

Max Muster

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Welcome to the physics department

Hallo Max,

You have now been admitted to the Masters Programme of the Department of Physics at the Freie Universität Berlin. Congratulations! We are glad that you decided to complete your graduate studies here at our campus. To give you a smooth start, we are including information plus some helpful advice.

We, a group of physics students forming an initiative called Fachschaftsinitiative (FSI), want to help you through the organizational jungle, though maybe you have already collected a great deal of information from various sources, especially from your time as a Bachelor student.

To welcome you in person (and not just by letter) we have arranged a brief orientation meeting, where you will be given further information about your Masters courses. This is scheduled for Monday, 16th of October, at 10:00 am, at the Physics Department, Seminar room 1.1.16. As you may notice, the orientation meeting is parallel to the first lecture of “Advanced Statistical Physics”. The lecture will start a little bit later on this Monday, so you can attend the orientation meeting and will not miss anything of the lecture.

ZEDAT

A lot of the organizational work can be arranged via internet. An account has been assigned to you and you will receive a letter from the ZEDAT (Zentrale Einrichtung für Datenverarbeitung) containing a temporary username and a password as well as instructions on how to set up your account. The ZEDAT supervises most of the university’s computer-related infrastructure.

Together with your account you will be given an e-mail address and access to WiFi on the FU grounds. For further information (unfortunately only in German) see:

- http://www.zedat.fu-berlin.de/Tip4U_Allgemein

In addition, you will be added to a mailing list in the physics department (studies@physik.fu-berlin.de) that addresses all students in the department. A lot of important information is sent via this mailing list, also student job offers or possible master thesis projects.

How to register for courses

To register for courses, please access “Campus Management”, which can be found under: www.ecampus.fu-berlin.de.

Password and username are the same as for your ZEDAT-account (the ZEDAT-account needs to be set up first). Under “Campus Management” all courses and lectures relevant to your programme are listed. If problems occur, please contact us so we can help you sort them out. The registration is open from 2nd of October on and closes on the 3rd of November. It is possible to attend the lectures in the first week without registering in advance.

Since signing up for classes and courses has become a bit difficult after the introduction of new online learning tools, we plan to offer a short introduction into the different tools in the first week of the semester. So you can wait with your final registration until that day if you think you need some help. The exact day and time will be probably announced on the welcome meeting, but we will definitely send an email to all students (so check your FU mail account) with the necessary information.

Which courses do I take?

This is probably the most important question. During your first two semesters you are required to accumulate at least 60 credit points (ECTS) by completing different courses. You will be given relative freedom in choosing your modules, but please note that most courses are only taught once every year. That means you have to carefully plan your first two semesters. Compulsory courses are:

- Advanced Quantum Mechanics *or* Statistical Physics and Thermodynamics *or* another theory lecture (10 credit points)
- Physics Laboratory Practical Course (10 credit points, in winter and summer terms)
- Selected Topics in Physics (5 credit points, in winter and in summer terms)

In “Selected Topics in Physics” you are required to give a presentation. Different courses with various topics are offered and these change every semester. Small hint: Advanced Quantum Mechanics (or Advanced Statistical Physics) and the Advanced Laboratory course both mean a lot of work. We’d recommend to not take them in the same term. In addition you will have to select at least one module from the following list. Each of them has 10 credit points. If you choose to select more than one course from this list, you can use it as an elective module.

- Advanced Atomic and Molecular Physics (Experimental Physics, in summer term)
- Advanced Statistical Physics (Theoretical Physics, in winter term)
- Advanced Quantum Mechanics (Theoretical Physics, only in winter term)

- Advanced Solid State Physics (Experimental Physics, in winter term)
- Advanced Biophysics (Experimental Physics, only in summer term)
- Quantum Field Theory and Many-Body Physics (Theoretical Physics, only in summer term)

For your remaining 25 credit points you may choose from a variety of modules covering different physical topics. The list of courses changes every semester. It is also possible to choose more than one of the five modules listed above. All courses and lectures are specified in the Module Descriptions. For this please see:

- <http://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/modul?id=127717&sm=344910>

You may also register for courses outside the Physics Department (even at the other universities in Berlin and Potsdam). All the eligible courses are listed in the Curriculum and Graduation Requirements. Also take a look at the list of non-physics courses that can be accepted without problems:

- <http://www.fu-berlin.de/service/zuvdocs/amsblatt/2013/ab392013.pdf>
- http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/master/Study_-_examination-since-2013.pdf (English)
- <http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/studium/master/Nicht-physikalische-Wahlmodule.pdf>
- <http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/master/Non-physics-elective-courses.pdf> (English)

If still in doubt about which courses to choose, feel free to send an e-mail to the student course guidance or to us, the FSI. You will find our e-mail addresses under “Further Information”.

Physics Laboratory Practical Course

If you decide to do the Advanced Lab Course in the winter semester, you have to register early on a separate page. The deadline is in the beginning of October, but not yet announced. To register please access the following website: <http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/studium/praktika-forward/index.html> In addition your registration in “Campus Management” is required.

Further information

We hope we have covered the most important things you need to know before starting your semester at FU Berlin. There might still be some questions left. Please feel free to send us an e-mail or put forward your questions during our orientation meeting on Monday, 16th of October. The most curious among you can use the following sources to get further information concerning our Masters programme:

- <http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/master/> (English)
- <http://www.physik.fu-berlin.de/studium/master/> (German)

If you want to have a counselling talk, you can contact the student course advisor (Leveke Holler) via e-mail (*studienberatung@physik.fu-berlin.de*) or visit him during his office hours (currently Wed 2-4 pm and Fri 10-12 am in room 1.1.14a). As an alternative, you can send an e-mail to *fsi@physik.fu-berlin.de* to contact FSI students who will gladly answer your questions.

Last but not least We arrange other little events, like a barbecue for the new students and a tour around the campus and maybe the sign-up information event as explained above. The campus tour will be held on Tuesday, October 17th, at 4pm. Meeting point is the student cafe "CafeXX" (0.3.02). The barbecue will take place on Monday, October 16th, from noon on in the court in front of the CafeXX. The information event will be announced via e-mail.

These events will give you the opportunity to chat, to get used to the Physics Department and to find new friends among the students. If you want to take part in any of them, just come over!

We are looking forward to welcoming you soon!

Viele Grüße, Deine FSI