

# Studienganggespräch MDKE

## 08.01.2020

- system accreditation --> Studiengangsgespräche:  
problems on students' side, how to improve students situation
- increase in first semesters over years (since 2011) --> now: very high number graduates not on same level, a lot of people don't finish in 4 semesters (~105 in need of master thesis)  
--> will be even more in the future
- problems:
  - finding master thesis topic & supervisor, students are accumulating in last semester --> why? & Is it easy to find master thesis?
- master thesis problem:
  - don't want master thesis because want to learn more first
  - don't have enough credits
  - have enough credits but don't have a topic
  - skills accumulated don't work together with what professors want for thesis topic, have work (job, company) & thesis topic in mind, but professors want more
  - rush through getting credits
  - come back to starting courses (like Machine Learning, Deep Learning) because they are in late semesters to deepen knowledge to find a topic that is appealing
  - --> wait voluntarily? or just rejected by a lot of professors before they haven't learned more?
  - too strange business idea
  - rushed through studies
  - not accumulated enough knowledge for profile of thesis topic of professor --> no profile
  - --> lack of identity for own field
  - --> motivate students early on to develop the right profile
  - students wish for topic from company, but professors don't like topics from companies, because company topic seems to be too "high" (like a full job) for student!
- not a lot of professors offer general topics for field (Saake, Nürnberger, Myra, Sanas)  
--> problem if rejected --> need new profile
- some students just take courses to collect them / CP --> need a lot of guidance when getting thesis with company (don't know what is expected from them exactly)
  - students might feel trapped in company's topic (doesn't go in direction as wanted, company doesn't have academics first in their mind --> might be too difficult) (should have good supervisor in company, & recommended: don't sign contract before having supervisor at university!)
  - --> need to know more before signing a contract!
  - too much effort for professors to negotiate with company >< professors
  - too high demand for master's thesis in time (visa could run out & similar problems)
  - --> not possible to give everyone a topic
- some don't know how to get topic, structural problems on how to approach

- --> find students & give them advisor (tried with Madura) --> most people didn't answer  
- left? dropped out?  
- often problems with prolonging visa (hard to do since 2019)
- What to do with students who are desperately looking for a topic?  
- which profiles are actually wanted by professors?  
--> e.g. Big Data, Methods & Applications, Business Analytics  
- students don't know what profile to develop  
- too diverse profile --> hard to find good thesis  
- hard for internationals to organize themselves when first coming to Germany!!  
(1st goal is to find a lot of credits for - if possible - minimal effort)  
--> building profiles with professors who are able to hand out topics & inform students on what a master's topic would look like regarding the given profile?  
--> have a mapping of flavors & professors/teachers & topics supervised by professors  
(+ list old thesis or at least titles & abstracts of students online so people know what the requirements are)

**How do students deal with not finding topic in given field?** (That means a field that they chose their courses from.) finding thesis topic & supervisor

- students follow trend (e.g. Machine Learning, (ML is required for Deep Learning! problem) --> bottle neck problem, not enough courses, topics  
- problem: no flow when start in summer semester (because machine learning only offered in winter term & further courses demand machine learning already taken)  
--> machine learning for every semester?
- a lot of people enrol, but a lot of them don't finish the course (e.g. Deep Learning)  
--> high drop out rate  
- students don't choose course that fits their profile?
- restrictions of professors for master thesis topics: demand very good gpa (1.7 & better) --> problem, random sampling vs. grades
- some part of curriculum must become obligatory? (to have foundation)  
- mandatory course on scientific work --> better prepared for thesis  
- What is master thesis about? - apply learned knowledge, NOT learn all about topic
- students feel self-confident to approach problem of not finding a thesis
- students go to faculties far apart (DKE student goes to Wirtschaftsinformatik professor)
- students underestimate demands of course / overestimate their own capacities  
- first 2 weeks used to find fitting course  
--> a lot of people at first --> warn teachers about that
- **alot of structural problems with people enrolled in summer term**  
**--> only do starts in winter? (performance discrepancy between summer & winter starters)**
- give student structure for gaining knowledge of scientific work  
(training module > team project > master's thesis)
- deep learning: students need letter of recommendation to apply
- need for basic statistic knowledge in first 2 semesters!  
--> boost statistical background
- upon acceptance students should get link to introductory videos that were shot

- obligatory programming experience? no!
  - but without programming knowledge master thesis not possible
- internship:
  - use internship as opportunity to get job or thesis
- new rule?
  - complete atleast 6 CP per semester --> if not: exmatriculation