Info Sheet - German Effective Altruism Intro Program
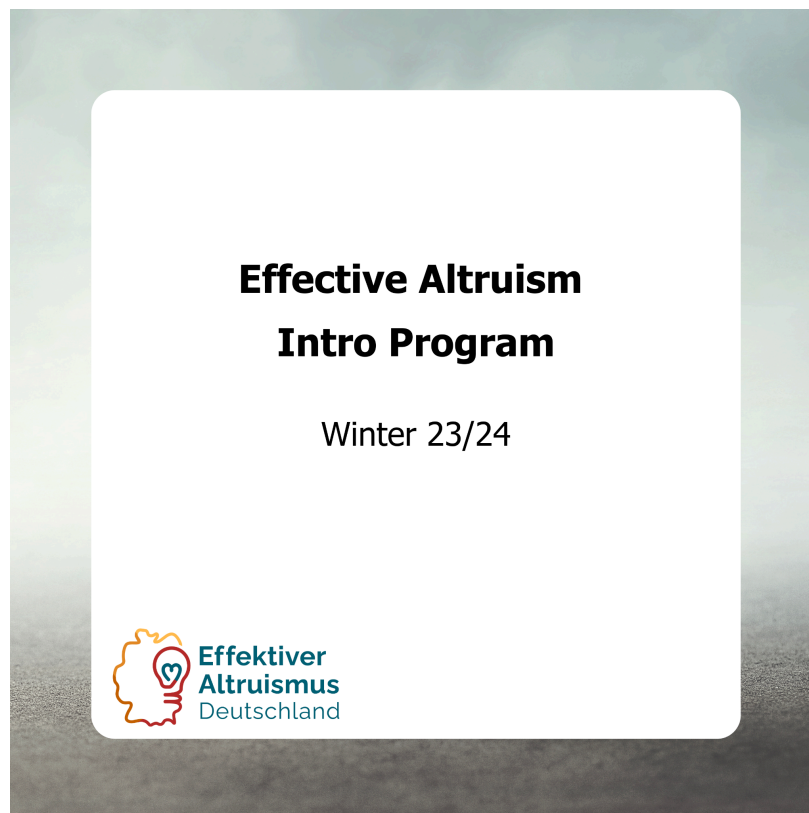
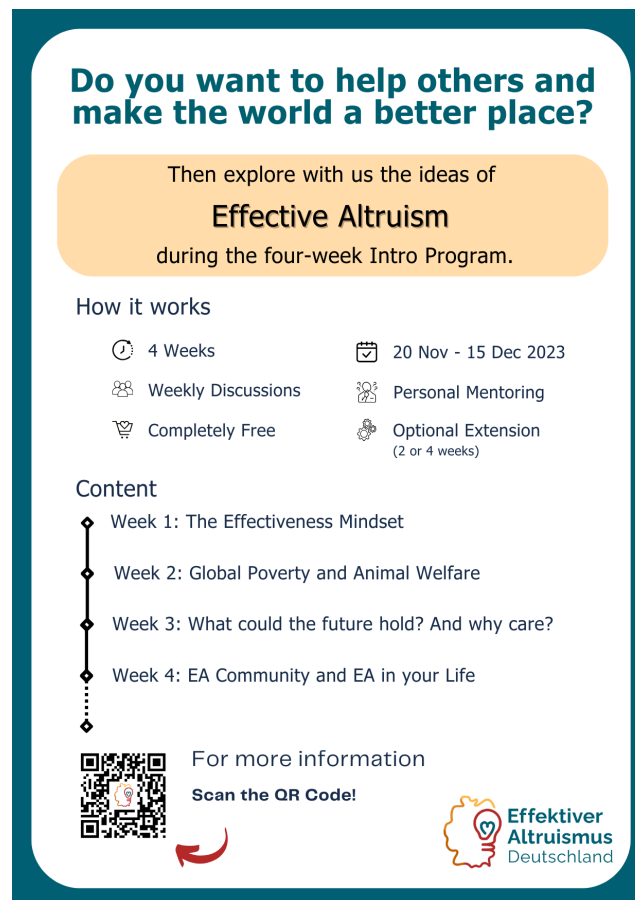**Effective Altruism**

Intro Program

Winter 23/24

Welcome

That's the info sheet of the German Effective Altruism Intro Program. Here you can find all the details like testimonials or frequently asked questions. You can also find general info on our **official website on [Effektiver Altruismus Deutschland](#)**.

- Usually, an Intro Program takes place at the start of **each semester.**
- You can also sign up for the **[Effektiver Altruismus Deutschland Newsletter](#)** to be notified when another application period begins.

Main information

All general information and the link to the application can be found on our website.

Do you want to help others and make the world a better place?

Then explore with us the ideas of
Effective Altruism
during the four-week Intro Program.

How it works

- 4 Weeks
- Weekly Discussions
- Completely Free
- 20 Nov - 15 Dec 2023
- Personal Mentoring
- Optional Extension (2 or 4 weeks)

Content

Week 1: The Effectiveness Mindset

Week 2: Global Poverty and Animal Welfare

Week 3: What could the future hold? And why care?

Week 4: EA Community and EA in your Life

For more information
Scan the QR Code!

Diversity

We are committed to building a diverse cohort of participants. There is some evidence suggesting that underprivileged individuals tend to underestimate their abilities. We do not want the application process to dissuade potential candidates, and we strongly encourage interested students to apply regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, physical ability, etc. We also encourage both undergraduate, graduate and professional students, as well as individuals from all intellectual backgrounds and majors to apply.

Testimonials

"The Introductory Program helped me enormously to gain a systematic overview of what Effective Altruism encompasses and motivated me to delve deeper into the topic and become active myself. In addition, you get to know many open and exciting people and gain access to a unique community. I can really recommend it to everyone :)"

- Moritz, Medicine [Promotion]

"By chance, a friend introduced me to the EA Intro Program. I was tempted to discover the construct of Effective Altruism. And so it turned out that the Intro Program is also something for complete beginners: It offered me a very exciting, lively and discussion-rich introduction to the topic. It also opened up new perspectives, approaches and much more! Participation is worth it :)"

- Tobias, Physics [Master]

"Through the EA Intro Program, I not only got an overview of various EA-relevant topics, but also had the opportunity to question my own perspective on these topics in the many discussions. I was particularly enthusiastic about the group dynamics and the willingness to support, both on the part of the moderators and the other participants. Even after completing the program, I am still in contact with some of the participants and we have been meeting regularly for career planning sessions ever since. Overall, I feel part of the EA community since the Intro Program."

- Helena, Bioinformatics [Master]

"Even before my Intro Program I had heard and read about the concepts and ideas of Effective Altruism and as a result I was initially skeptical about EA. When I heard about the Intro Program, I realized that my previous attitude towards the EA was mainly based on half-knowledge, which is why I wanted to get to know the organization and philosophy behind it in more detail - A good decision! The Intro Program not only gave

me an insight into the depth, versatility and differentiation of the various positions and arguments represented in the EA, but also always offered the opportunity to question them with the other participants and mentors in an open and appreciative atmosphere and to develop my own position. Thus, I take away from my Intro Program some new thought-provoking impulses, analytical tools for answering ethical questions, contacts to interesting and committed people, and a lot of desire to engage with further theoretical and practical world-improvement approaches from the EA community."

- Paul, Philosophy and Economics [Bachelor]

"For me, the induction program was not only enriching in terms of content, but also a personal and friendly event that gave me great new ideas - and probably through that there will be a new local group in my city!"

- Louisa, Medicine

Further information

We highly appreciate feedback and are improving the program iteratively. So the current program might be slightly different.

Program overview

EA Intro Program
Kick-Off - Overview & Getting to know each other
Week 1 - Effectiveness Mindset and Rationality
Week 2 - Global poverty and animal welfare
Impact Challenge - Vegan Week
Week 3 - Longtermism and existential risks
Week 4 - EA in your life
Official closing, reflection and socializing
Optional Socials
Personal mentoring (e.g. 1-1s with EAD team or moderators)

Optional extension
Week 5 - Cause Area Deep Dive
Week 6 - Career planning
Week 7 - Your own Project I
Week 8 - Your own Project II

Certificate

After successful completion of the Intro Program [attending at least 70% of the "mandatory" meetings] you will receive an official certificate and EA Germany will officially congratulate you on LinkedIn if you wish.

- Here you can see how you as a participant can embed the certificate as an official award on your LinkedIn profile: Certificate embedded on LinkedIn
- Here you can find the official congratulations of the participants from the respective years.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: "Is the Intro Program for free?"
  - Yes, it's 100% free for all participants.

Contact

If you have any questions, ideas, suggestions, feel free to contact us at: intro-program@effektiveraltruismus.de

Selected projects done by participants

1. **Using and evaluating different calibration training tools**
   a. Resources
      i. Metaculus
      ii. Openphil
   b. Review
      i. Over the past two weeks, I embarked on a self-calibration project to refine my estimation skills, inspired by Julia Galef's "Scout Mindset" and Douglas W. Hobbart's "How to Measure Anything". This exercise seeks to overcome overconfidence or under confidence in estimation through training, with the aim of one's confidence level mirroring their accuracy. Estimations involve probability assignments, which can be honed through platforms like Metaculus and Openphil. These platforms provide a variety of formats for practicing estimation, requiring a modest 30-minute

commitment per session. I believe this project has potential, and I recommend others to engage in such calibration exercises.

2. **Reflecting on Ratings Directory for Companies**
   a. [EA Forum Post](#)
   b. Review
      i. Recognizing the lack of a comprehensive resource for job seekers interested in Effective Altruism-aligned roles, I propose the creation of a directory. This tool, akin to a socially responsible version of Glassdoor, would provide insight into companies' societal impact and hold them accountable. Following a review of resources such as wiki forum EA-related orgs, GiveWell, and Good On You, I recommend considering metrics such as transparency, cost-effectiveness, alignment with EA's pressing causes, EA-driven recommendations, environmental impact, philanthropic contributions, and ethical leadership. However, I'm left with two questions: 1) Is this tool potentially useful? 2) What resources can provide data for these metrics?

3. **Applying for internships, EA Global**
4. **Doing an internal research document about different roles in AI Safety**
5. **Founding a new EA local group**
6. **Planning a discussion round about animal welfare**
7. **Doing some research and setting up a regular donation**
8. **Other projects …**

Templates & Promotion Material

With the start of the summer semester 2024, we want to offer the intro program in this structure.

- Standard: Germany-wide synchronous start with events such as sizable giving games, 1on1 mentorship, impact challenges, book scholarship, extension to 8 weeks with own projects, etc.
- Optional: Local groups can start the Intro Program if they have enough people at any time of the year. They need to keep in touch with the Intro Program organizers to get support and ensure quality standards. For that purpose, we will publish specific templates. If you want to facilitate an Intro Program on your own, write us an email.

The templates have grown organically and are far from perfect. We therefore welcome feedback from all. Just leave a comment in the respective document.

→ **Templates German EA Intro Program**

→ We update this folder occasionally. We don't know how often it gets used. Message us and we can update them.

Following templates are the core documents for the Intro Program that will be found in the shared folder:

- Application
  - Form for participants
  - Form for moderators
  - Form for co-organizers
- Promotion
  - Messages
  - Sharepics, Flyers
- Content
  - **Journal**
  - **Group discussion document**
  - **Info/Coordination Sheet**
- Other
  - 1on1-mentorship

Archive Congratulations

2023/24 Winter
- [Congratulation Participants](#)

2023 Summer
- [Congratulation Participants](#)

2022/23 Winter
- [Congratulation Participants](#)

2022 Summer
- [Congratulation Participants](#)

2021/22 Winter
- [Congratulation Participants](#)

2021 Summer
- [Congratulation Participants](#)