

New All-time High: Nearly 24,000 Students at KIT

4,700 Freshmen in the Current Winter Semester – KIT Created 1,100 Additional Study Places in the Past Years



Studies of engineering, natural sciences, and economics are highly popular among freshmen at KIT. (Photo: Harry Marx)

In the current 2012/2013 winter semester, the number of students at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is higher than ever before. Of the currently 23,905 students enrolled, 4,708 are freshmen. 1,307 of them are female, 1,127 come from abroad. KIT has used the funds provided by the state of Baden-Württemberg under the program “Hochschule 2012” to prepare well for the higher number of secondary school graduates.

Compared to the past year, the number of students at KIT increased by another 1,500 to nearly 24,000. The proportion of females is 27 percent (6,422), 16 percent of the students come from abroad (3,859). According to Alexander Wanner, the Chief Higher Education Officer responsible for education at KIT, KIT is prepared well for the growing number of students. “As in previous years, most freshmen started to study engineering, natural sciences, and economics. In these highly popular subjects, KIT created 1,100 additional study places in the past five years.”

The Department of Economics has increased the number of study places in economic engineering by nearly 40% to 555. The Department of Mechanical Engineering has established two new bachelor programs (mechatronics and information technology, materials sci-

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ence and technology) and now offers a total of 820 places. Applicants were also highly interested in the new bachelor program “Science, media, and communication” as well as in the bachelor program of architecture.

When pupils leaving secondary school decide to start studies of mathematics, informatics, natural sciences, and engineering, which are considered difficult in general, support is provided by the MINT-Kolleg Baden-Württemberg, a joint facility of KIT and Stuttgart University. The courses are offered to prepare for these studies and also run parallel to them in order to facilitate the transition from the secondary school to university and to reduce the quit rate. Since the start of the MINT-Kolleg one year ago, a total of 2,500 pupils and students have participated in the courses.

According to Alexander Wanner, however, room capacities are completely exhausted now. So far, the state has promised EUR 6.4 million for constructing new and renting existing buildings. Among others, a learning center is being built on Campus South. It is planned to be completed by late 2013 and to accommodate three seminar rooms, a biological laboratory, a chemical laboratory, 90 workplaces, and a lounge for students. “The learning center will certainly ease the demand for more rooms, but this demand will remain high, as the number of students increases,” says Wanner.

More information on the numbers of students:

www.kit.edu/studieren/6407.php

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.

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