use of **formal pronouns** (Sie/Ihnen), **titles** (Dr., Prof.) and formal greetings & regards (Sehr geehrte_r... / Mit freundlichen Grüßen...)
- The use of formal pronouns applies to in person communication as well

6.) Formal Academic Communication

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University communication etiquette

- **Research first** – find out who handles your issue before asking
- **Email one appropriate person**, not multiple
- **Write clear, concise emails** instead of sending many small ones
- **Limited weekend availability** – offices closed, Fridays often end early (2 pm)
- **Expect delays** – responses may take several days, Contact us as soon as possible

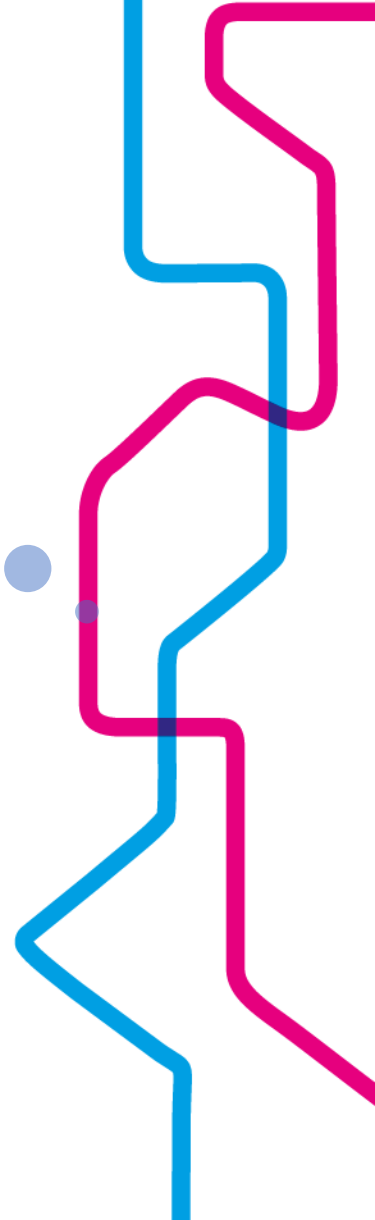
6.) Formal Academic Communication

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Direct- and Clearness

- Are not seen as rude but **efficient**
- Don't mistake criticism for harshness
-and don't take it personally
- Criticism and mistakes are part of the process, they serve as opportunities to grow and improve

Say what you
mean,
mean what you
say



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7.) Important Contacts



7.) Important Contacts

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Campus Welcome Center

- International Office
- International Student Advising
- Student Registration Office

For all consulting services, please book an appointment online in advance:

<https://www.servicecenter.ovgu.de/>



7.) Important Contacts

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Campus Welcome Center

International Office

Advisor for international degree students:

Ms. Eva Böhning

- Study consultation, social questions, immigration law, internships, de-registration etc.
- Eva.boehning@ovgu.de



Advisor for international exchange students:

Ms. Anne-Katrin Güldenpfennig

- Anne-katrin.gueldenpfennig@ovgu.de



7.) Important Contacts

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Campus Welcome Center

International Office

Advisor for ERASMUS study abroad semester:

Ms. Marilena Wiegmann

- Erasmus-out@ovgu.de

Advisor for WORLDWIDE study abroad semester:

Ms. Sylvia Seela

- Worldwide-out@ovgu.de



7.) Important Contacts

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Campus Welcome Center

International Office

Advisors for ERASMUS traineeships (Office Saxony-Anhalt):

Ms Angela Wittkamp & Ms. Maja Weber

- Placements and financing of internships in Europe and Worldwide for students, graduates (until 1 year after graduation) and PhD students
- Erasmus-praktika@ovgu.de



7.) Important Contacts

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Campus Welcome Center

International Student Advising

Ms. Alexandra Gottschalk

- Study consultation: study possibilities, requirements, recognition of international qualifications & achievements from abroad, course change etc.
- Student-advising@ovgu.de



Student Registration Office (enrolment office)

- Processes of application, admission, enrolment, leave of absence, re-registration, change of degree programme, de-registration
- Room and schedule planning, graduate funding

7.) Important Contacts

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University Library

- Registration service, borrowing & ordering of books and journals, consultation & e-tutorials
- Learning carrels (pre-booking required), long-term lockers
- Other services: user PCs, WiFi, internet, scan, copy, print

<https://www.ub.ovgu.de/ub/en/Service.html>

University Computing Centre (URZ)

- Account activation, password reset, email account
- it-service@ovgu.de

<https://www.urz.ovgu.de/en/>

7.) Important Contacts

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Faculties

Student Advisor

- Study-related/academic questions, e.g. about courses, regulations, internships, thesis

OTTO VON GUERICKE
UNIVERSITÄT
MAGDEBURG

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UNIVERSITY | STUDY | RESEARCH | INTERNATIONAL | CAMPUS & CITY | CAREER

Home > Study > Study Programmes > Study Programm... > Chemical and Energy Engineering

STUDY PROGRAMME
Chemical and Energy Engineering

DEGREE CONFERRED	Master of Science (M.Sc.)
DURATION	4 Semester
ENROLLMENT	Winter and summer semester
ADMISSION RESTRICTION	No restricted admission
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	

Subject-specific advisor
Dr. rer. nat. Werner Hintz
Universitätsplatz 2
39106 Magdeburg
G18-307
☎ +49 391 67-52295
✉ cee-advisor@ovgu.de

7.) Important Contacts

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Faculties

Examination Office

- Examination office at each faculty
- Registration, information, advice for examinations, internships
- Recognition of already completed courses

<https://www.servicecenter.ovgu.de/csc/en/Examinations/Examination+Offices.html>

7.) Important Contacts

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Faculties

Faculty Student Council („Fachschaftsrat“)

- Each of 9 faculties has own student council (FaRa/FasRa)
 - Main student body at faculty level
 - 4-7 representatives are elected
 - Activities during the semester vary
- [Overview](#) of „Fachschaftsräte“ at OVGU

7.) Important Contacts

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Faculties

Academic & social mentoring in some faculties

- SI@FIN (Support Internationals) / Academic Club
- SI@FEIT
- SIMP-SON, ISP at FWW



7.) Important Contacts

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Student Council („Studierendenrat“)

- Highest self-governing body for students at OVGU
- Representing their interests in academic, social, cultural, political matters
- Support student projects, social loans, events, integration of international students

7.) Important Contacts

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Studentenwerk Magdeburg

- BAföG, Cafeteria („Mensa“), student dorms, Campus Child Care

Consulting:

- Social counselling
- Financial advice
- Psychosocial counselling
- Legal advice

<https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/en/>

8.) Tips for a **successful** Start at OVGU



8.) Tips for a Successful Start at OVGU

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Settling in to a new environment...

- Keep an **open mind**
 - Have **courage**- to meet new people, to make mistakes or to try something new
 - Have fun **exploring**
 - Have **patience** with yourself
 - **Enjoy!**

8.) Tips for a Successful Start at OVGU

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Academic support:

- Study program advisor
- Websites of faculties
- Scientific works late Night at University Library

Social participation:

- Student initiatives („Markt der Möglichkeiten“)
- IKUS (Intercultural Students)
- OVGU sport courses
- Language courses



5.) Tips for a Successful Start at OVGU

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German language courses:

OVGU Language Center (SPRZ): Language courses & Tandem project

- Registration period: March 30 from 9 a.m. – April 17, 2026, 6 p.m. via Moodle
- Courses start on April 7, only with timely online registration
- Placement Test required (besides for level A1)

German courses of International Career Service

- Start July/August with intensive part at all levels (e.g. A2.1.) and continue during winter semester with 2nd part (e.g. A2.2.)

IKUS Language Café

- Regular event to practice speaking German with native speakers:
„Welcome to OVGU“ App

5.) Tips for a Successful Start at OVGU

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Other possibilities to learn German in Magdeburg:

German course of the [University of Applied Science](#)

From A1.1 – B2.2, Placement test on March 31, contact: daf@h2.de

[Language schools](#) in Magdeburg: Adult Education Center (VHS), Berlitz

Learning German before arrival or online:

[Goethe-Institut](#) offers language courses, develops teaching materials

[vhs learning portal](#) for free online German courses/digital integration courses for beginners and advanced learners at levels A1 to B2

[Deutsche Welle-Learn German](#) for various materials for all levels

Various language learning apps: [Babbel](#), [Duolingo](#), [Lingoda](#), etc.



ANY QUESTIONS?

