

Study Handbook

**Master of Science
Microelectronics and Chip Design
(MSMCD)**

**PO20251 - *Prüfungs*Ordnung 20251
(Examination Regulations)**

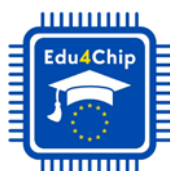
Winter Semester 2025/26

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Master of Science Microelectronics and Chip Design:

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Legally valid are only the official published **General Academic and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Programs (APSO)** at the Technical University of Munich and the [Program-Specific Academic and Examination Regulations](#) (abbr. as FPSO in German) for the master's program in Microelectronics and Chip Design.

Contents

Preface	4
1. Program Overview	5
1.1 Chip Design Project	5
1.2 Learning Outcomes	5
1.3 Academic Timeline.....	5
1.4 Semester Structure	6
2. Modules and Credit Requirements	7
2.1 Core Elective Modules	7
2.2 Practical Chip-Design Modules.....	8
2.3 Specialized Elective Modules.....	9
2.4 Scientific Seminars	11
2.5 Interdisciplinary Modules	11
2.6 Master's thesis	12
2.7 Module Descriptions/ Module catalog	12
2.8 Study Abroad	12
3. Academic progress check.....	12
3.1 Program-Specific Milestones	13
3.2 Cumulative Credit Thresholds	13
3.3 Degree Graduation.....	13
3.4 Examination Board	13
3.5 Leave of absence	14
4. Examinations	14
4.1 ECTS Credits System	14
4.2 Exams Assessment	14
4.2.1 Grade Assessments (Prüfungsleistungen)	14
4.2.2 Ungraded Assessments (Studienleistungen).....	14
4.2.3 Grading Scale and Calculation.....	14
4.3 Transcript of Records.....	15
4.4 Examination Registration and Information	15
4.4.1 Key Points for exam registration	15
4.4.2 De-registration/ Withdrawal.....	16
4.5 Recognition of Prior Learning/ Credits.....	16
5. Responsibilities of Students	17
6. Student Service & Support.....	17
7. University facilities	18

Preface

Dear MSMCD Students,

Welcome to this new program provided by the Technical University of Munich.

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank the European Union for supporting us via the project Edu4Chip to grow such a program at the Technical University of Munich.

This handbook should support you in understanding the regulations of the MSMCD study program. It is meant to help you customize the course selection and plan your path from planning the first semester to graduating after two years of studies.

I hope that the handbook answers most of your questions. All information can be found on the website: [M.Sc. Microelectronics and Chip Design](#)

The primary point of contact for queries related to the MSMCD program please contact: msmcd.asa@xcit.tum.de

Sincerely,

PD Dr. Michael Pehl

Program Director of M.Sc. Microelectronics and Chip Design

1. Program Overview

The M.Sc. Microelectronics and Chip Design program is part of the School of Computation, Information and Technology (School of CIT) at TUM, under the professional profile of Electrical and Computer Engineering. It is a full-time, four-semester course with a total of 120 credits. Three semesters are dedicated to coursework and examinations, while the final semester is reserved for the master's thesis.

1.1 Chip Design Project

The Chip Design Project is the core element of the program and runs throughout the coursework phase. In this project students are involved in all stages of creating a chip, starting with the initial specifications and ending with the final tape-out (the manufacturing-ready design). This way, the knowledge gained in lectures is directly applied and practiced in a real design process.

1.2 Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the M.Sc. in Microelectronics and Chip Design program will be able to:

- Strategically navigate and contribute to the complete chip development cycle, from abstract specification to tape-out.
- Integrate theoretical knowledge (e.g., in chip design, verification, and testing methodologies) with hands-on experience through comprehensive practical modules.
- Carry out independent research and conduct advanced project-based work, supported through structured research and evaluation practicums.
- Pursuing professional roles in a variety of sectors, including semiconductor development, AI systems, energy-efficient electronics, or information security, within large corporations, SMEs, or startups.

1.3 Academic Timeline

A recommended timeline is outlined below:

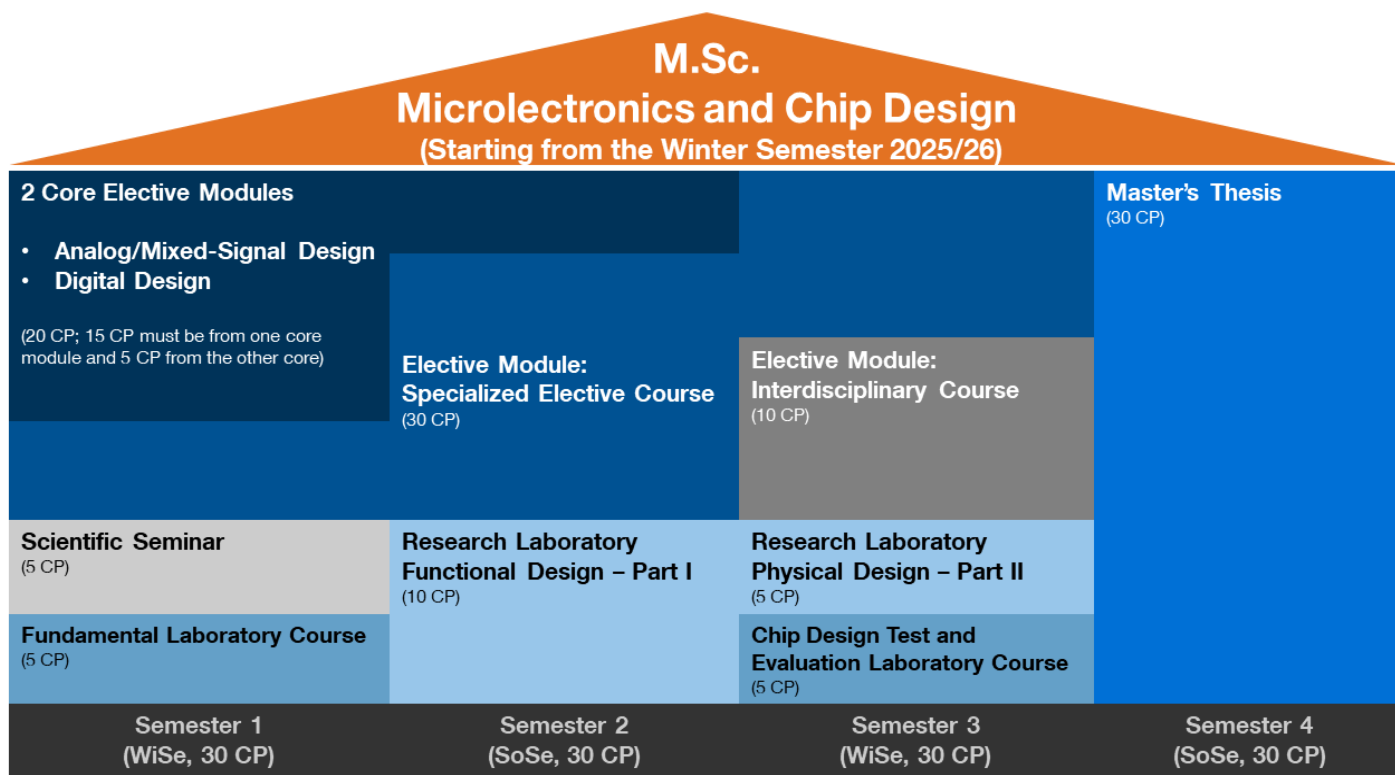
MID OCTOBER – MID FEBRUARY	Semester 1 (Winter Semester)
END OF FEBRUARY	Final exams for Semester 1
MARCH – MID APRIL	Semester Break
MID APRIL - JULY	Semester 2 (Summer Semester)
MID & END OF JULY	Final Exams for Semester 2
AUGUST – MID OCTOBER	Semester Break
MID OCTOBER – MID FEBRUARY	Semester 3 (Winter Semester)
END OF FEBRUARY	Final Exams for Semester 3
MARCH - SEPTEMBER	Semester 4 (Summer Semester)
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER	Graduation

1.4 Semester Structure

The first three semesters consist of coursework and examinations and cover 90 ECTS credits, while the fourth semester is dedicated to the master's thesis (30 ECTS credits). The program combines theoretical lectures in chip design with hands-on experience, including participation in a complete chip design cycle (tape-out). The master's thesis can also be conducted in collaboration with industry.

- **Semester 1:** Focus on foundational skills in digital and analog design.
- **Semester 2:** Specialized courses & lab focused on front-end design (functional design).
- **Semester 3:** Specialized courses & lab related to back-end design (physical design).
- **Semester 4:** Master's thesis (independent research or industry collaboration).

The structure of the M.Sc. Microelectronics and Chip Design program can be visualized as a "house" where each semester represents different course areas and requirements of your studies. Following this metaphor can help students plan their semesters efficiently and ensure smooth academic progress.



General Recommendations:

Following the "house" sequence, completing core modules requirements early, balance credits each semester and engaging in labs actively, can help avoid progress check failures. (See details below under: "3. Academic progress Check" for more information).

2. Modules and Credit Requirements

2.1 Core Elective Modules

In the master's program Microelectronics and Chip Design (MSMCD), students can choose one of the two following core specializations: "Digital Design (D)" or "Analog/Mixed-Signal Design (A)".

Depending on the chosen core specialization, students must earn between 5 and 15 credits from the core modules listed below with **a total of 20 credits** required by the end of the program.

Digital Design: 20 credits

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
EI70630	HW/SW Codesign	WiSe/ SoSe	5	LIS
EI50141	Testing Digital Circuits	WiSe	5	EDA
EI70610	Electronic Design Automation	SoSe	5	EDA
CIT433033	Design of Digital Circuits	WiSe	5	SEC
CIT433032	Logic Synthesis and Physical Design	SoSe	6	CDA
EI70730	Memory Technologies for Data Storage	WiSe/ SoSe	5	HES

Analog/Mixed-Signal Design: 20 credits

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem./ Language	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
CIT4430015	Analog and Mixed-Signal Circuit Design	WiSe	5	LSE
CIT443020	Microstructured Devices in Micro- and Power Electronics	WiSe (DE) SoSe (EN)	5	MSA
EI70710	Advanced Electronic Devices	SoSe	5	NMD
CIT443021	Analog Bipolar Electronics: Devices, Simulation and Circuits	SoSe	5	LSE
<i>CIT433030¹</i>	<i>Fundamentals of CMOS Technology for Analog Design and Standard Cell Libraries</i>	<i>WiSe/ SoSe</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>AIPRO</i>

¹ The course will not be offered in WiSe 2025/26 and starts in summer semester 2026

2.2 Practical Chip-Design Modules

The core of the program is the chip design project and consists of four specific lab tasks. The lab courses are mandatory. Students will work in parts two, three, and four in project groups and will have the chance to tape-out a chip:

1. The first part is a Fundamental Laboratory Course (**Elective, 5 Credits**). This introduces chip design and provides the foundation for the subsequent research labs. It should be completed in the first semester.
2. The second part, Research Laboratory Functional Design (**Elective, 10 Credits**), requires students to work on the digital front-end design or analog transistor level design.
3. The third part, Research Laboratory Physical Design (**Elective, 5 Credits**), focuses on generating placement and routing of the design and making it ready for manufacturing (tape-out).
4. The final task, Test and Evaluation Laboratory Course (**Mandatory, 5 credits**), involves testing and evaluating the chip after manufacturing.

Fundamental Laboratory Course:

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
CIT431016	HDL Chip Design Laboratory	WiSe/ SoSe	5	EDA
CIT441019	Lab Analog Chip Design	WiSe	5	MNT

Research Laboratory Functional Design - Part I:

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
CIT431014	Research Laboratory Functional Design of Integrated Digital Circuits	SoSe	10	SEC, AIPRO
CIT431015	Research Laboratory Functional Design of Integrated Analog and Mixed-Signal Circuits	SoSe	10	MNT, LSE

Research Laboratory Physical Design - Part II:

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
<i>CIT431017²</i>	<i>Research Laboratory Physical Design of Integrated Digital Circuits</i>	<i>WiSe</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>SEC, AIPRO</i>
<i>CIT431018³</i>	<i>Research Laboratory Physical Design of Integrated Analog and Mixed-Signal Circuits</i>	<i>WiSe</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>MNT, LSE</i>

² Not yet offered in WiSe 2025/26, starts in WiSe 2026/27

³ Not yet offered in WiSe 2025/26, starts in WiSe 2026/27

Test and Evaluation Laboratory Course:

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/ Professorship
<i>CIT431013⁴</i>	<i>Chip Design Test and Evaluation Laboratory Course</i>	<i>WiSe</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>SEC, AIPRO, LSE</i>

2.3 Specialized Elective Modules

Students are required to **complete 30 ECTS** from Specialized Elective Modules. To make the most of the program, it is recommended that electives complement the chosen Core Specialization. At the same time, students may also select courses from the other specialization to broaden their knowledge. Below is the module list with recommendations based on the selected core specialization.

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Recommendation for Analog/Mixed-Signal Design (A) and/or Digital Design (D)	Chair/ Professorship
EI71013	System Design for the Internet of Things	SoSe	5	D	ESI
EI7384	System-on-Chip Technologies	WiSe	5	D	LIS
EI71095	Multi-Criteria Optimization and Decision Analysis for Embedded Systems Design	WiSe	5	D	LIS
EI71059	Mixed Integer Programming and Graph Algorithms for Engineering Problems	WiSe	5	D	EDA
EI70520	Circuit Design for Security	SoSe	5	D	SEC
CIT4330012	Software for Quantum Computing	SoSe	5	D	CDA
EI71070	Advanced Cryptographic Implementations	SoSe	5	D	SEC
EI71104	Embedded System Design for Machine Learning	WiSe/ SoSe	6	D	EDA
EI7271	Chip Multicore Processors	SoSe	6	D	LIS
EI71073	Quantum Computers and Quantum Secure Communications	SoSe	5	D	SEC
EI71036	Software Architecture for Distributed Embedded Systems	WiSe	5	D	ESI
CIT433040	Embedded Systems and Security	WiSe	5	D	SEC

⁴ Not yet offered in WiSe 2025/26, starts in WiSe 2026/27

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Recommendation for Analog/Mixed- Signal Design (A) and/or Digital Design (D)	Chair/ Professorship
EI71013	System Design for the Internet of Things	SoSe	5	D	ESI
EI7384	System-on-Chip Technologies	WiSe	5	D	LIS
EI71095	Multi-Criteria Optimization and Decision Analysis for Embedded Systems Design	WiSe	5	D	LIS
EI71059	Mixed Integer Programming and Graph Algorithms for Engineering Problems	WiSe	5	D	EDA
EI70520	Circuit Design for Security	SoSe	5	D	SEC
CIT4330012	Software for Quantum Computing	SoSe	5	D	CDA
EI71070	Advanced Cryptographic Implementations	SoSe	5	D	SEC
EI71104	Embedded System Design for Machine Learning	WiSe/ SoSe	6	D	EDA
EI7271	Chip Multicore Processors	SoSe	6	D	LIS
EI71073	Quantum Computers and Quantum Secure Communications	SoSe	5	D	SEC
EI71036	Software Architecture for Distributed Embedded Systems	WiSe	5	D	ESI
CIT433040	Embedded Systems and Security	WiSe	5	D	SEC
CIT4430001	System Design for High-Frequency and High-Data rate Applications	WiSe	5	A	MNT
CIT433023	Circuit Reliability for AI in Advanced Technologies	SoSe	6	A	AIPRO
CIT443018	Phase Locked Loop / Clocked Circuits	WiSe/ SoSe	5	A	LSE
EI71108	CMOS Analog-to-Digital Converters	SoSe	5	A	LSE
EI7355	Nanosystems	WiSe	5	A	NAN
EI71029	Physical Unclonable Functions	WiSe	5	A/D	SEC

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Recommendation for Analog/Mixed-Signal Design (A) and/or Digital Design (D)	Chair/ Professorship
CIT433031	Machine Learning for Electronic Design Automation and Manufacturing	WiSe/ SoSe	5	A/D	CDA
CIT4330016	Innovative Computing for AI	SoSe	6	A/D	AIPRO
CIT443031	Power Management Integrated Circuits	WiSe	5	A	LSE

2.4 Scientific Seminars

Students are required to **complete 5 credits** from this elective part of scientific seminars. The seminar is intended not only as part of the academic training, but also as guidance for selecting the research laboratory. It is recommended that the seminar be taken during the first semester.

Module Nr.	Module Name	Sem.	Credits	Chair/Professorship
EI77501	Seminar on Topics in Integrated Systems	WiSe	5	LIS
EI5092	Seminar on Security in Information Technology	WiSe	5	SEC
CIT4320002	Seminar AI Processor Design	WiSe/ SoSe	5	AIPRO
CIT442005	Seminar Analog Chip Design	WiSe/ SoSe	5	MNT
EI77502	Seminar on Topics in Electronic Design Automation	WiSe	5	EDA
EI77503	Scientific Seminar on Structure, Architecture and Application of Sensor Circuits	WiSe/ SoSe	5	LSE
CIT4320000	Seminar on Topics in Design Automation	WiSe/ SoSe	5	CDA
CIT432010	Scientific Seminar on Dataflow Computer Architecture and Systems	WiSe/ SoSe	5	CAPS

2.5 Interdisciplinary Modules

Students are required to complete a **total of 10 credits** through study achievements. At least 3 credits should be focused on social responsibility (in technology assessment). Depending on their interests, students may choose modules in areas such as language, project

management, or business. These modules are also offered by the TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology.

For detailed information about the available modules by Topics, please visit the [WTG](#).

In addition, an exclusive German Course "[German Matters](#)" is offered by [TUM Language Center](#) specially for students from School of Computation, Information and Technology (CIT).

2.6 Master's thesis

The master's thesis is capstone of the program and is normally completed as the final examination of the degree program in the fourth semester. Therefore, registration is only possible if the requirements are fulfilled.

Successful completion **awards 30 Credits**. The thesis should be written in English. The period from registration to submission must be completed within **six months**. If the thesis is not submitted on time without an approved valid reason, it will be considered failed.

The thesis is conducted under the supervision of the relevant Chairs and Professorships authorized as examiners.

The chair responsible initiates the registration via the [KOINON-School-Portal](#).

2.7 Module Descriptions/ Module catalog

Students should check regularly for updates, including lecture halls, start dates and exam schedules, which are also provided by the respective chairs or professorships on their websites. Module descriptions are available on [TUMonline](#). Detailed information about how you can display and register for the course offerings is available in the [TUMonline Handbook for Students](#).

2.8 Study Abroad

TUM offers various exchange programs, including Erasmus+, TUMexchange, and departmental partnerships. MSMCD students are encouraged to undertake their study abroad semester in the second or fourth semester to best align to the program structure.

Students interested in studying abroad should consult the [Electrical and Computer Engineering Outgoing page](#) for detailed information on application procedures, partner universities, and program requirements.

3. Academic progress check

At the Technical University of Munich (TUM), students must meet all program-specific progression requirements as specified in the study regulations of their program (FPSO) and in the *General Academic and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Programs (APSO)*. The academic progress is reviewed by Board of Examiners for the Master's programs and program manager at the end of each semester. Students who do not fulfill the required progression milestones risk losing their enrollment status and may be disqualified from continuing the program.

Students should promptly seek advice from the program manager as early as possible if students expect any difficulties in meeting the progression requirements.

Note: Only the officially promulgated German versions of the regulations are legally binding: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/during-your-studies/organizing-your-studies/statutes-regulations>

3.1 Program-Specific Milestones

For the MSMCD program, students must achieve the following ECTS credits milestones by the stated deadlines:

End of Semester 1 & 2

- Completion of Fundamental Laboratory Course 5 Credits - either HDL Chip Design or Lab Analog Chip Design.
- Completion at least 15 Credits in Core Elective Modules with 5–15 Credits within each track - either Digital Design or Analog/Mixed-Signal Design.

Conclusion: By the end of Semester 2, students should have achieved a total of at least 20 Credits from the Fundamental Lab (5 Credits) + Core Elective Modules (15 Credits)

3.2 Cumulative Credit Thresholds

To stay on track in the program, students are expected to earn the following total ECTS credits by the end of each semester:

- **End of Semester 3:** 30 ECTS
- **End of Semester 4:** 60 ECTS
- **End of Semester 5:** 90 ECTS
- **End of Semester 6:** 120 ECTS

3.3 Degree Graduation

Once students have fulfilled all program-specific credit requirements and successfully submitted their master's thesis, they will be awarded the Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree. This milestone marks the completion of the MSMCD program and opens the door to students' professional careers in microelectronics and chip design.

The official graduation documents are issued only after approval by both the MSMCD program office and the student. For reference, students can review [TUM Graduation Documents page](#).

3.4 Examination Board

The Board of Examiners for the Master's programs in the professional profile of Electrical and Computer Engineering is responsible for all matters concerning exams, grades and academic progress check within the program.

- Chairperson: Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Eva Weig
- Registrar: Dipl.-Ing. Benita Paraschoudis
- Deputy Registrar: M.A. Iris Schachtner

Students are encouraged to first consult the MSMCD program manager for guidance on examination-related matters: msmcd.asa@xcit.tum.de

3.5 Leave of absence

Students may request a leave of absence to temporarily suspend their studies for reasons such as illness, parental leave, internships, or personal matters. The application must be submitted in writing using the official form available in your TUMonline account. Requests should be made by the first day of the lecture period; however, in exceptional cases, applications can be submitted up to five weeks after the semester begins. Please note that a leave of absence cannot be granted retroactively. While on leave, students are not permitted to attend courses or take examinations, except in specific cases like maternity or parental leave. Tuition fees are waived for international students during a leave of absence, but the semester fee remains due.

For detailed information on application procedures, deadlines, and recognized reasons, please refer to the official TUM guidelines: [TUM Leave of Absence](#)

4. Examinations

4.1 ECTS Credits System

The program follows the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). 1 ECTS credit corresponds to 30 hours of total workload, including lectures, seminars, independent study, and examinations. For more details about the ECTS system, please visit the [TUM Website](#)

4.2 Exams Assessment

Explain the distinction between graded and ungraded assessments. Exams can be written, oral, or alternative assessments (e.g., project reports, presentations).

4.2.1 Grade Assessments (Prüfungsleistungen)

Grades from these assessments count toward the final degree grade.

Examples in the program include:

- Core Elective Modules
- Fundamental Lab Course
- Specialized Elective Modules
- Scientific Seminar
- Test & Evaluation Lab Course

4.2.2 Ungraded Assessments (Studienleistungen)

Ungraded assessments are required to earn credits and complete the program. They might be evaluated on a pass/fail basis or even be graded, but do not affect the final grade.

Examples in the program include:

- Research Lab Course
- interdisciplinary Courses

4.2.3 Grading Scale and Calculation

GRADE RANGES	DESCRIPTION
1,0 / 1,3	Excellent
1,7 / 2,0 / 2,3	Good
2,7 / 3,0 / 3,3	Satisfactory
3,7 / 4,0	Sufficient
4,3 / 4,7 / 5,0	Fail <i>(do not appear on the transcript)</i>

Calculation Method:

- The final grade is a weighted average of module grades, with ECTS credits as weight.
- The final grade is rounded to one decimal place; further decimals are dropped without rounding.
- Highest grade: 1,0
- Passing grade: 4,0 or better.
- Lowest grade: 5,0

Additional Note:

- Passed exams cannot be repeated.
- Failed exams can be retaken generally at the beginning of the next semester. Alternatively, a failed exam may be replaced by other modules within the curriculum.

4.3 Transcript of Records

- The transcript lists all modules/courses for which students have earned grades
- It shows:
 - Number of credits per course that is passed and graded.
 - Total number of credits in each area required for degree graduation.
- The transcript is available in both English and German.
- Failed graded exams (4,3 / 4,7 / 5,0) or no-show exams are not listed on the transcript.
- The transcript can be downloaded via the student's TUMonline account.
- For a signed or stamped transcript, if needed, contact: msmcd.asa@xcit.tum.de

4.4 Examination Registration and Information

Lecture vs. Exam Registration:

Please note that registration for a lecture or course does not automatically register students for the corresponding examination. Exam registration must be completed separately during the official exam registration period.

4.4.1 Key Points for Exam Registration

- Registration for examination must be done via [TUMonline](#) under student's curriculum.

- There is a special period for exam registration – normally mid-to-end November and mid-to-end May.
- The registration period applies to all first attempt and repeat examinations
- Some modules from other schools may have different registration deadlines, students should check this at an early stage.
- Students should register only for the examinations they intend to take.
- Late registrations after the deadline are not possible.

Students will also be informed by the program manager via email about the exam registration periods. Further information about exam regulations at [Examinations in Electrical and Computer Engineering](#).

4.4.2 Withdrawal (due to illness)

If a student is unable to sit an examination due to illness, a medical certificate from a physician may be submitted as soon as possible to document the inability to take the exam.

The medical certificate should be issued on the day of the missed exam and submitted to msmcd.asa@xcit.tum.de. Once the certificate is received and approved, the student is officially withdrawn from the examination and will not be considered absent.

Students should also keep the medical certificate until the end of your program as it may need to be presented to the Examination Board if required.

4.5 Recognition of Prior Learning/ Credits

Students may apply for the recognition of credits earned in previous studies or during a semester abroad. Recognition requests must be submitted within the first year of enrollment and students must be officially enrolled in a degree program at TUM.

Responsible Office: The Recognition Team of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Contact: recognitions-ece.asa@xcit.tum.de

Detailed information on exact procedures, required documents and guidelines is available on the [Recognition of Credits](#).

5. Responsibilities of Students

Students are expected to take responsibility for their studies and administrative requirements throughout their program.

Enrollment and Tuition Fees:

- Manage own enrollment and pay semester fees on time for each upcoming semester. Failure to do so may result in automatic exmatriculation.
- The academic calendar provides important dates for the academic year, including lecture-free days and holiday weeks. It can be found here: [TUM Dates and Deadlines](#)
- Current tuition and semester fees are published on [TUM Tuition and Fees](#)
- All enrollment-related questions should be directed to the TUM Center for Study and Teaching via studium@tum.de The MSMCD Office has no impact on this process.

General Responsibilities:

- Follow TUM's deadlines, policies, and procedures.
- International students are required to complete their program of study within the time specified on their Confirmation of Enrolment and comply with all the conditions of their student visa. More information at [Residence Permit – Study at KVR](#)
- Follow instructions provided by program regulations, including academic progress checks.
- Seek advice promptly to stay on track and complete the program within the maximum allowed period. In case of difficulties, contact: msmcd.asa@xcit.tum.de
- Stay informed about exam registration periods. Missing these deadlines may prevent students from taking exams and could impact their ability to continue the program.

6. Student Service & Support

Program-Related Issues

For all program-specific, academic and course-related matters, students are encouraged to seek guidance from their program manager. [Consultation Hours](#) or via QR-Code below:



Student Representatives

The student representatives are part of quality management circles and official meetings with the program management. Also, the student council can be a valuable point of contact if problems arise somewhere in study matters. The election of student representatives normally takes place after the start of lectures, around November.

Mentoring Program for the First-Semester Students

The Mentoring Program is an integral component of the official onboarding services at TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology. It is designed to support first-semester students in the Bachelor's and Master's programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering, as well as in Microelectronics and Chip Design.

Participation in the Mentoring Program is optional but recommended. It helps students settle into university life and connect with faculty members. More information and registration are available on the [official Mentoring Program](#).

Student Council/ "EI Fachschaft"

Students who wish to get involved or have questions can contact the Student Council at: info@fs.ei.tum.de or <https://www.fs.ei.tum.de>

7. University facilities

TUM provides a wide range of facilities to support students in their studies and campus life. Below is an overview of key facilities relevant to students.

Campus Navigation:

Students can find all campus buildings, lecture halls and facilities using the TUM campus map: [NavigaTUM](#)

Computer Access and Workstations:

Students in the Professional Profile Electrical and Computer Engineering have access to dedicated computer workstations and labs, including software and hardware resources for coursework and research: [CE Computer Facilities](#)

Accommodation Advice:

TUM provides guidance for students seeking accommodation, including private housing and student dormitories: [TUM Living and Accommodation](#)
Student housing provided by [Studierendenwerk München Oberbayern](#)

Library Services:

Library offers access to books, journals, electronic resources and study spaces.
[TUM Library Services](#)

Sports Facilities:

TUM provides sports and fitness facilities through the Zentrale Hochschulsportstelle (ZHS). Students can participate in courses, fitness programs: [ZHS Munich](#)