

## Start of the Winter Semester at KIT

Welcome of Freshmen at the Schwarzwaldhalle – About 4000 Students Start Studies at KIT



*The KIT welcomes its freshmen and their families at the Schwarzwaldhalle. (Photo: Sandra Göttisheim)*

**Approximately 4000 students are about to start their studies at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in the 2014/2015 winter semester. The KIT will welcome the freshmen and their families in Karlsruhe at the traditional freshmen welcome event on Friday, October 17, 2014, 18 hrs, at the Schwarzwaldhalle of the Karlsruhe Congress Center.**

“Research-oriented teaching and the vicinity to big research characterize studies at KIT. Thus, our students are given unique opportunities: Early in their studies can they focus on aspects of practical research and use large-scale research facilities,” KIT President Professor Holger Hanselka says. During the welcome event, he will speak about special features of studies at KIT. One of them is the above-average faculty-student ratio in comparison to other leading technical universities in Germany. It results from integrating scientists of the large-scale research sector in teaching activities.

The freshmen already familiarized with the most important contact points of KIT in the past days during the orientation phase organized by older students to facilitate the start of studies at KIT.

With nearly 4000 freshmen, the number has normalized on the level of the 2010/2011 winter semester again. In the past years, this

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number increased by up to 10% due to the reduction of duration of secondary school education by one year in Bavaria (2011), Baden-Württemberg (2012), and North Rhine-Westphalia (2013). However, enrolment and move-up procedures are still in progress. The reference date for the statistics is November 30. The total number of students will presumably be 23,500.

“Our students essentially shape the KIT, everywhere on the campus and beyond,” Professor Alexander Wanner, KIT Vice President for Higher Education and Academic Affairs, says. “In the student associations and various university groups, they do not only look beyond the limits of their own realm. With their offers and their activities, they enrich academic exchange and life at KIT.” This year, 55 students will be honored for their high commitment by Alexander Wanner.

#### **KIT Backpack, Brochure “Was Studierende wissen sollten”**

As in the past years, the freshmen will be given the KIT backpack. Apart from information material about major KIT institutions, the General Students’ Committee, and the Studierendenwerk, it will also contain information and give-aways of the backpack sponsors. Important information for starting studies, about central institutions, and services and support offers of KIT is summarized in the brochure “Was Studierende wissen sollten”:

[www.kit.edu/mediathek/print\\_forschung/Broschuere\\_Erstsemester\\_de.pdf](http://www.kit.edu/mediathek/print_forschung/Broschuere_Erstsemester_de.pdf)

#### **New Issue of the Online Students Magazine “clickKIT“**

The online students magazine “clickKIT” will also be issued at the beginning of the lecturing period. Under [www.kit.edu/clickit](http://www.kit.edu/clickit), it supplies latest news and background information, with audio interviews, films ([www.kit.edu/youtube](http://www.kit.edu/youtube)), and discussions ([www.kit.edu/facebook](http://www.kit.edu/facebook)). Every issue covers a topic selected by the Facebook community. During the welcome event at the Schwarzwaldhalle, the magazine will be presented by the editorial staff at one of the booths. At other booths, various KIT institutions, university groups, and partners will inform about their offers and be pleased to answer questions. In addition, the KIT collection will be presented: Clothing, office articles, and gifts in KIT design may also be obtained at [www.kit-shop.de](http://www.kit-shop.de) or at the bookstore on Kronenplatz.

**Program of the Freshmen Welcome Event**

Start: 18 hrs, admission from 17.15 hrs

**Musical Opening by the KIT University Dance Orchestra**

Conductor: Frank Mathes

**Welcome by the Presidential Committee**

“Excellent Research – Excellent Education: Studying at KIT”

Professor Holger Hanselka, KIT President

**Welcome Address by the City of Karlsruhe**

Mayor Michael Obert

**Welcome Address by the AStA External Relations Officer**

“From Students for Students”

Johannes Janosovits

**Prizes for Outstanding Student Commitment**

Professor Alexander Wanner, KIT Vice President for Higher Education and Academic Affairs

**Freshmen Quiz**

**Cabaret with Sascha Korf**

**After the program:**

**Visit of the information booths and get-together with professors of KIT in the entrance hall of the Schwarzwaldhalle**

The 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. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9400 employees, including more than 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24500 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

This press release is available on the internet at [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).

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