

Agenda for the
Welcome Week
at the German University of Digital Science

OBJECTIVES:

- Familiarize participants with the university's mission, key staff, academic culture, and teaching areas.
 - Facilitate networking and team-building among students in a Design Thinking-inspired format.
 - Provide an introduction to the learning platform and tools.
 - Establish support systems and communication channels for technical and academic topics.
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Day 1: Welcome to German UDS
(Tuesday, April 7, 2026)

- **11:00 – 11:30 CET | Presidential Welcome – Opening & Dialogue**
Welcome by the University Presidents.
Brief introduction to the university's mission, vision, and values, followed by an interactive Q&A session with students.
Hosts: Christoph Meinel, Mike Friedrichsen (Moderator: Julia von Thienen)
- **11:30 – 12:15 CET | Meet the Faculty – Interactive Round I**
Very brief (one-minute) introductions by professors.
Students are invited to ask questions on topics such as academic focus areas, modules, expectations, assessments, or ongoing projects.
Hosts: Christoph Meinel, Feiyu Xu, Steven Ney, Thomas Staubitz, Maren Borkert, Marco Bade, Daniele Di Mitri
- **12:15 – 13:00 CET | Platform Exploration – Live Orientation & Q&A**
Interactive exploration of the learning environment.
Instead of a full technical walkthrough, this session focuses on navigating key areas of the platform and tools, understanding where to find essential resources, and addressing practical questions regarding access, registration, or the digital facilities.
Host: Thomas Staubitz

Day 2: Study Experience and Programme Planning (Wednesday, April 8, 2026)

- **11:00 – 11:45 CET | Meet the Faculty – Interactive Round II**
Continuation of the faculty exchange. Students are invited to ask questions on topics such as academic focus areas, modules, expectations, assessments, or ongoing projects.
Hosts: Mike Friedrichsen, Julia von Thienen, Tim Stuchtey, Haojin Yang, Felix Weitkämper, Ekaterina Artemova, Georg Loscher
 - **11:45 – 12:30 CET | Study Planning & Module Selection – Meet the Programme Coordinators**
Dedicated interactive session with the Programme Coordinators.
Discussion of module pathways, sequencing options, workload management, and individual study planning strategies. Students are encouraged to raise specific questions relating to their professional background and learning objectives.
Hosts: Programme Coordinators
 - **12:30 – 13:00 CET | Campus of Virtual Education – Experience & Exchange**
Introduction to the Campus of Virtual Education and its innovative learning spaces.
Hosts: Tim Strauch and Philipp Steigerwald
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Day 3: Design Thinking and Community Building (Thursday, April 9, 2026)

- **11:00 – 12:00 CET | Live Design Thinking Sprint**
Condensed interactive team challenge focusing on identifying key challenges in online learning and co-creating solution ideas.
Short breakout sessions followed by plenary reflection and synthesis of insights.
Moderators: Steven Ney, Hanadi Traifeh, Julia von Thienen
- **12:00 – 13:00 CET | New Students Meet Senior Students – Peer Exchange**
Interactive peer exchange session.
Senior students share their experiences, practical study tips, and reflections on balancing workload and professional commitments.
Hosts: Study Affairs and senior Student Representatives

Day 4: Connect, Reflect & Celebrate
(Friday, April 10, 2026)

- **11:00 – 12:00 CET | Campus & Research – Ask Us Anything**
Interactive session with representatives from research centres and student services.
Focus on opportunities for research engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation initiatives, and extracurricular involvement. Students are invited to ask questions and explore ways to actively shape their academic journey.
Hosts:
Thomas Staubitz – Research Center for Educational Technologies
Felix Weitkämper – Research Center for Artificial Intelligence
Julia von Thienen – Research Center for Cybersecurity
Daniele Di Mitri – Research Center for Extended Reality
Georg Loscher – Research Center for Digital Transformations
Steven Ney & Hanadi Traifeh – College for Design Thinking
Maren Borkert – College for Transformative Tech Entrepreneurship
Manisha Manaswini – Student Services
Julia von Thienen – Recap of Policies & Guidelines
- **12:00 – 12:30 CET | Recognition Ceremony**
Celebrating your successful application, admission, enrolment, and commencement of studies.
Recap of key Welcome Week highlights and awarding of the Digital Education Essentials Badge.
Hosts: Mike Friedrichsen, Christoph Meinel (Moderator: Julia von Thienen)
- **12:30 – 13:00 CET | Group Reflection – “I Wish / I Like”**
Interactive reflection on the onboarding experience and collection of ideas for future improvement.
Hosts: Steven Ney, Julia von Thienen