WELCOME TO THE FAQ
FOR CS & AI

As student representatives for Computer Science and AI, we are frequently contacted with questions about our studies. This FAQ should help answer most of them.
Das ist die englische Version. Das deutsche Äquivalent findest du hier:
📄 DE FAQ Informatik & AI

This FAQ is divided into three sections: General questions, questions about the Bachelor and then ones concerning the Master's studies.
At the end of the document, you will also find the link to our Discord FAQ & Guide, and to our Internationals FAQ.

For a collection of important information for your study start, we have also created a more in-depth study guide. You can find the guide for Computer Science here and the one for AI here!

If you have any further questions or feedback, do not hesitate to contact us. Either via email (informatik@oeh.jku.at and ai@oeh.jku.at) or via Discord. If you are not yet on our Discord server for Computer Science & AI, join by following this link: https://discord.gg/wAek576.

The FAQ is constantly being updated. You can find the date it was last modified below. We have taken great care in answering the questions, but of course, errors may occur. Please contact us if you find any, and treat the FAQ as initial information - contact us directly for solutions to more complex problems.

Finally, we will sometimes provide law references to aid you in finding further information yourself. Law texts are usually in German and a bit hard to interpret, however, so feel free to ask for assistance. We will mostly refer to two texts of law and will use the common shorthand abbreviation when doing so:
Universitätsgesetz ("UG") and Satzung JKU, Teil Studienrecht ("Satzung").

StV Informatik & AI
Informatik, Artificial Intelligence,
Computer Science

OHjKU

www.oeh.jku.at
informatik-ai@oeh.jku.at

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General

Registration // Planning your study

What should I know as a newcomer?

We recommend that you always go to the first meeting of your courses. Often, a lot of organisational matters are discussed there, which are important for the rest of the course. For courses with compulsory attendance, it is also possible that your spot may be given to someone on the waiting list if you do not show up to the first appointment.

We have a very active Discord server for anyone studying Computer Science and AI.
Join via this link: https://discord.gg/wAek576
If you have any questions, you can always contact us, the Student Unions for Computer Science and AI. Either via email (informatik@oeh.jku.at for CS and ai@oeh.jku.at for AI), or via Discord.
We also prepared a guide for first-semester students that we would like to recommend to you. Check out the "Studienleitfaden for Computer Science" and the study guide for AI!

Are there any requirements to get admitted?

None of our Bachelor studies have any special requirements. As with all Bachelor studies, you have to prove that you are on the same level as an Austrian after high school (Matura, enrollment eligibility exam, language certificates, etc.) - see this JKU page and our Internationals FAQ for more.

For our Master studies, you need to have done a suitable Bachelor study beforehand - you can find more information on this JKU page and some more questions about the topic in your respective Master's section in the FAQ.

The JKU never cares about your grade average etc, there are no quotas and no limits to the number of students that can register for our studies: If you submit the required documents in time, you will be accepted.

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What does "VO", "UE", etc. mean for courses?

Lectures (VO or VL)

give an overview of a subject and its theoretical approaches and present different doctrinal opinions and methods. The contents are predominantly taught in a teacher-centred style. A lecture does not require attendance.

Exercises (UE) and Practical Courses (PR)

deepen the material of a lecture. The lecturer determines what must be achieved for a positive conclusion of a lecture: In most cases, there are regular exercises, but there can also be blackboard presentations, lab reports, or exercise tests. Compulsory attendance is determined by the lecturer.
You always find more information in KUSSS in the Study Guide entry for the corresponding course.

Seminars (SE)

develop your scientific capabilities. They aim to teach the acquisition of in-depth specialist knowledge and competencies, as well as the discussion and reflection of scientific topics. In most cases, students choose a topic, write a seminar paper, and present it to the course participants at the end of the semester. A seminar usually has compulsory attendance.

Combined courses (KV)

are a combination of lecture and exercise. Whether attendance is compulsory, and how the grade is calculated is up to the lecturer.

Other types of lectures that are not included in the Computer Science or AI curricula:
Exercise with lecture (UV), lecture with exercise (VU), basic course (GK), excursion (EX), conversational course (KO), proseminar (PS), language course (SK), interdisciplinary project (IP), individual artistic instruction (KE), group artistic instruction (KG)...
You can find further information in *§ 13 Satzung*.

How do I find out in advance if a course has compulsory attendance?

If attendance is compulsory, it should be listed in the KUSSS, specifically in the Study Guide entry of the respective course under 'Criteria for evaluation'.

How do I register for courses?

You can register for courses during the registration period listed on the JKU website. Be aware that some courses are assigned on a first come, first-served basis, while others don't take timings into account. Check the Class Allocation Guide to find out more and prioritise accordingly.

We therefore recommend that you consider which courses you would like to register for before the registration period opens. For some courses, multiple time slots exist, so make sure to pick ones that don't overlap. The course programme is always available at least one week before the registration period starts.

How does KUSSS work?

Please consult the KUSSS FAQ for technical questions.

I didn't get into my class, what now?

Politely write an email to the course leader and ask if there is still space for you. If not, make sure you go to the first session of the course you would like to attend. Let them know that you are not registered for the course yet. In this case, spots are usually taken from the students who are not present.
If the course is mandatory for your curriculum, the university must provide sufficient slots to avoid delaying your study progress (*§ 59 Abs. 4 UG*) - please get in touch with us in that case!

I have an overlap of courses, what now?

That depends on the course type. For lectures, attendance is not compulsory, i.e. you can skip them in favour of another course.

If both courses have mandatory attendance and are offered in multiple time slots, try switching to another slot to remove the overlap: See the next question.
If you study according to the suggested study plan, you are guaranteed to be able to study without overlaps.

How can I change exercise groups?

Write a polite email to the course instructors with your request. Don't forget the course number and your matriculation number!

Your course instructor will let you know if a change is possible.
If changing is not possible, still go to the first appointment of your desired exercise group and talk to the lecturer, explaining that you would like to change to this group. Often, a solution can be found.

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How do I find the email addresses of my course instructors?

Unfortunately, there is no central record of all email addresses. So if you are looking for an email address of a specific person, search online for their name + JKU. The first hit is usually the institute's website with all the information you need.
Example: *Martina Seidl JKU* leads you to this first result, where you will also find all the information.

How do I write an email to a lecturer?

First of all, be polite! Your chances of success are much higher if you are polite and respectful of your lecturer's time.
Always include the name of the course in case you have a question about a particular one. Also, add the course number (six digits with a dot in the middle - you can find it in the KUSSS).
Always sign with your full name and matriculation number at the end.
Ideally, also include your study code (SKZ): For the Bachelor of Computer Science this is 033/521, AI Bachelor 033/536, Master Computer Science 066/921 and for Master AI 066/993. All SKZs can be found here.
So your checklist before sending an email should be:

☐ Course number + name
☐ Your name + Matriculation number
☐ Study code (SKZ)
☐ Politely worded

Is there anything to consider if I don't study according to the recommended study plan?

Yes, almost all courses in the technical and natural sciences are only offered annually, not every semester. Keep this in mind when you compile your own study plan. Also, make sure to finish StEOP as quickly as possible since it might limit you in your plans.
It generally makes sense to complete courses in the recommended order. Often a dependency is quite obvious, for example in "Hands-on AI I" and "Hands-on AI II". It is not checked whether you have already completed the previous course, but the knowledge is assumed. A rough guideline of which knowledge is required in which course can be found at the end of the Computer Science Curriculum Guide, and here on our Discord server for AI. Feel free to contact us if you need help assembling your study plan!

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Do I need to attend Lecture and Exercise about a topic concurrently?

Subjects are often divided into two LVAs: A lecture for theoretical content, and an exercise for practical implementation. If there are two LVAs, they can always be completed separately and there is a separate grade for each subject.
However, due to the proximity of content, it is recommended that you complete both at the same time - this not only saves you the effort of learning things twice, but the interweaving of theory and practice also helps with understanding.
For some subjects (such as VL and UE Logic), you can also obtain grades for both courses by taking a single examination.

What are Special Topics?

Special Topics are courses that are not offered every year/semester because they are, as the name suggests, about a special topic, or have changing content.
Special Topics enable institutes to cover current trends in their fields and to offer courses taught by guest lecturers. Courses in this category can be announced without being listed in the curriculum and there is no obligation to hold them regularly.
The designation of Special Topics consists of a main title ("Special Topics:") and a subtitle that describes the actual content of the course.

What are Free Electives?

Every Austrian university degree program must include "Freie Studienleistungen" - they are intended to allow students to gain an insight into science beyond their subject area. You can therefore complete the ETCS provided for this purpose through any subject at any Austrian university, from language to pottery courses. It is of course also possible (although not necessarily the aim of the program) to use a computer science subject for the free credits. Many voluntary work engagements (e.g. firefighters) also give "free ECTS" - you can exchange information on the best subjects in the #free-electives channel on our Discord server.

If you are doing two degrees at the same time, you can also use subjects from one degree as free electives for the other (see also rules on credit transfer) - in short, you are completely free to choose your subjects.
If you would like to take a subject at another university, read the rules of the respective university regarding "Mitbelegung".

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Can I work while studying? How many ECTS should I take?

In principle, studies are designed as full-time studies (30 ECTS). A credit point equates to ca. 25 hours of work, meaning that a normal semester is already more than 40 hours of work each week.
Since you can decide for yourself how many courses you want to take, we recommend doing less than 30 ECTS if you plan to work on the side: Of course, you have to take delays in your studies into account then, i.e. the recommended study time will no longer be possible.

In the Bachelor's programme, the official recommendation therefore suggests you should start working no earlier than the 5th semester, though we do of course know that this is not possible for everyone financially. If you are struggling to afford your studies, check out our question on financial aid!
Generally, the number of ECTS you can/should do in a semester depends on the number of hours you have available and your previous knowledge.
We will be happy to advise you on this: Drop us an email or a message on Discord!

Can I do more than 30 ECTS in a semester?

As mentioned above, you are free to do more than the recommended 30 ECTS per semester, but it won't be fun.
If you are primarily studying to get a degree, already have the relevant previous education and are prepared to have very little free time, you can of course shorten the duration of your studies by taking a higher number of ECTS per semester. If you plan on doing so, please take our question about individual study planning into account - we will be happy to advise you individually.
However, please be aware that you will not only lose out on the social side but also probably won't benefit from your study academically as much - after all, many learning processes also happen outside of the courses during discussions with your fellow students and professors.

Can I use a course for two different degrees? Can I accredit a similar course?

Yes, courses can be used for multiple degrees, with some restrictions. Notably, the degrees may not depend on each other: If you used the course to get a degree (e.g. BSc Informatik), and this degree is a requirement to do another study (e.g. MSc Computer Science), you cannot use the course in this study. Similar restrictions might be in place for pre-study programs.

If the course is not exactly identical between programmes, accreditation might still be possible. For more details, individual solutions, and the crediting itself, please see this page for CS and contact office@ai-lab.jku.at for AI.

I cannot complete any courses in the next semester, what should I do?

If it is impossible for you to study for one or two semesters, but you do not intend to drop out, you can take a leave of absence. This is possible for a maximum of two semesters in a row. Reasons for a leave of absence and forms can be found here.

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How long am I allowed to take for my studies? When do I have to start paying money?

There is no maximum study duration, but studying comes with a cost. Every semester you have to pay the ÖH fee (around 20€).

Depending on your citizenship, you will also need to pay tuition fees: EU and EEA citizens are exempted from tuition fees during the minimum period of study + 2 tolerance semesters (e.g. in our Bachelor's that would be 8 semesters). You can find more information about this here.

Note that for some financial aids (e.g. Studienbeihilfe), the amount of tolerance semesters before funding is cut is lower.

During the Bachelor's, keep Mindeststudienleistung in mind.

How can I drop a course?

For most courses, you can unregister up until the first meeting in KUSSS. If that deadline has passed and you no longer want to take a course, it depends on the type of course. In the case of lectures, you simply do not sign up for the examination. This will not "cost" you any attempts and you can simply take the course at a later time.

For exercises or practicals, there is either a certain mode (e.g. after two exercises have been handed in, you get a grade) or you politely write an email to the lecturer asking whether they can unregister you from the course.

If this is not possible, and you do not continue the course, you will receive a negative grade. No worries though, you do have several attempts to pass.

Is there Financial Aid?

The Student Union has several grants and support services, they can be found here. Additionally, there are also multiple governmental grants, e.g. for students working on the side.

Please refer to our experts at the ÖH JKU Sozialreferat for questions.

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Do I need a laptop and what specs should it have?

In principle, there are PCs at the university, for example in the library, which you can use. However, because almost all submissions are made electronically, there is regular homework on the PC, etc., a laptop is highly recommended.

Almost any laptop with Windows, macOS or Linux will do; it doesn't have to be anything fancy or have any particular features. We generally advise against Chromebooks, Android tablets and iPads as main work devices because not all recommended programs are compatible with them.
In some rare cases, programs might require a virtual machine to run on a specific operating system, but this will be the case for all host systems.

For ideal working conditions, we recommend a device with at least 8GB RAM, an SSD, a 1920x1080 screen and a battery life of at least 2 hours: not every room has a power socket. Furthermore, a lightweight laptop is great: you'll be carrying it around a lot.

If you are looking for a new laptop, there are often special offers for students online, for example at edustore and u:book - but be sure to compare prices. You can usually find devices with the specifications above for less than €400 making use of comparison portals. Note that JKU also supplies you with a variety of free software.

Of course you can further optimise your device for complex AI operations etc. (the internet is happy to help with guides), but this is not necessary for your studies.

Exams

How do I register for exams?

Registration for course examinations takes place in KUSSS.
For exercises, courses and seminars, registration for a course also counts as registration for the course examination. Admission to the course counts as admission to the course examination.
You can register for course examinations for lectures and combined courses until the end of the second semester following the course, then you should re-register to the main LVA.

I have registered for an exam, but can't participate. What now?

You are usually able to deregister from an exam until a few days before it takes place. Details can be found on KUSSS and my.jku.at at the respective exam page.
If you missed this deadline, try deregistering via email to your lecturer.
If you don't participate in an exam you are registered for, you will *not* lose an attempt: You can't be graded for something you didn't do. Your lecturer can however block you for your next attempt, thus delaying your study progress. This usually doesn't happen, but it's generally not a good idea to annoy the person who is grading your exam - save yourself the trouble and deregister in time.

How many exam dates are there for a subject, and why are they not all entered when I register?

You are entitled to three exam dates per semester for each **lecture**, even in semesters where the LVA is not offered (*§ 76 Abs. 3 UG and § 33 Abs. 2 Satzung*).
However, usually only two are planned at the beginning of a semester. If you need another one, politely ask the lecturer whether another date is offered, or whether you can take an oral exam. If this is not possible, please contact us (informatik@oeh.jku.at or ai@oeh.jku.at) and we will ensure that another attempt is offered.

You can find the dates of examinations when you register for a course, or if you don't find anything there, look in KUSSS in the tab "Examinations". There you can search for exam dates using the course number. If you don't find anything there either, please let us know. We make sure that all exam dates are entered at the beginning of each semester. Please keep in mind that some professors arrange the exam date(s) together with the students at the beginning of the semester to find a date suitable for all.

What happens if I fail a subject?

For each LVA, you have several attempts. Either there are follow-up exams, or you repeat the whole course the next time it is offered (you might need to re-register for it).
If it is a compulsory subject, you have to repeat the subject. If it is a specialisation or a course from a pool of your choice, it is your decision whether you want to repeat the course. Negative grades will not show up on your final diploma.

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How many attempts do I have for courses?

Students may repeat failed examinations taken for the StEOP three times (= four attempts). For all other examinations, students may re-sit them up to four times (= five attempts) - this is a special rule of JKU, see *§ 53 Abs. 2 Satzung*.
All examination attempts in the same subject, for all studies at the same university count.

After repeating an examination for the third time, the examination will then be conducted by a committee - see What is an examination by committee ("Kommissionelle Prüfung")? for more.

The last exam of a degree can be repeated one more time (see *§ 77 Abs. 2 UG*).

What happens if I use up all attempts?

If you use up your last attempt in a subject, you will be automatically exmatriculated. From then on, you will no longer be able to enrol in a degree program at the JKU that includes this subject as a compulsory subject (*§ 63 Abs. 7 UG*).

If possible, you should therefore try not to let it get that far: In any case, please contact us in advance so that we can look for a solution together. The following options are available:
1. You ask the LVA management whether there are other options for taking the exam.
2. You take the subject at another university and have it recognized at JKU:
   However, this is easier said than done - you can generally only take subjects at other universities if they are not already offered at the JKU (*§ 63 Abs. 9 UG*). The subject must therefore be different enough for co-enrollment, but similar enough for credit transfer - this topic must therefore always be discussed with your study coordinator. This limitation does not apply to a semester abroad.
3. You wait for a change in the curriculum:
   Sometimes LVAs change (for example due to renaming) and are given a new course number. In this case, your attempts are often reset, so the course is treated as a new course. To be on the safe side, ask the Examination and Recognition Service whether such a change has been made.

Can I retake a course I passed?

Positively graded courses of all course types can be repeated **once**, and the retake has to happen within one year. In other words, the grade of the retake has to be submitted with a date within 12 months of the original.
Retaking a positively graded course will automatically void the previous attempt, meaning that is completely removed from the records: If you fail the retake, you will have to redo it until you pass. The voided positive attempt does not count towards your number of taken attempts. See *§ 77 Abs. 1 UG*.
It is recommended to get in touch with your Prof beforehand and discuss your situation, sometimes alternative solutions can be found.

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How long may it take until I receive my grades?

Course Instructors must grade your LVA within four weeks of your last gradable work (*§ 34 Abs. 2 Satzung*) - this is usually the exam for a lecture and the last exercise date for exercises.
If this is not the case, please kindly ask the person in charge of the course or contact us.

May I see the reason for my grade / my graded exam?

Within 6 months after receiving a grade, you can request to see the assessment documents with your course instructor - in the case of a lecture exam, this is the graded written exam or, in the case of an oral exam, a record of the questions you were asked.
You are always allowed to make a "memory record" of the lecture exam and share it with others, *open* questions (i.e. not multiple choice) and your answers may also be photographed or otherwise copied.
For open questions, "electronic inspection" online is also possible (*§ 79 Abs. 5 UG*).

Can I appeal my grade?

No, there is no right of appeal against assessments. Only negative grades can be overturned in case of "serious deficiencies" (e.g. if the exam time is significantly shorter than announced), in which case your negative entry becomes null and void. Please contact us immediately if you believe that such a deficiency exists: An appeal must happen within four weeks after the grade has been announced (*§ 79 Abs. 1 UG*).

If you feel that you have been treated unfairly, you can request an examination by committee for future attempts.
You can also request that you be examined by another person of your choice who is qualified to do so (*§ 59 Abs. 13 UG*).

What is an examination by committee ("Kommissionelle Prüfung")?

In an examination by committee, the grade is no longer decided by a single person. This method should ensure that you are not treated unfairly.
In the case of lecture exams, your exam is checked by several people; in the case of exercises and the like, an attempt is made to concentrate your continuous performance on one moment and to check that in a committee.

From the third repetition of a lecture exam onwards, it is obligatory to have it graded by a committee, but you can also request the procedure earlier (*§ 77 Abs. 3 UG*).
Regardless of the course type, at least the last repetition must be held as an examination by committee (*§ 35 Abs. 3 Satzung*).
In any case, contact the course instructor in advance to clarify the details!

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Where can I find the confirmation of registration or my grades certificate?

You can find important documents to download in KUSSS on the left under "My settings" in the "Documents" tab. There you will find the confirmation of registration, study record sheet and transcript of records in the respective tab.

There is no certificate like at school. However, you can print out your grades as a PDF at any time, which is called "Transcript of Records" at the university.

How do I calculate my grade average? How can I pass "with distinction"?

Your curriculum consists of different subjects which in turn contain multiple courses (LVAs) each. Your grade for each subject is the average grade of all of its courses, weighted for ECTS (*§ 34 Abs. 4 Satzung*).

Your diploma will list these grades for all of your subjects.

You finish your degree with distinction if no subject grade is worse than a 2 and at least half of all subjects grade are 1s (*§ 34 Abs. 5a Satzung*).

Not all subject grades are used for this calculation, your Free Electives are e.g. irrelevant for your distinction, as is your Master's Thesis grade and your grades for the Master's Thesis seminars. Refer to your curriculum for more.

Students of BSc Informatik and MSc Computer Science can also use our automatic calculator to help with determining their grades.

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Student Union

How is the Student Union (ÖH) structured?

The Austrian Student Union (ÖH) is divided into different levels:

Study Representation (ÖH StV AI + StV Informatik)

Your study representatives are your direct contact points for issues concerning your study - in your case, your representatives are the StV AI and the StV Informatik respectively.
For more on our work, see What are the StV Informatik and the StV AI about?

Faculty Representation (ÖH TNF)

The ÖH TNF is the faculty representation of all students in engineering and natural sciences. All Study Representations from the faculty (including the StV AI and the StV CS) send members to the ÖH TNF. There, we coordinate the work of the individual StVs: Many of our biggest events (e.g. the JKU Games) are co-organised that way, and we also work together on many other projects (our study guides for example). You can find out more about the ÖH TNF on its website.

University Representation (ÖH JKU / UV)

The ÖH JKU coordinates the different faculties and takes care of university-wide matters, it might for example comment on building plans and broader policies. The ÖH JKU also has sub-departments ("Referate") for some topics, such as a department for social services (financial aid, grants, ...), a department for migration (visas, supplementary exams, …) and a department for legal questions.
An overview of the departments of the ÖH at the JKU can be found here.

Federal Representation (BV)

The BV coordinates the different universities and comments on laws and governmental decisions on a national level. An explanation of how the Austrian National Union of Students works in general can be found here.

What are the StV AI and the StV Informatik about?

The study representatives are your first point of contact if you have problems with courses or course instructors, or if you have questions about your studies. You can think of study representatives as class representatives but for the entire degree programme.
We have three core tasks: representing, networking, and advising. We represent you when there are problems or concerns with institute staff, and sit in committees that organise your study. We host events so you can get to know your colleagues. And we advise you on all university-specific topics, e.g. in the form of this FAQ.

You can also find more information about our work on our website respectively: CS, AI.
To always know exactly what your StV is doing, you can also check our project dashboard.

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Do the StVs AI or Informatik belong to a university party?

Every two years, all levels of the Student Union run for election - usually around May in odd years.
In the election of the university and federal representation, political parties ("Fraktionen") are elected, whereas the study representation is an election of individual candidates.

All members of the Student Unions in the Faculty of Engineering & Natural Sciences (TNF) are independent: To become active in the Student Union for CS or AI, you may not be a member of a university party.
We believe that this rule helps us work a lot more efficiently since we don't need to constantly fight for your vote in pointless PR stunts.

Naturally, some projects require that we work with the university-wide representation, and we sometimes also cooperate with individual parties if they support our efforts.

How can I join the ÖH?

The ÖH has many different departments and is always happy for your support. If you want to join your Student Union, get in touch with its head or contact us via email at ai@oeh.jku.at or informatik@oeh.jku.at. The StV Informatik has also published its Onboarding Procedure to give you an idea of how joining will work.

What is a course evaluation?

Course evaluations take place at the end of each semester. You can find them in KUSSS at "My courses". During the evaluation period, you can anonymously give your feedback, thus helping to continuously improve courses. As Student Unions we can then use this concrete data to more strongly fight for changes. We would like to motivate you to take advantage of this opportunity, which is why we organise an "Eval Day" every semester. There you can evaluate your courses together with your colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere with drinks and snacks.

How do I get to know my fellow students?

The Student Unions for Computer Science and AI regularly organise events to help you get to know your fellow students. Descriptions to all of our bigger events can be found on our websites for CS and AI. There, you'll also find live calendars to always stay up to date.

You will also always be reminded about events on the Discord-Server, as well as on the ÖH TNF Instagram account.

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How does the ÖH Insurance work?

Using parts of your ÖH fee, all students are automatically insured for accidents and damages: If you get hurt at uni or destroy something, you are taken care of and will not have to pay any deductibles. This insurance is very broad and also covers your student dorms, uni excursions, ÖH events or your trip to the next supermarket. Note that ÖH insurance is not health insurance however.
For more information and all contract details, please refer to this help page.

Where can I find information on other studies? Do other StVs also have a Discord server?

All StVs at the JKU have a subpage on the ÖH JKU website and are responsible for their content. Many of the StVs for technical subjects also use Discord, it's usually linked on their page as well.

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Informatik, Artificial Intelligence,
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Bachelor

Bachelor 1st semester

Which subjects should I do in the first semester?

On the last page of your Curriculum, you will find the suggested study plan. In your first semester, it is advisable to register for all recommended courses. If it becomes too much for you, you can still drop subjects during the semester.

What is the StEOP & how does it work?

The StEOP (Studies Introduction and Orientation Phase) comprises compulsory courses that you have to complete at the beginning of your Bachelor studies before you can complete other courses. As long as you have not completed the StEOP, you can only receive a grade for selected courses from the first few semesters (referred to as "Additional courses/exams that could be completed before having passed the StEOP" in KUSSS).

To complete the StEOP, you need to receive passing grades on at least 9 ECTS worth of courses from several options. The pool of eligible courses and more detailed information can be found in the curriculum, KUSSS also shows you the current status of your StEOP (if you are signed in).
For an in-depth explanation of the system and our recommendations, check out the "Studienleitfaden for Computer Science" and the "Study guide for AI"!

It is sometimes possible to do courses that are not included in the pool before you have completed the StEOP - if you are planning to sign up for such courses, please get in touch with your teachers beforehand and ask them to postpone grading you until you have formally finished the StEOP. KUSSS will also warn you about this on sign-up.
Sometimes, not all of your grades from the last semester are finalised yet when sign-up for the next semester starts. In this case, KUSSS might also warn you that StEOP has not been completed yet - you can safely ignore this warning if you know that you have already passed the courses necessary to complete StEOP.

For further information see the JKU's FAQs on the topic here.

How long may I take to finish the StEOP?

There is no time limit to finish the StEOP. At the beginning of your studies, there is however a minimum amount of credits ("Mindeststudienleistung") you have to do. Since your choice of courses is very restricted during StEOP, you will most likely finish your StEOP courses when attempting to reach Mindeststudienleistung.
Generally, we advise you to complete StEOP as quickly as possible to benefit from additional exam attempts and a more flexible study plan.

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What is the minimum number of credits ("Mindeststudienleistung)?

In Bachelor's and diploma degree programmes, students starting from the winter semester 2022/23 onwards are required to complete a total of at least 16 ECTS in the first four semesters in each degree programme to which admission is granted.
The ECTS for achieving the minimum study performance after four semesters have to be completed by October 31st in the winter term and by March 31st in the summer term (*§ 59a UG*).
More information on exceptions, consequences of non-compliance, etc. can be found here.

How can I get credit for something I did in school?

For recognition, send an email to the Examination and Recognition Services at JKU with your school report. The recognition can only be applied for after the start of the degree programme. For more detailed information, see the corresponding FAQ chapters for Computer Science and AI. We have provided links with credit tables there.

I would like to start in the summer semester, how do I go about it?

In general, we do not recommend starting your studies in the summer semester. (Special case for Computer Science HTLs for Computer Science studies. See the FAQ question "*I attended a Computer Science school and would like to study Computer Science. How can I start with credits in the summer semester?*").
However, if you are only able to start your studies in the summer semester, this is, of course, possible. We suggest that you complete the recommended subjects from the scheduled 2nd semester. If you already have previous knowledge of programming, it is no problem to start with e.g. Softwareentwicklung 2 (CS) or Programming in Python II (AI). However, if you have never programmed before, you should wait for the next winter semester and take Softwareentwicklung 1 (CS) or Programming in Python I (AI). In principle, it is up to you to arrange your timetable and which courses you take and when. However, it is advisable not to completely disregard the recommended semester plan.

Our "Studienleitfaden for Computer Science" and the "Study guide for AI" contain a list of courses that should be taken when starting in summer.

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Bachelor General

Can I do a dual study of BSc AI and CS?

While it is of course possible to study both degrees at the same time, they have a lot less overlap than you might think. Courses that occur in both degrees can be used in both degrees without accreditation (ca. 40 ECTS), and there are some courses that are similar enough for automatic accreditation (published here, ca. 16 ECTS). Additionally, "Free Electives" (9 ECTS) can also be accredited automatically.
In other words, you "save" about a third of the time of one study.

On the other hand, doing both studies simultaneously will either result in a hefty workload with many potential course overlaps or an individual study plan for a prolonged study for each degree.

Can I use courses from my Bachelor's degree in my Master's?

Courses may not count towards both your Bachelor's and Master's. In other words, while you may already take some Master's courses during your Bachelor's degree, you should not *submit* them for your Bachelor's diploma if you plan on using them in the Master's. Courses you have not submitted for your BSc can then simply be used towards your MSc.

If you accidentally submitted a mandatory Master's course for your Bachelor's degree, special provisions exist to allow for alternative Master's courses - see this question for a frequent issue in CS.

How do I find a bachelor's thesis?

There are three different ways to find a Bachelor's thesis:
   i.   You approach a suitable institute/professor with your own topic or
   ii. you ask an institute/supervisor what topics are offered. Most institutes have some work advertised on their website. You can get an idea there. Or
   iii. you can write a thesis at a company. However, you always need a supervisor at JKU. This means that you apply for a job at a company and look for a suitable supervisor at JKU. Some institutes will demand payment from the company for supervising a thesis.

The ÖH helps you to connect to potential supervisors and find your topic by organising Bachelor Info Events. See more here: AI, CS.

How do I complete my Bachelor's degree?

All detailed information can be found on the JKU website.
To complete the Bachelor's programme, you first have to pass all mandatory subjects and you must have collected enough ECTS for specialisation and free study credits. Once you have fulfilled all these requirements, you have to fill in and sign the examination roster (which can also be found on the website) and send it to pruefung-tn@jku.at.

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How do I fill in the examination roster?

If no changes to the curriculum occurred during your study, you might be able to fill in your exam roaster automatically using examroster.jku.at. The service is in a beta phase though, so please double-check its work and expect it to break.

If the automatic way does not work, download the examination roster from the JKU website and follow the instructions there.

If you are logged in to KUSSS click on the tab "Help Examination Rosters". On the left, you can download a PDF which helps you to fill in the examination roster. ATTENTION: This filling-in aid has duplicate assignments and it is also possible that some courses are assigned incorrectly or do not exist at all. If this is the case, please refer to the grade information in the KUSSS. You can also look in the course catalogue (tab "Course-Search" - at the top "My curricula" or "All curricula") to see which courses are in which category.

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Bachelor AI specific

How and what can I get credit for from school?

If you have attended a technical school (HTL in Austria), you can have subjects credited to you, depending on the HTL branch. Here you can find a table with the credit possibilities for AI.
For recognition, write an email to the Examination and Recognition Services of the JKU with your transcript. This is only possible after starting the degree programme, but it must be done within the first two semesters.

Which courses do I get credit for from Computer Science?

Here you can find a table detailing what courses from BSc Informatik can be used in the AI bachelor's degree.

Which courses do I get credit for from Bioinformatics?

Here you can find a table explaining which Bioinformatics courses can be used in BSc AI.

I am not from Linz, how often do I have to be on-site?

You have to be in Linz once, namely when you officially enrol in the degree program. Whenever presence is mandatory, e.g. in exercises, there should be at least one group that allows virtual presence. Some courses will require on-site and in-person attendance, either in Linz, Bregenz, or Vienna for examinations for example.
All courses take place in Linz and will be live-streamed and/or recorded and made available for you.
For further information, take a look here.

Do I have to know German?

No, the programme is in English. If you live in Linz (or Bregenz), it is of course helpful to know a little German. The younger people probably know English, but older generations in Austria may not know English very well or may not be able to understand you at all. See the International FAQ for more.

What is "Seminars" and "Practical Work"

The "Seminar in AI" (3 ECTS, 4th semester, Summer Semester) and the "Practical Work in AI" (7.5 ECTS, 5th semester, Winter Semester) have been designed to help students prepare to write the required Bachelor's thesis (6th semester, Summer Semester); students can, however, switch their subject area again, if they wish to. Different institutes will offer the courses which students will see as different "group options" in KUSSS. The Bachelor's thesis itself will be formally supervised as part of the "Bachelor's Thesis Seminar in AI" (9 ECTS credits, 6th semester, Summer Semester). This course is, however, offered during each semester, allowing students to complete their Bachelor's degree during the Winter Semester as well.

What is an "Area of Specialization"?

You can freely choose Area of Specialization courses from the list that is available in the course catalogue, which can be found here. The section headlines "Computer and Data Science", "Mathematics", "Mechatronics", "Live Sciences", "Special Topics", and "Miscellaneous" as listed in the course catalogue are only for clarity and you do not need to decide on one.

Furthermore, another thing you should consider when choosing your Area of Specialization courses is, that once you have used the ECTS points for getting your Bachelor's Degree, you won't be able to use this course for finishing another degree after. This basically means, that, should you want to do JKU's AI Master's Degree after your Bachelor's, you should refrain from choosing core courses from the Master's Curriculum as Area of Specialization courses in the Bachelor's.

Is there a Bachelor's examination?

In *§ 7 Abs. 2 AI-Curriculum* it says: "*The Bachelor's program in Artificial Intelligence is concluded by a Bachelor's Examination. The Bachelor's Examination consists of the successful completion of mandatory subjects [...]. In order to graduate, students must also receive a passing grade for their Bachelor's thesis as well as for the free electives examinations.*"

This means that there is no Bachelor's examination per se, but the completion of all the scheduled courses is the Bachelor's examination. Some institutes may require a presentation of the Bachelor's thesis internally at the institute to share the knowledge gained from the thesis with colleagues.

What is the AI Bachelor Info Evening?

Every year, the StV organises a Bachelor information evening. We explain how to complete the Bachelor's degree, how to find a Bachelor's thesis and the institutes introduce themselves and their Bachelor's thesis topics. The recordings of our last event can be found here (Last updated: 2024).

I have further questions. Who can I contact?

General questions regarding the AI program and its administration should be addressed to office@ai-lab.jku.at (Linz), ai-wien@jku.at (Vienna), or bregenz@fernstudien.at (Bregenz) We are also happy to answer any questions you may have about the AI programme. Contact us via email ai@oeh.jku.at or on our Discord-Server.

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Bachelor CS specific

How and what can I get credit for from school?

For some schools, there are tables for subjects that can be credited: [Table for HAKs](#), [Table for HTLs](#). It is sometimes also possible to accredit courses that aren't in these tables.

Accreditation is only possible after the start of the degree programme, but it should be done as quickly as possible.
You can find more information about CS [here](#) and more generally [here](#).

I attended a Computer Science HTL and would like to study Computer Science. How can I start with credits in the summer semester?

If you have attended a Computer Science school (Informatik-HTL in Austria for example), you can get a few courses accredited and arrange the subjects in such a way that you can save a whole semester. You can find more information about this [here](#) (only in German).

What do I have to bear in mind when taking specialisation subjects in the Bachelor's degree? What does "blocking the Master" mean?

Usually in the 5th and 6th semesters of the Bachelor of Computer Science, you take specialisation courses. These are subjects from the Master of Computer Science. If you plan to study this Master's degree at JKU after the Bachelor's degree, you should not choose any specialisation subjects from the desired major. What does this mean? There are six "major" subjects in the CS Master's programme. You choose one and do all the planned subjects for it.

If you now have a subject from say the major subject "Software Engineering" credited for the Bachelor's degree (ergo enter it in the examination roster at the end of the Bachelor's degree), you can no longer choose the major "Software Engineering" in the Master's degree because you may not use the same course for the Bachelor's degree and the Master's degree. You can also only complete the course once because it does not have changing content (unlike seminars). So maybe you should already think about which major subject you want to choose for your Master's degree.
You didn't know that and already blocked your desired major? Don't worry, you can replace the course with another one: Please contact Professor [Mössenböck](#).

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Can I take the same seminar more than once? Do I need one for my Bachelor's degree?

Yes, you need at least one course of the type SE (which is then counted in the pool "specialisations") and yes, you can take a seminar several times and get ECTS because they are courses with changing content (marked in KUSSS as "NON CONTENT-IDENTICAL" and "REPETITIONS COUNT OFF").

Is there a Bachelor's examination?

According to *§ 7 Abs. 2 Informatik-Curriculum,* there is no Bachelor's examination per se, but the completion of all courses *is* the Bachelor's examination. Some institutes may require a presentation of the Bachelor's thesis internally at the institute to share the knowledge gained from the thesis with colleagues.

What is the Informatik Bachelor Info Evening?

Every year, the StV organises a Bachelor information evening. We explain how to complete the Bachelor's degree, how to find a Bachelor's thesis and the institutes introduce themselves and their Bachelor's thesis topics. The recordings of our last event can be found here (Last updated: 2024).

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Master

Master General

How do I find a Master's thesis, can I also do it with a company (if so, how does that work?)?

There are three different ways to find a Master's thesis:
1. You approach a suitable institute/professor with your own topic or
2. you ask an institute/supervisor what topics are offered. Most institutes have some work advertised on their website. You can get an idea there, or
3. you can write a thesis at a company. However, you always need a supervisor at JKU. This means that you apply for a thesis at a company and look for a suitable supervisor at JKU. Your supervisor will then tell you the rest of the procedure.

Is it compulsory to write the Master's thesis in LaTeX?

No, it is not obligatory to write the Master's thesis in latex, only the cover sheet must comply with the JKU guidelines (see here for templates) and it must be saved in PDF/A (see here under submission). However, you should talk to your supervisor about whether there are already internal templates or additional requirements.
Sometimes, a latex course is offered, which can be used as a free elective.
("Wissenschaftliches Schreiben und Layouten anhand von LaTeX 1")

What is the content of the Master's examination? Can you repeat the exam?

The content of the Master's examination (i.e. the examination part of the Major and Complementary Subject in CS; Machine Learning and Perception and Elective Track in AI) is formulated with the respective chosen examiner. This should be content from courses taken with the respective examiner.

This exam can be repeated several times, just like any other exam.

What are the deadlines and dates before the Master's examination?

A schedule can be found here. Please stick to the sequence.
(NOTE: Printed versions no longer have to be produced as of March 1st 2022, see: here)

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When do I officially finish the Master's?

Only when the grade of your commissional final examination has been finalised, your Master's is formally completed. Until then you need to retain your status as a student and thus need to continue paying your tuition.
If you complete your studies by 31.10 or 31.03, you do not need to pay tuition for the new semester. If you are unsure if you can finish in time, we recommend you pay tuition and then reclaim it.
More information about finishing your study can be found here.

Is there a deadline for registering for the Master's thesis?

No. The Master's thesis can be submitted throughout the year. There must be at least four weeks between the submission of the thesis and the final Master's examination.
You can find a more detailed overview here and here.

Master AI specific

I did not do my Bachelor's degree in AI. Can I still enrol in the AI Master's and do I have to catch up on something?

If you have completed a Bachelor's degree in Bioinformatics, Electronics and Information Technology, Computer Science, Mechatronics, NawiTec, Statistics and Data Science, Technical Mathematics, Technical Physics or Business Informatics (at JKU, or a comparable degree at another university), you can do the AI Master's degree, but you must complete the lectures "Machine Learning: Supervised Techniques" (536MLPEMSTV19, VL, 3 ECTS) and "Machine Learning: Unsupervised Techniques" (536MLPEMUTV19, VL, 3 ECTS) until the end of the 2nd semester. You can take these in the Area of Specialisation or the Free Electives.

If you do not have a Bachelor's degree in the above-mentioned subjects, you can still be admitted to the AI Master's programme, but you have to catch up on up to 40 ECTS in the first two semesters. For more detailed information, please contact the Admissions Office.

Who can I contact if I want to have courses from other studies available in the Area of Specialization?

Please write an e-mail to office@ai-lab.jku.at and share your concerns with them.

How does it work with the examiners for the Master's examination?

As part of the oral examination, the student will be asked to create a 3-member examination committee consisting of a committee head (member 1) and two additional members (members 2 and 3). The first committee member may not be a thesis supervisor and will preside over the oral defence. The second committee member will examine the subject area of "Machine Learning and Perception". The third committee member will examine the selected elective track. The thesis supervisor should also be a member of the committee. Whereas two committee members may be from the same institute, all of the committee members should not be from the same institute.

I am not from Linz, how often do I have to be on-site?

You have to be in Linz once, namely when you officially enrol in the degree program. Whenever presence is mandatory, e.g. in exercises, there should be at least one group that allows virtual presence. Some courses will require on-site and in-person attendance, either in Linz, Bregenz, or Vienna for examinations for example.

All courses take place in Linz and will be live-streamed and/or recorded and made available for you.

For further information, take a look here.

Master CS specific

Major Subject and Complementary Subject, what is that?

To complete your Master's in Computer Science, you need to complete all courses of a Major Subject. You do not need to choose this Major beforehand, you only officially select it when handing in your examination roster. We recommend choosing a Major at the start of the study and completing all of its courses as quickly as possible.
There are six different majors (Computational Engineering, Data Science, Intelligent Information Systems, Networks and Security, Pervasive Computing and Software Engineering). A more detailed description of the different majors can be found in the Curriculum starting on page 3. If you want to know your courses for your major, you can either take a look here in KUSSS or in the Curriculum Guide starting on page 6.

For the Complementary Subject, you have to take 27 ECTS from either other majors or from the General Electives Pool. You can combine these 27 ECTS freely. You can find a list here in KUSSS.

Where can I find the Curriculum Guide?

You can find the Curriculum Guide here.

What are the Master's Thesis seminars in the 3rd and 4th semester?

These are two seminars that you do during the writing process of the Master's thesis. The content of these seminars depends on your thesis supervisor, please talk to them before registering.
You have to register for the seminars in KUSSS.

What is the Major Subject Seminar and Project in the 3rd semester?

For your Master's degree, you have to take a seminar (3 ECTS) and a project (7.5 ECTS) in your chosen major subject. You have to register for this in KUSSS. For example, if you have chosen the major Data Science, you have to register for the courses "PR Project in Data Science" and "SE Seminar in Data Science".
The project and seminar can also be done about the same topic as your Master's thesis. This means that you can choose a similar topic in the project or seminar and thus already do some preliminary work, but this is not a must. Please talk to your supervisor about this.

How do I find examiners for the Master's examination?

You need three examiners for the Master's examination. It is up to you to find an examiner for each part of your exam. In the examination, there is one part each for the Master's thesis, major subject, and complementary subject.
For more detailed restrictions see here.

Helpful documents and links

- ○ [Have you successfully completed the requirements as outlined in your degree program? Follow these steps to get your well-earned diploma!](#)
- ○ [Final thesis, examination roster, academic conferral. Find out everything you need to know in order to successfully complete your studies.](#)
- ○ [Helpful information to write and submit your Bachelor's, Diploma degree/Master's thesis, or dissertation is available here!](#)
- ○ [General Information about Computer Science Master](#)
- ○ [Current Information for the CS Master](#)
- ○ [The final steps to earn your Master's Degree in Computer Science](#)
- ○ [Master's Thesis Process](#)

Discord

As mentioned at the beginning, almost all of our students are on a Discord that is hosted by us: https://discord.gg/wAek576.
If you are not yet familiar with Discord or have questions about the structure of our server, you can find answers here.

German: 📄 DE Discord FAQ & Guide

English: 📄 EN Discord FAQ & Guide

International

Our studies are very attractive to international students, which is why we receive many questions on such topics. We have compiled the most frequently asked ones in a separate FAQ:

📄 FAQ Internationals