

Study course discussion Data & Knowledge Engineering 27.04.2022

Start: 14:00 Uhr

End: 17.15 Uhr

Place: G29 - R301 Otto-von-Guericke Universität Magdeburg

Agenda:

Greetings & introductions

Official figures for "Data & Knowledge Engineering"

Figures from Qualiman-project

Review

Topics introduced by the students

Topics introduced by the teachers

Change course of Data Science?

Proposal to Data Science courses

Agenda & introductions

The Study Coordinator Prof. Spiliopoulou and the Dean of Study Prof. Günes welcome the participants. Everybody introduces themselves briefly. Thereafter the agenda is presented and the process of system accreditation explained. Especially the reason of the study course discussion.

Official figures for "Digital Engineering"

Statistics about Data & Knowledge Engineering including the number of incoming and outgoing students. It is highlighted, that the relative amount of graduates is low. Further the amount of students not finishing in "Regelstudienzeit" is not growing as much, as the amount of incoming students.

//Discussion://

Excessive demand for some courses - statistics and solutions

Finding a master thesis topic and a supervisor

There are students who are not finding a thesis even though they collected all the CP. One reason skills achieved through courses are too different to the courses offered/demanded by Professors. Some students choose to do these extra courses. Thesis from companies are rejected because they are not scientific

enough and therefore readjusted, but that doesn't always work out.

One way is to go from a project into a thesis.

Finding more courses in order to learn more or find a suitable job or find a thesis at all.

Some students don't respond to their email.

Solution/ideas:

Area of Interest / Profiles introduction - might be of help when consulting supervisors.

Create awareness about company project, don't sign contracts before having a suitable supervisor at University, negotiating with company is not the Universities job

List of supervisors and projects/previously supervised thesis as a guidance

Profiles

It might be useful to give more advises about courses regarding to specific topics. Maybe even in profiles. It's discussed if there should be some, and which courses should be inside of them. Profiles as an example guidance through the study programm including possible supervisors?

Further topics

Stricter visa process now and the examination office hand out letters about when they'll finish their studies.

Starting in summer semester doesn't allow a good succession of courses for specific topics. A drastic solution would be to deny starting the study in summer.

Machine learning and prerequeries in the courses of deep learning. Courses don't demand machine learning success, but expecting that they know about it.

Solution:

Talk with professor about the course and prerequeries

Mentors: Attend awareness about prerequeries

There are a lot of students dropping out of courses even though they applied for them and got accepted. Overestimation of their capacities / underestimating the difficulty.

Degree of freedom in the study programm in germany is difficult to handle for internationals. Mandatory courses teaching basics are helpful for the students and improving quality at other university.

Students are dropped out after trial phase when they find a job, because of lacking quality.

Advise: Company demands from data scientists --> profiles

Students looking for a thesis are asked to (in need) go to the student advisor (Prof. Spiliopoulou) and talk

about it.

Solution:

Educate teachers about advice for students to visit courses for the first two weeks before deciding for courses.

Introducing a list of scientific modules in order to teach scientific work from 0 to hero (equal to bachelor)

Ask teachers they want to write their thesis at to do a team project there first.

Talk about recommendation letter/mail about capability in machine learning.

Define pathways for the first two semester, think about obligations for specific courses.

Investigate possibility to offer more/a further statistical course.

Could we share the video materials about the university with the acceptance letter?

Yes. Include "Incoming Page"

Solution:

Add link in acceptance letter -> talk with university about it

Programming is not directly taught, but also not necessary for every student, that's why it's not taught obligatory. However the importance of programming should be highlighted (needed for most thesis).

Internships are a reason for gaps in study process for students. They leave for 6 month or even a year. Thereafter they'd like to have a thesis. There are rumors amongst the students that internships are necessary / helpful for finding a job. Also there is a possibility of internships becoming a thesis. The faculty is negatively influenced, because it leads to more students in higher semesters. We cannot force them to do "Urlaubssemester" during their internship. Doing internship is a possibility to learn more about specific topics. Could we make a course out of internships? FEIT internship?

Solution:

Students: Survey team: Internships

Kicking out students who don't do so and so much credit points might be a solution. There is already an 18 CP gate.

Students who don't get accepted in a course they want to definitely listen to have to wait another year and try again to visit it, but are still no guarantee for a seat.