PADERBORN UNIVERSITY

Welcome Days Guide

MA Computer Science
Winter Semester 2026

Dear Students,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Master's program in Computer Science Department at Paderborn University! You are now part of a diverse and vibrant academic community, and we are excited to see the perspectives and experiences you bring with you.

Starting your Master's is a significant step, with new courses, new challenges, and for many, a new country. It's natural to feel a little uncertain at the beginning, but please remember: you are not alone. There are many people and services ready to support you as you settle in and shape your own academic path.

This is your opportunity to grow academically and personally. Take time to explore your interests, get involved in projects, and connect with fellow students. Don't hesitate to ask questions, make use of the resources available, and engage with the opportunities both the university and the city of Paderborn have to offer.

We are glad you are here, and we look forward to your contributions and achievements in the semesters ahead.

Welcome to Paderborn – your new academic home!

Program Overview

Your Master's program in Computer Science is designed to provide both academic depth and practical flexibility. In addition to advanced modules and independent research, your studies will include lectures, tutorials, presentations, assignments, projects, and labs, allowing you to connect theory with practice. This combination equips you for careers in industry and technology as well as for scientific research and academic development.

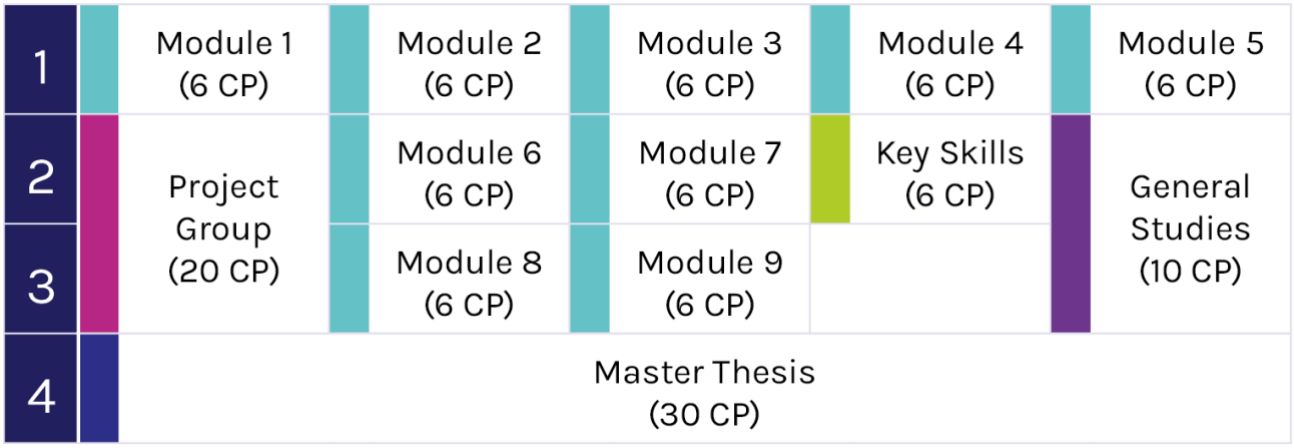
Structure:

> 9 Modules (9*6=54 CP)
> 1 Key Skills: Seminar (5 CP) + Scientific Working (1 CP)
> 1 Project Group (20 CP)
> Master's Thesis (30 CP)
> General Studies / German language courses (10 CP)

Focus Areas:

> Classical & Quantum Algorithm Design
> Computer & Communication Systems
> Data Science & Intelligent Systems
> Security
> Software Engineering

Master of Science in Computer Science (120 CP)



Module handbook Computer Science M.Sc.

go.upb.de/module_manual

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Course Registration

Course registration for the semester has already started. Once you have received your login credentials, you can register directly through the system.
The Course Catalogue in PAUL provides an overview of all modules and lectures offered this semester. Here, you can also see the approximate timetable of lectures, which will help you plan your weekly schedule.
You will find the registration section in PAUL under:
Study > Semester Administration > Module and Course Registration

go.upb.de/paul_en

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Understanding Course Listings

- **Modules (M ...):** These are the main study units. You must add the module first.
- **Lectures (L ...):** These are the actual classes you attend in a given semester. You need to register for the lecture to earn credits.

To register correctly, first add the module (M), then register for the corresponding lecture (L). If no lecture (L) is listed under a module, it means that module is not offered this semester.

Self-Assessment Tests

Some modules provide optional self-assessment tests. These are not mandatory but can help you check if you are prepared for the course before registering.

go.upb.de/self_assessment

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Always attend the first lecture to get a clear idea of the course. If it doesn't match your interests, deregister early and pick another option that suits you better. Register early to avoid problems with deadlines.

In your first semester, it is recommended to focus mainly on regular modules. While the standard workload is around five modules, starting with three or four is also perfectly fine. It is better to take fewer courses and perform well rather than overload yourself and struggle to keep up. Please do not register for seminars or project groups in the first semester and give yourself enough time to adapt to both the university system and life in Germany.

Exam Registration

Registering for a course is not enough. You must also register separately for the exams in PAUL.
In PAUL, go to **Study > Exam Information > Online Exam Registration**

For each lecture or course, make sure you register for both:

- **Studienleistung** (course achievement): A course achievement can be any task related to the subject, such as assignments, projects, or presentations. Completing the course achievement is mandatory. Only after fulfilling it are you eligible to take the corresponding exam.
- **Prüfungsleistung** (exam): the final exam itself.

If you only register for the lecture but not for both the Studienleistung and Prüfungsleistung, you cannot complete the course.

Exam Phases & Attempts

> Each semester has two exam phases.
> You have three attempts to pass each course exam.
> You can deregister up to 2 days before the exam date in PAUL if you decide not to take it.
> The exact phases for this semester can be found on page 9 of this flyer.

Studium Generale & General Credits

As part of your Master's program, you are required to earn at least 10 credits in the area of Studium Generale (General Studies). These credits can be gained by taking courses outside of Computer Science. You may choose from courses offered by other faculties, but please make sure to consult the respective faculty before registering, to confirm that the course can be counted toward your general credits.

German Courses

Many international students prefer to take German language courses as part of their general credits. The options include:
> Semester-long courses (8 CP)
> Semester break intensive courses (5 CP)
More information and registration details can be found here:

go.upb.de/german_courses

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Seats are limited, so it is strongly advised to register as early as possible.

First Steps in Paderborn

When you arrive in Paderborn, there are a few important formalities you must complete as part of settling in:

- City Registration (Anmeldung): All students must register their address with the city after moving into accommodation.
- Opening a Bank Account: Essential for managing rent, semester fees, and daily expenses in Germany.
- Dormitory To-Dos: If you are staying in a student dormitory, make sure to follow the move-in and administrative guidelines provided.

Detailed guidance and step-by-step instructions can be found here:

go.upb.de/step_by_step

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Complete these tasks as early as possible after arrival, as they are often required for visa extensions, payments, and university administration.

Transportation

With the **Deutschlandsemesterticket**, you can travel across Germany on local public transport, including buses, trams, subways, and regional trains (RB, RE, SBahn). The digital ticket is available through the OWL app.

go.upb.de/semester_ticket

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Campus Life & Community

Your time at Paderborn University is more than lectures and exams – it's about joining a vibrant campus community. From student groups and cultural exchange to sports and representation, there are countless ways to connect, grow, and make lasting memories.

> AStA
General Students Committee of Paderborn University
go.upb.de/asta

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> ASV
International Student Association
go.upb.de/asv

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> Hochschulsport
University Sports
go.upb.de/sport

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> Fachschaft
Student Councils
go.upb.de/fachschaft_fsmi

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> Student Groups
Other Clubs & Initiatives: Find a club that matches your passions
go.upb.de/student_groups

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Study Services & Mentoring

Study Service Computer Science

The Study Service Computer Science is your main point of contact for all study related questions, ranging from examination regulations and recognition of previous achievements to general guidance about your program. You can visit the Study Service during office hours, send an email, or join the YouTube live streams offered twice a month, where you can ask questions directly.

- **Main Campus**: E1.125 / E1.129 (Mon - Wed, 10:00-11:30 & 12:30-15:00)
- **Fürstenallee**: F2.119 (Thu, 10:00-11:30)
- **E-Mail**: studienbuero-informatik@uni-paderborn.de
- **YouTube Channel**: www.youtube.com/user/FakultaetEIM

go.upb.de/study-service

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Mentoring for International Students

Alongside the Study Service, there is a mentoring program especially for international students. You can book one-on-one appointments via KOMO to discuss academic questions, life in Germany, or simply have an informal chat. How to find the mentoring course in KOMO:

go.upb.de/komo-en

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Courses > Organisation und Arbeitsgruppen > Elektrotechnik, Informatik und Mathematik > EIM.23.005 Mentoring Informatik – Master

In addition, a WhatsApp group is available for international Computer Science students, where you can share insights, ask questions, and stay connected with your peers. Don't hesitate to use these services as they are designed to support your studies and make your transition to life in Germany smoother.

Key Deadlines – Winter 2026

- **Course Registration**: until 31 October 2026
- **Course Deregistration**: until 31 December 2026
- **Course achievement Registration**: 22 October - 26 November 2026
- **Exam Registration (Phase 1)**: 22 October - 26 November 2026
- **Exam Registration (Phase 2)**: 1 March - 12 March 2027
- **Deregistration of Exams**: up to 2 days before the exam

Support & Services

All the important university services you will need during your studies, from course registration and exam information to IT support, language courses and student job opportunities, have been collected in one place on KOMO. This page serves as your shortcut hub for all the essential platforms you will need.

komo.uni-paderborn.de/mod/page/view.php?id=58996

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Welcome Days Schedule

Wednesday, October 7th

09:30 am	Welcome and Presentation of the Welcome Days	Lecture Hall **O1**
10:00 am	Welcome Addresses	Lecture Hall **O1**
10:15 am	Introduction to the Student Councils	Lecture Hall **O1**
10:45 am	Getting started: Access to the university systems, Delicard etc.	Lecture Hall **O1**
12:00 pm	Lunch Break	**Mensa Foyer**
02:00 pm	**Introduction to Study Programs in Parallel Sessions**	
	Introduction to the Computer Engineering Program	Room **O1.258**
	Introduction to the Computer Science Program	Lecture Hall **O2**
	Introduction to the Electrical Systems Engineering Program	Room **O1.224**
	Introduction to Optoelectronics and Photonics Program	Room **O1.252**
03:30 pm	Coffee Break	**O1 Foyer**
04:00 pm	Campus Tour	**O1 Foyer**
07:00 pm	Get-Together at Gewölbe/gwlb in the City Centre (Marienplatz 18)	**Gewölbe / gwlb** in the City Centre

Thursday, October 8th

09:00 am	Computer Museum Visit and Campus Fürstenallee and Tour of F building	**HNF Foyer**
12:00 pm	Lunch at ZM2 (Fürstenallee)	**ZM2**
02:00 pm	International Office: Questions and Answers	Lecture Hall **O1**
03:00 pm	PAUL Introduction for International Students	Lecture Hall **O1**
04:00 pm	Introduction to the Hochschulsport	Lecture Hall **O1**

Campus Locations & Transit Info

> **Universität Paderborn**
Main Campus
- Location: Warburger Straße 100, 33098 Paderborn
- Bus Stop: Uni/Südring (Bus lines 1, 4, 10, 20, 100)

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> **Heinz Nixdorf Institute (HNI)**
Fürstenallee (F building)
- Location: Fürstenallee 11, 33102 Paderborn
- Bus Stop: Museums Forum (Bus lines 9, 14)

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Get-Together @ Gewölbe / gwlb

Join us on Wednesday, **October 7th, 19:00 pm at Gewölbe / gwlb (Marienplatz 18)** for a relaxed evening to meet
fellow students!

> **Entrance:** floor hatch left of Hans im Glück

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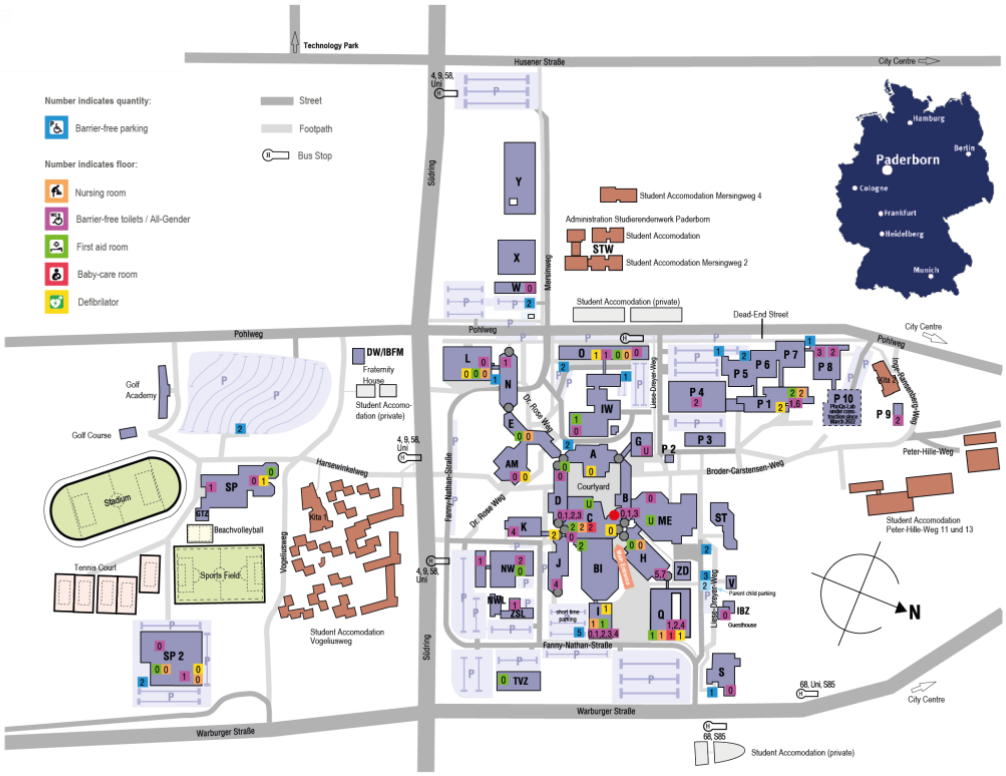
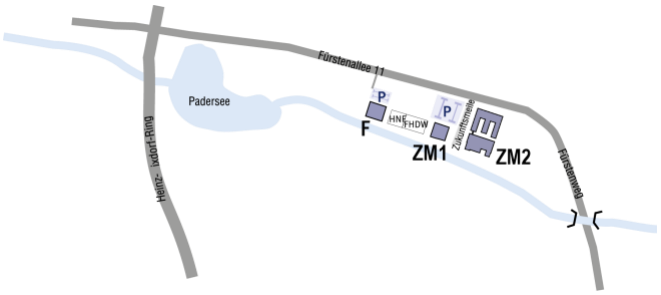
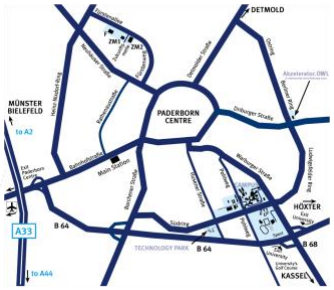
Campus map



Fürstenallee / Zukunftsmeile



City map