



Message from the Editors

Welcome to the seventh edition of our newsletter, and congratulations to our first cohort on making it through the first weeks of your semester here at Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg! It's incredible how time flies. It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming you all, whether you travelled from abroad or came from within Germany, to kick off this new chapter in our bilingual Computer Science program.

For those of our readers who are not part of our BiBa program (yet), we hope this newsletter will spark your interest and you enjoy reading about our new students first steps here in Magdeburg.

For our 25 first batch students, we hope you are enjoying this new program as much as we do! Over the past two months, many of you have already experienced the excitement of settling into university life. Whether it was meeting your peers at the *Welcome Reception*, enjoying the handball game, or giving it your all during the handball practice, these shared moments have helped build a sense of community within our diverse cohort.

As we enter the next phase of the semester, we have a small update regarding this newsletter. Until now, you've been receiving these updates on a monthly basis. However, to better fit your busy schedules—and to ensure we're providing the most valuable, in-depth content—we've decided to shift the newsletter to a release every 6-8 weeks. This change will give us more time to

gather stories, share meaningful insights from our students academic journey, and reflect on key milestones.

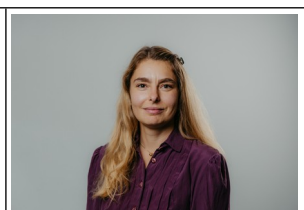
We understand that university life can feel hectic, especially as coursework and exams start to pick up. Our goal is to make this newsletter a resource that enhances our students experience here and at the same time keeps our other readers entertained without adding to the noise. By giving more space between editions, we'll be able to include richer stories, helpful tips, and event highlights, ensuring every issue is packed with useful content.

Of course, we'll still keep you informed about important upcoming events and opportunities. As always, your feedback is welcome—if there are topics or events you want to see featured, or if you'd like to share your experiences, we're all ears.

Here's to an exciting second half of the semester! Keep pushing forward—you've already accomplished so much in these first eight weeks, and there's a lot more to come.



PD Claudia Krull
BSc (USWP), Dipl.-Inf.,
Dr.-Ing. Habil (OVGU)



Thea Stiehler, M.A.
Studiengangskoordinatorin

Spotlight on Professors: Jana Dittmann



Jana Dittmann has been a Professor for Advanced Multimedia and Security at OVGU since 2003. Jana has a PhD in Computer Science and a Diploma Degree in

Business Informatics from the Technical University of Darmstadt (TUD). Security and privacy are her main research topics. Here she is specialized in multimedia with the technical dimension (e.g. algorithms for protecting images against modification and transmission of illicit information), the user dimension (perception of data passed on in images, hiding information about images, and enabling interaction) and interplay with legal dimension (e.g. recognizing copyright infringements). Her laboratory AMSL is a partner in a variety of national and international research projects and has produced many highly cited and well recognized publications in the field.

In recent years, Jana has received major research grants of national prominence which feed into the goal of the German federal government to become “digitally sovereign”. For example, she has researched security with Open Source and Open Data (see our Mastodon Channel in <https://sparrow.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/@CySecVerbund>), methods and tools to recognize and recover from Malware with hidden information channels in critical infrastructure (see in <https://attribut.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/>), or analysis of videos to detect false and manipulated IDs such as DeepFakes. Perhaps her most important work has

been in the area of multimedia security in cars to avoid potential chaos in the transportation sector. Jana’s research group typically has a dozen or more scientific staff members doing teaching and research on the topics mentioned above, as well as a large number of student assistants. Thus, there are plenty of opportunities for students to join exciting projects, some of which can come as a part of a lecture.

Jana Dittmann’s research draws on many fundamental topics in Computer Science. She wishes the faculty’s new BiBas, but also those students of the other degree programs, patience when learning about such fundamental topics before getting to more juicy topics, like DeepFakes or detection of information hiding used in Malware. First you have to learn security and forensic basic design criteria, only then do you appreciate multimedia specifics such as the impacts of hiding data. But she confirms: It’s worth the effort!

Our German videos with explanations of detection and attribution of Malware in different media data can be found in: <https://omen.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/tiamsl/deutsch/attribut/attribut-erklavideos/index.html>.

You can also follow our Mastodon channel. See in: <https://sparrow.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/@ATTRIBUT>.



Werkzeugkiste im Forensiklabor
Attributiert - nicht (nur) detektiert

Image from:

<https://sparrow.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/@ATTRIBUT/113202974583360268>



Weekend Handball Experience: Train with a Pro and Cheer for Magdeburg!

The first Saturday morning of the Winter term, we had an exciting introduction to the sport of handball, with most participants clearly having a great time! Leading the session was Jürgen Dittrich, a former kayaking world champion from the GDR era and a highly active figure in school sports. His extensive experience in Sports Education was complemented by our handball coach for the day, Niklas Hermann, a former professional handball player. With their combined expertise, the training was both enjoyable and informative for everyone involved.

The day kicked off with a challenging Tabata workout, which set the tone for an energetic morning. Known for its high-intensity intervals, the Tabata training really pushed our limits and prepared us for the handball drills that followed.

Jürgen Dittrich led us through a handball skills course focused on dribbling, throwing, and catching. To add a bit of competition, we timed volunteers as they completed the course. The best time was an impressive 52 seconds.

After the drills, the group was split by gender, and we had the chance to play actual handball matches, putting our newfound skills to the test. During breaks, the boys switched things up with some football, keeping the energy high and spirits up.



Picture credit: Darija Grisanova

The weekend wrapped up with a thrilling Bundesliga handball match on Sunday evening between SC Magdeburg and SC DHfK Leipzig, which ended in a 35-29 victory for Magdeburg. The sold-out GETEC Arena, packed with 6,600 passionate fans, was buzzing with excitement. We had prime seats right behind the goal, sitting next to the fan club. The atmosphere was electric with loud chants, singing, and drumming, and even the students got caught up in the excitement, cheering and celebrating along with the crowd.



Picture credit: Darija Grisanova

All in all, it was an active and fun weekend full of handball action and new experiences!

It's Christmas time!

A Guide to Christmas markets and Christmas events in and around Magdeburg

As the holiday season approaches, Magdeburg transforms into a winter wonderland filled with festive events perfect for international students looking to experience German Christmas traditions. From the stunning [Lichterwelt](#) light displays illuminating the city, to unique Christmas markets like the alternative [Buckauer Weihnachts-spektakel](#), there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're exploring the historical charm of [Advent im Ravelin](#) or taking a cozy tour through [Advent in den Gewölben](#), these events offer a chance to immerse yourself in local culture and holiday cheer. Here's a list of some exciting events happening in and around Magdeburg this December!

1. Magdeburger Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)

- Dates: November 27 - December 30, 2024
- Location: Magdeburg city center
- Highlights: Traditional market with festive stalls, food, mulled wine, and local crafts.
- Entry: Free

2. MDCC-Weihnachtssingen (Christmas Singing)

- Date: December 23, 2024
- Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Entry from 4:00 PM)
- Location: Avnet (MDCC) Arena, Magdeburg
- Details: A large-scale Christmas carol event with 26,000 participants, singing traditional German Christmas songs. There's

also a small Christmas market outside the arena.

- Tickets: Available from October 21, 2024, at €5-€12, depending on seating, tickets sell out quickly!

3. Lichterwelt Magdeburg

- Dates: November 25, 2024 - February 2, 2025
- Description: A spectacular illumination of Magdeburg's streets with over 1.2 million lights. You can wander around the Lichterwelt on your own or you can join a guided walking tour through the city to learn about Magdeburg's rich history while viewing over 60 stunning light sculptures.
- Guided Tour Times: Daily at 17:00
- Prices: €10.50 for adults, €7.50 for children aged 4-14, free for children under 4
- Location: Starts at the "Reiter" sculpture near Galeria Karstadt
- Additional Info: The tour lasts 1.5 hours



Lichterwelt

Picture credit: Tobias Krull

3. Advent im Ravelin

- Dates: December 16-17, 2024
- Description: Held in the Ravelin II, this Christmas market features crafts, performances, and historical flair, offering a festive atmosphere in a historic fort setting.
- Time: From 11:00 to 18:00 each day
- Location: Ravelin II, Magdeburg
- Prices: Entry is typically free.

4. Advent in den Gewölben

- Dates: December weekends
- Description: Hosted in the old vaults of Magdeburg, this atmospheric Christmas market offers local handmade crafts, food, and live entertainment.
- Time: Usually open during the day on weekends in December
- Prices: Free entry, but costs may vary for activities and purchases.

5. Buckauer Weihnachtsspektakel

- Date: December 14, 2024
- Time: 14:00 - 20:00
- Location: Schönebecker Str., Buckau, Magdeburg
- Description: A vibrant, alternative Christmas market in the artsy Buckau district featuring live music, choirs, and street performances, along with local crafts and food stalls

Additionally, you will find that many of Magdeburg's districts have their own local Christmas markets, keep your eyes open for posters!

These events offer a mix of traditional and creative celebrations, perfect for experiencing the festive spirit in

Magdeburg!



Magdeburg Christmas Market

Picture credit: www.AndreasLander.de

Support and Guidance: Key Contacts for OVGU Students

For students at Otto-von-Guericke-University (OVGU) seeking support or guidance, there are several key contact points to ensure a smooth academic and personal experience. Whether you need assistance with student representation, equality matters, or inter-cultural support, OVGU offers various resources. The Faculty Student Council (FaRaFIN, short for Fachschaftsrat der Fakultät für Informatik) can assist you in many topics, though it's best to inquire for specific contacts. For gender equality, the equal opportunities officers are the main contact. Additional resources include the [Awareness Portal](#) for well-being and [Studentenwerk](#) for housing and financial support as well as psycho-social counselling. The [Hängematte](#) offers free, confidential listening services, while [IKUS](#) provides help for international students. Explore these links for further details:



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Awareness Portal <https://www.awareness.ovgu.de/>

FaRaFIN: post@farafin.de or stop by the office G29-103

Awareness Office of Farafin:

<https://farafin.de/en/farafin/awareness-team/>

FaRaFIN Link collection:

<https://farafin.de/links/>

Allgemeine Studienberatung (general advice on your studies):

https://www.ovgu.de/en/student_advising.html

Prüfungsamt (examinations office):

<https://www.inf.ovgu.de/en/Study/Being+a+student/Examination+Office.html>

Studentenwerk (student services, providing all kinds of support for students): <https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/>

Social & financial counselling:

<https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/en/social-affairs/social-counselling/>

PsychoSocial Counseling (PSB) (free of charge):

<https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/soziales/psb/>

Hängematte: A safe place to talk about your concerns (free of charge):

<https://www.haengematte.ovgu.de/>


Intercultural Students: <https://www.ikus.ovgu.de/>

BiBa Calendar

Date(s)	Event / Deadline ...
Thur, Nov 28, 5pm	Christmas Stammtisch
Thur, Dec. 5, 5pm	BiBa goes to the Christmas Market
Fri, Nov 15 until Sat, Nov 30	Examination registration period
Thur, Dec. 23 - Fri, Jan 3	Christmas break
Mon, Jan. 6	Holiday (<i>Epiphany Three Kings</i>)



Further Information

Ref.	Description	QR-Code
p. 6	Go-To persons for FIN students, including BiBas, in case help is needed.	

Follow us on Instagram!



About us, your BiBa Editorial Team

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Picture Credits (except where otherwise already noted)

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