Let’s talk about: Interdisciplinary Projects @in.tum

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Main target group:
first year Master of Informatics students new to in.tum

✓ Not familiar with the regulations such as registration, timeline, submission...?
✓ Facing problems finding an IDP topic?
✓ Asking for IDP examples?
✓ Who is the contact for my supervisor?
Let’s talk about - IDP@in.tum

Advice and examples about the IDP settings and its accomplishment given by our

• academic advisors: Dr. Sandra Kemler, Sibylle Roden-Kinghorst, Vivija Simic
  https://www.in.tum.de/fuer-studierende/beratung-und-unterstuetzung/studienberatung/

• administrative inquiries: Susanne Kinzel

• experienced students/IDP advisors
  • Fabio Gratl → Chair of Scientific Computing
  • Maximilian Bandle (→Chair of Database Systems), Bianca Forkel → IDP in application area of Electrical Engineering
Important facts around IDP

• Mandatory for all Informatic Master students
• Description under module number **IN2334**
• Worth: 16 credits
• Recommendation: do it in semester 2 and 3
• Registration whenever you like
• Two parts
  – lecture (about 4 weekly hours or 5 ECTS)
  – project
• Final grade is calculated with 30% lecture and 70% project
• Project may be done in cooperation with
  – a department of university
  – a company (start-up)
• In each case supervisor has to be a professor
  – from another department than Informatics or
  – from the department of Informatics with an affiliate membership in another department

[https://www.in.tum.de/en/the-department/people-services/affiliate-membership/](https://www.in.tum.de/en/the-department/people-services/affiliate-membership/)
Formal aspects

- Module description IN2334: [https://campus.tum.de/tumonline/WBMODHB.wbShowMHBReadOnly?pKnotenNr=1227810&pOrgNr=14189](https://campus.tum.de/tumonline/WBMODHB.wbShowMHBReadOnly?pKnotenNr=1227810&pOrgNr=14189)
- Data needed
  - Application Area: department other than Informatics
  - Theme (German and English): Will be listed on transcript of records
  - Supervisor: professor, member of another department
    - Some professors ([http://www.in.tum.de/en/the-department/people-services/affiliate-membership/](http://www.in.tum.de/en/the-department/people-services/affiliate-membership/)) from Informatics also belong to other departments
  - Advisor: usually Ph.D. student
  - Lecture (usually with exercises):
    - at least 4 weekly hours per semester or at least 5 ECTS
    - usually from the chair / department of the professor, but no must
    - no courses out of the list of elective modules from master‘s informatics
    - no seminar, lab course, …
    - can also be a bachelor‘s course
    - always indicate corresponding module number(s)
  - Distribution of grade calculation lecture: project is fixed by 3:7
  - Project begin: can be any time
Formal aspects, cont.

- Registration form (cont):
  - Anticipated project end: only provisional, no application necessary for changes
  - Signature of supervisor and student(s) – original, no scans
    - at least 2 pages
    - parts of Informatics and Application Area
    - milestones for the project
    - connection between lecture and project
  - Group of students (usually 2-4) should work on one IDP
    - Clearly distinguish the parts of the project the students work on
    - Grading of the IDP individually for the group members
    - Grading at different times possible (when someone, e.g., fails the lecture)
  - Credits
    - Will be entered as a whole (16) in the grade report only after complete completion
    - Grade for the exam of the lecture is usually entered under additional examinations, not yet counted for the studies
Tips

• Register in time – it has to be approved (duration about 1 month)

• You see it in your TUMonline account once it is approved
  • Supervisor gets an approval letter together with a grade sheet

• Lecture cannot be changed, once project is approved
  • Grade is weighted average of the lecture and the project (3:7)
    • Pass is possible even if exam is failed
    • Especially exam for lecture can be repeated **once (!) if failed**

• IDPs in cooperation with companies?
  ➢ The official supervisor of the IDP must always fulfill the criteria above
  ➢ Promising if the supervisors have contact, e.g., spin-off
  ➢ Very difficult if only you have contact – why should the supervisor have an interest?
  ➢ Most important: All persons involved (supervisor, advisor, company contact, student(s)) should meet (at least) once in person to clarify the work
Tips, cont.

• How to find a suitable IDP?
  • Projects on the IDP web page
  • Browse the websites of the departments of
    • TUM https://www.tum.de/en/about-tum/departments/ and also
    • of LMU http://www.en.uni-muenchen.de/about_lmu/academics/faculties/index.html
    • Contact persons directly, you know from earlier experiences

• How to accomplish an IDP?
  • Close contact to advisor
  • Milestones, project plan
Concerns – and how to overcome them?

- Other departments not used to work with international students
- Workload
  - Others underestimate the effort
  - You underestimate the effort
- Level of support
- Scope of project
- Exploitation
- Deadline
- Different exam culture

All information → on page
Much success with IDP