

### ***On the choice of modules***

#### **Q1: Where do I find the modules I can choose from?**

There are two sources, the Module Hand Book (MHB) and the LSF. The Module Hand Book (MHB) is updated at most once per semester and contains the mapping of modules to the thematic areas. The LSF is updated continuously. So, the LSF is your first source for finding modules, the MHB is the document you consult for the mapping to areas.

Make sure that you choose the latest version of the MHB, because we find inconsistencies now and then and modify them; this leads to a new version.

#### **Q2: Are all modules I can choose in LSF ?**

A: NO, for two reasons:

1. Modules are added each semester, so you do not necessarily see all modules of next semester
2. There are “generic modules”, like the “Wissenschaftliches Teamprojekt” (which belongs to the area “Applied Data Science”), which are *implemented* by each teacher. Some teachers add their “implementations” to LSF as if they were modules; other teachers do not. So, it is always best to ask the teacher about (a) teamprojects, (b) a seminars and (c) individual projects they offer, instead of looking at LSF.

#### **Q3: What is the difference between a module and a lecture?**

A: A “module” is an administrative term. It can be implemented with different types of teaching courses, including lectures, seminars, individual projects, teamprojects.

#### **Q4: Enrolling for a “Wissenschaftliches Teamprojekt” (WTM) seems very complicated. What are the things I must take into account?**

A: Many. Here is a short list.

1. A WTM is a project for a team, so you need a team. Some teachers put the teams together for the WTMs they offer; other teachers expect that students come as a team to take a WTM. Observe the announcements of the teachers.
2. WTM is a generic module. For each degree offered by the FIN, it is assigned to a different area. For the MDKE, it is assigned to the area “Applied Data Science”.
3. In the MDKE, you must finish at least one WTM successfully. You can have more than one, but you must make sure that you have enough ECTS in the area “Applied Data Science”. So, reserve at least 6 ECTS for it in the area.
4. A WTM is mandatory part of all master degrees of the FIN. So, you can team up with students from other degrees. Occasionally, this is very beneficial, because some WTM require skills taught at different degrees. However, each degree is governed by different rules. For example, a Master Digital Engineering project can have an examiner from another faculty, while for MDKE the examiner must be from the FIN. In doubt, ask the studies coordinator.
5. There is a registration form for seminars, WTMs and individual projects. You (and all members of the team you are in) must fill this form for the WTM you register. Each WTM has a title, so when you enroll you write “Wissenschaftliches Teamprojekt: TITLEHERE”. You should always write the title; this will allow you to enroll for more than one WTM, if you so wish.
6. The registration form contains also the *examination form*. This is usually chosen by the teacher among (a) mündliche Prüfung / oral examination; (b) Hausarbeit / Homework; (c) Referat; (d) wissenschaftliches Teamprojekt. Some teachers prefer form (b), which is the

most flexible one. Many opt for form (d).

**BEWARE:** Do not confuse the examination form (d) with the module type WTM.

**Q5: I found a module I like in the LSF, but it is not in the Module Hand Book (MHB). Can I still enroll?**

A: Ask the Studies Coordinator *before you enroll*.

There are several cases:

1. The module is very new, so it is not in the MHB yet. The studies coordinator will know to which area it fits.
2. The module fits thematically but it is too basic, e.g. bachelor level.
3. The module is offered by another faculty, and the MDKE students do not have access to it. Our faculty makes agreements with other faculties concerning the import of modules. If the agreement is not in place (yet), you cannot take the module.
4. The module is not permitted in the MDKE. An example is the “Digital Engineering Project” of the Master Digital Engineering: this module looks like a “Wissenschaftliches Teamprojekt”, and it is a project for a team, but it is another kind of project and it is governed by different rules.

**Q6: The thematic area appearing in the LSF disagrees with the thematic area in the MHB. Which one is correct?**

A: Inform the Studies Coordinator of the discrepancy.

In principle, the MHB takes precedence over the LSF. However, we have identified cases where the module entry in the LSF was correct and the entry in the MHB was not updated (technical error).

The correction is an administrative process and may take long, so inform immediately.

**On master thesis:**

**MT1: Can I write my master thesis at a company?**

A: Certainly! Some companies offer thesis projects for data science students, and some of these projects are really exiting. Besides, you get the chance to apply data science methods for real applications on real data. And it is not a secret that some companies also offer jobs to such students after the master thesis is done successfully.

However, the person officially responsible for the thesis and acting as first evaluator must be a teacher from the FIN. So, if you got an offer for a thesis from a company, it is still your responsibility to find the first evaluator.

**MT2: Can I write my master thesis at another faculty?**

A: Yes. However, the person officially responsible for the thesis and acting as first evaluator must be a teacher from the FIN (see previous question).

**MT3: A friend of mine who is studying also in the FIN writes the master thesis at another faculty and the teacher from that faculty is also first evaluator. What is the difference?**

A: Some degrees of the FIN are performed in cooperation with further faculties. Then, specific rules apply concerning examinations and thesis supervision. The data science Master DKE imports modules from other faculties but is run within the FIN.

**MT4: Can I write my master thesis together with another student?**

A: Yes; double master theses are rare but exist.

You must discuss with your supervisor, whether the thesis topic can be made appropriate for two students, i.e. twice as large and with separable parts. Beware that this is not always feasible, so you cannot demand it.