PIASTA Welcome Week

How Does Studying Work?
How Does Studying Work?

1. What can you expect during your studies?
2. How is the semester organized?
3. What kind of courses are there?
4. What kind of examinations are there?
5. What does it mean to study?
6. How can you actively shape your studies?
7. Who helps when and where?
1. What can you expect at the start of your studies?
What can you expect during your studies?

Welcome Week → Orientation module → Course registration → Semester start
Orientation module (OE)

- important information for your subject
- STiNE
- examination regulations and subject-specific provisions
- courses with tutors

When do OEs take place?

Abbreviation:
www.uni-hamburg.de/oe

or
www.uni-hamburg.de > Studies

You are now on the Campus Center website:
> Organizing your studies > First-year info
2. How the semester is organized
# Timetable—overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Welcome Week</th>
<th>Orientation module (OE)</th>
<th>Course registration</th>
<th>Semester start</th>
<th>Semester breaks</th>
<th>Semester breaks / reading periods</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 27 Sep–1 Oct 2021 | 4–9 Oct 2021 | **First semester**  
4 Oct (9 am)–7 Oct (4 pm)  
**Course changes:**  
11 Oct (9 am–21 Oct (1 pm) | **Winter Semester 2021/22**  
11 Oct 2021–29 Mar 2022 | **Winter break:**  
19 Dec 2021–2 Jan 2022 | 31 Mar 2022–1 Apr 2022 |

27.09.2021  
PIASTA Welcome Week | How Does Studying Work?
How is the semester organized?

Lecture period
- weekly courses and block courses
- course preparation for and follow-up
- working in study groups
- documenting completed coursework
- exam preparation and exams

Reading period
- no courses
- time for internships
- time for term papers
- exams (depending on faculty)
3. What kind of courses are there?
**What kind of courses are there?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly courses</th>
<th>Block courses</th>
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| • 90 minutes, once per week  
• lectures  
• seminars  
• practical courses, tutorials, lab work | • individual appointments throughout the semester  
• several hours at a time |
What kind of courses are there?

**Lecture**
- many students
- lecture hall
- professors
- written examination

**Seminar**
- 10–30 students
- research associates
- group work
- presentations
- term papers

**Practical course / tutorial / lab work**
- 10–25 students
- in addition to other courses
- tutors
- in-depth exercises
Scheduling at the University

12 s.t.

s.t. = *sine tempore* (Latin)

This indicates that course begins punctually on the hour.

12 s.t. = 12:00 pm

12 c.t.

c.t. = *cum tempore* (Latin)

This indicates that course begins 15 minutes after the hour ("academic quarter").

12 noon c.t. = 12:15 pm
4. What kind of examinations are there?
What kind of examinations are there?

Coursework
• not graded
• e.g., presentations, portfolios, smaller written work

Exams
• graded
• written exams, oral exams, term papers
What kind of examinations are there?

written examination
• usually at the end of lectures
• multiple-Choice
• written tasks

term papers
• focus on a specific topic
• consultations during office hours
• line of inquiry and literature searches
• deadlines
• academic writing

oral examinations
• agreed-upon topic
• questions/discussion
• duration (e.g., 15–30 minutes)
5. What does it mean to study?
What does it mean to study?

**Independent study**
(bibliographic) research preparation and follow-up examination preparation in-depth work on topics interpretation

**Attendance**
seminars, lectures, tutorials, group work, internships, lab work

Course loads:
- Attendance
- Independent study
6. How can you actively shape your studies?
How can you actively shape your studies?

- Reflection
- Independent study
- Time management
- Course options
- Internship planning / study abroad
Reflecting on your studies—defining goals

What is fun about my studies?
What skills do I want to acquire?
Are my goals clear?
What can I do to reach my goals?

Note:
PIASTA offers the workshop Study with Motivation and Joy (registration through UHH Join).

- **What** can I expect from my studies?
- **Why** did I choose this subject?
- **How** realistic are my goals?
- Do I have **resources**?
- **Why** study?
Tips on managing your time

• **Important:** Plan your semester! What duties and deadlines are there? What do you want to decide yourself?
  
  • Think about what you want to learn or do and in which order, and then make a plan.

  • Set weekly and daily goals—be realistic and don’t take on too much.

• Finish up your notes during the lecture/seminar and revise them afterwards.

• Formulate the main points of texts directly after reading.
Resources for time management and reflection

Literature:

Studienwissen: Tipps für Erfolg im Studium | e-fellows.net

Podcasts:
Podcasts | Tipps auf Augenhöhe (tipps-auf-augenhoehe.de)
Podcast recommendations for students—Studis Online (studis-online.de)
Studium mit Rückenwind (podomatic.com)
Resources for time management and reflection

PIASTA cooperation project:

StudienPerspektiven blog:
https://studienperspektiven.check.uni-hamburg.de/

Extracurricular (voluntary) workshops in faculties and centralized institutions—in STiNE and UHH Join
7. Who helps when and where?
Who helps when and where?

Central points of contact

Help with studies (advice and workshops)
- Campus Center / Academic Advising
- Writing Center
- PIASTA

Social, financial, and legal advising
- Studierendenwerk Hamburg
- AStA (student council)

IT Services at the University
- Regional Computing Center (RRZ)

Departmental contacts
- academic office
- departmental student representative committee (FSR)
- instructors
Welcome Week events and activities

Writing Center events:
*Academic Writing and How the Writing Center Can Help*
- German: 28 September, 4:00 PM–17:00 pm (online)
- English: 29 September, 2:30–3:30 pm (online)

Overview of University offers:
*Who, What, Where? A Short Guide to the University*
- German: 28 September, 11:30 am–12:30 pm (online)
- English: 29 September, 2:30–3:30 pm (online)

Register at

UHH JOIN

or with the

UHH JOIN app
Thank you for your time!

Time for questions😊