



**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**

**(Monday, October 6, 2025)**

- **11:00 - 12:00 CET | Presidential Welcome – Opening Ceremony**  
Introduction by the University Presidents. Overview of the university's mission, vision, and values. Sharing of the agenda and outlook.  
*Hosts: Christoph Meinel, Mike Friedrichsen*
- **12:00 - 13:00 CET | Meet the Faculty I**  
Short presentations by professors highlighting their teaching areas and research interests.  
*Hosts: Christoph Meinel, Feiyu Xu, Steven Ney, Georg Loscher, Katya Artemova, Tim Stuchtey*
- **14:00 - 16:00 CET | Platform Walkthrough**  
Hands-on demo of the learning platform (e.g., LMS, tools for lectures, and assignments).  
*Host: Thomas Staubitz*



## Day 2: Study Experience and Program

(Tuesday, October 7, 2025)

- **11:00 - 12:00 CET | Meet the Faculty II**  
Short presentations by professors highlighting their teaching areas and research interests.  
*Hosts: Mike Friedrichsen, Marco Bade, Julia von Thienen, Felix Weitkämper, Thomas Staubitz, Maren Borkert, Daniele Di Mitri*
- **12:00 - 13:00 CET | Orientation on Policies and Guidelines**  
Academic integrity, grading system, and expected workload.  
*Hosts: Mike Friedrichsen, Julia von Thienen, Thomas Staubitz*
- **14:00 - 16:00 CET | UDS Campus of Virtual Education**  
Discover how the Campus of Virtual Education is redefining digital learning experiences.  
*Hosts: Philipp Steigerwald, Tim Strauch, Nicklas Vorrink*

## Day 3: Design Thinking “Re-Designing Online Learning”

(Wednesday, October 8, 2025)

- **11:00 - 13:00 CET | Design Thinking Team Challenge**  
Teams conduct research and empathise to understand needs and pain points in online learning, building a unique problem view.  
*Moderators: Steven Ney, Hanadi Traifeh, Julia von Thienen*
- **14:00 - 16:00 CET | Ideation and Prototype Testing**  
Teams generate solution ideas, then build and test prototypes to develop innovative online learning solutions.  
*Moderators: Hanadi Traifeh, Julia von Thienen, Steven Ney*



## Day 4: From Campus to Career

(Thursday, October 9, 2025)

- **11:00 - 12:00 CET | Campus Life**

Introduction to the Research Centers, Student Services, and regular events such as conferences.

*Hosts:*

*Thomas Staubitz – Research Center for Educational Technologies*

*Felix Weitkämper – Research Center for Artificial Intelligence*

*Tim Stuchtey – 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*

*Marco Bade – College for Entrepreneurship*

*Manisha Manaswini – Student Services and Regular Events*

- **12:00 - 13:00 CET | Mindfulness for Online Learning**

Research on advantages and potential challenges in online learning; resources for online learners, and designing your online learning environments.

*Host: Julia von Thienen*

- **14:00 - 16:00 CET | Industry Guest Lecture**

Industry expert shares insights on innovation in IT and job prospects.

*Moderator: Mike Friedrichsen*



## Day 5: Reflect & Celebrate

(Friday, October 10, 2025)

- **11:00 - 12:00 CET | Recognition Ceremony**  
Festive inauguration session, celebrating your successful application, admission, enrollment, and study commencement. Recap of highlights from the Welcome Week. Awarding of your Digital Education Essentials Badge.  
*Hosts: Mike Friedrichsen, Christoph Meinel*
- **12:00 - 13:00 CET | Group Reflection, I-wish-I-like**  
Reflecting on the onboarding experience and gathering ideas for the future.  
*Hosts: Steven Ney, Julia von Thienen, Kim-Pascal Borchart*
- **13:00 CET + | Closing Social**  
Informal networking to build lasting connections.  
*Hosts: Julia von Thienen, Steven Ney, Kim-Pascal Borchart*