

Message from the Editors

As the sun shines brighter and the weather slowly warms up, we find ourselves at the exciting start of the Summer Semester 2026 here at FIN. Returning from the spring break, there is a fresh energy in the air, and we cannot wait to begin our itinerary and continue building our close-knit BiBa community in the coming months.

We are thrilled to welcome Magnus Gottl to our team as our new editor. Take a moment to meet him and learn about his vision for the international students at our faculty. We are excited to have Magnus join us in shaping the community and creating more opportunities for our students.

As we kick off this semester, we wish you good luck—or better yet, *Viel Erfolg*—with your studies. At the same time, we would like to remind everyone to make the most of the spring and summer days ahead. Remember that balance is key, and sometimes stepping away from your desk can give you the perspective you need to move forward with your coursework. In this edition, we have collected a few destinations around Magdeburg that are perfect for a stroll or a bike ride.

And, of course, one of the cornerstones of our program—our Stammtisch—is back! We are planning one right at the beginning of the semester, giving students the opportunity to meet, play games, and enjoy our one-of-a-kind BiBa community together. With the good weather approaching, we are also planning additional activities, so stay tuned!

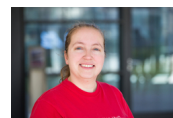
This spring also marks the start of the application period for incoming students, beginning on April 15th. We are excited to welcome a new cohort and hear the stories of applicants from all over the world.

Please note that there are very **important changes regarding eligibility requirements** for our Bilingual Bachelor program. These updates impact all new applicants to our program, who are aiming to start their studies in the **Winter Semester 26/27**. You will find all the specific details and the new guidelines in this newsletter. We strongly encourage you to review them carefully to ensure that you are ready for the process.

We wish all of our students a successful and stress-free semester, and all applicants the very best of luck with their applications, visa appointments, and travels to Germany!

We are also aiming to make our community as inclusive as possible, so starting with on of the next issues we will be making our newsletter more accessible to all international students and applicants at Faculty of Computer Science, so stay tuned for this exciting new chapter!

Warm regards,



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Magnus Gottl, M.A.
Internationalization
and Student
Support




Darija Grisanova
DAAD FIT Project
Support



Spotlight on Staff: Magnus Gottl

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce our newest team member, Magnus Gottl. He has joined the Faculty of Computer Science as project staff for internationalization and student support.



Picture Credit: Magnus Gottl

This role combines hands-on student support with the strategic development of the faculty's international framework.

Road to OVGU

Magnus holds a B.A. in Social & Communication Studies and an M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies. During his academic career, he specialized in the Kurdish movement in North-East Syria and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He also completed mediation training, learning how to help people find common ground in difficult situations.

Before joining the faculty, Magnus completed several internships in Germany and abroad, including positions in Skopje at the German Embassy, Brussels, and Israel. Following his studies, he worked at Givat Haviva, an Israeli-Palestinian organization focused on building a shared society. Following this experience, Magnus took on the role of an international student advisor at OVGU before taking his current position at the Faculty of Computer Science.

At the FIN

In his current role, Magnus wears two hats: supporting the day-to-day work of international students through the Support Internationals @ FIN project, while also focusing on

the bigger picture. This involves assessing the direction of the faculty's global outreach and identifying specific needs for its future development.

Magnus welcomes collaboration and encourages students to reach out if they have needs or wishes to be addressed, as well as suggestions for improvement they would like to share.

He is also involved in our BiBa program, which aims to tackle several specific challenges facing international students:

- Supporting successful studies through tailored assistance
- Facilitating integration into German society through our bilingual approach
- Improving opportunities for international students in the labor market

My offer to you

"As I was a student at an international study programme at OVGU myself and know about the struggles that may occur, I am deeply motivated to keep enhancing your study experience for the better.

I want to create an open space for students and staff where you can share your thoughts on your personal studies as well as the future development of the faculty. Please let me know what you think about current affairs at the university and how we may support you."

Call to Action

The initiative remains open to input. Magnus invites colleagues and students to share ideas concerning the faculty. He aims to remain open to feedback regarding the situation of international students, including suggestions for improvement or specific needs.

You can reach out to Magnus by writing to magnus.gottl@ovgu.de.

Exciting visit to a Handball Game

Picture Credit: Claudia Krull



On the evening of February 11th, our students gathered for an electrifying display of team spirit: a home game for the SC Magdeburg at the GETEC Arena. Despite the looming pressures of exam preparation, many of our students chose to leave their desks and head straight to the arena, eager to see the home team compete.

The city joined in the anticipation of the game. The Kaiser Otto Bridge was illuminated in the team's signature colors. For many in our group, this was a first-time introduction to the fervent atmosphere of a handball match in Magdeburg – the energy of the loyal fans and the rhythm of the game created a shared joy that extended far beyond the scoreboard.

The atmosphere inside the arena was electric, with students filling the seats alongside loyal fans. SC Magdeburg faced off against TBV Lemgo Lippe in a tightly contested match that showcased grit and determination. The crowd roared as the home team secured a thrilling victory with a final score of 36 to 32. The BiBa students found themselves right in the middle of the action, clapping every time the home team scored, fully immersed in the excitement of the game.

Beyond the roar of the crowd and the cheers of the home team, the visit offered something even more valuable: a moment of collective

relaxation. Students had the chance to step away from the pressure of the exams, celebrate a win together, and simply enjoy a break from their studies. It was an opportunity to bond with fellow students and staff members outside of the lecture hall, strengthening the sense of community within the department.

As the match concluded and the stadium emptied, our group dispersed with adrenaline-fueled energy and a renewed sense of camaraderie. The excursion served as a perfect reminder that academic life is enriched not only by lectures and deadlines, but also by shared moments of excitement and support.

We are already looking forward to attending future games, turning this visit into a lasting tradition where BiBa students can continue to cheer on the Magdeburg team and experience the unique spirit of the city.

Spring Hikes around Magdeburg

With the upcoming warmer months, the perfect opportunity presents itself to embrace a beloved German tradition: *Spazieren gehen*, or simply taking a stroll. Depending on your experience, these walks can sometimes feel more like small hikes—but that is exactly what makes them so special. They offer a simple and refreshing way to get some exercise while enjoying nature and some local sights at the same time.

Around Magdeburg, there are several beautiful spots that are perfect for exactly this kind of outdoor escape.

Herrenkrug

If you prefer to stay within the city limits, try out Herrenkrug. Starting from the university, head towards the Elbe and follow its path to the left, passing the Wissenschaftshafen and

pass under the railway bridge until you reach the Herrenkrugsteg bridge. Cross it, and you are there!



Picture Credit: Darija Grisanova

This spacious park area, located just across the Elbe, is ideal for a picnic with friends or a light bike ride. With its wide paths, green meadows, and peaceful atmosphere, Her-

renkrug offers a quick getaway from the busy pace of university life without having to travel far. There is also a café where you can stop for some refreshments. And if you are too tired to make your way back, there is a nearby tram stop that will take you to the city centre.

Wasserstraßenkreuz



Picture Credit: Tobias Krull

For something a bit more unique, the *Kanalbrücke* at Wasserstraßenkreuz is definitely worth a visit. This impressive waterway intersection is not only an engineering landmark but also a fascinating place to explore. Watching ships seemingly “cross” above the landscape creates a memorable experience.

If you have some time to spare, be sure to also visit the *Schiffshebewerk* Rothensee boat lift to witness a fascinating feat of engineering achievement.

You can reach it by bike by continuing north from Herrenkrug towards Barleber See. If you are up for a longer walk, you can also make your way there on foot. For a shorter option, take the tram to Barleber See and continue from there—the walk should take about half an hour, but it is definitely worth it!

Elberadweg

If you are looking for a longer and more active outing, the Elberadweg provides the perfect route. This well-known cycling path stretches along the Elbe River and offers stunning views of the surrounding nature. Whether you choose to walk a short section or commit to a longer bike ride, the Elberadweg gives you the chance to unwind, clear your mind, and recharge.

For the more adventurous, it is even possible to reach the North Sea by following the entire route. However, even a short ride offers plenty to explore—you can visit Salbke in the south of the city or bike through the Stadtpark while enjoying the fresh spring air. You can even continue to Schönebeck and Bad Salzelmen to visit the fascinating graduation works used for salt production.



Picture Credit: Darija Grisanova

Taking time for these small adventures is more important than it might seem. Stepping away from your desk, getting fresh air, and moving your body can help you return to your studies with a clearer perspective and renewed motivation.

So as the days grow longer and warmer, grab

a friend, put on your comfortable shoes, and discover what Magdeburg has to offer—one stroll at a time.

Fun Class Fotos

We have some exciting news! The next iteration of the flyer will have an authentic picture of the BiBa students on the cover, all thanks to fast and smooth collaboration of the BiBa students!

On a sunny March afternoon, a lot of you showed up for your degree program and the fotos did not disappoint! Thank you again for all the students who showed up!



Picture Credit: Darja Grisanova

Events in Magdeburg

The upcoming semester also brings a variety of exciting events and activities to campus and around Magdeburg—perfect opportunities to take a break from your studies and explore what the city has to offer.

For those who want to improve their German while enjoying a relaxed evening, [Hörsaal im Dunkeln](#) is a great option. This unique event combines language learning with the experience of watching movies, making it both entertaining and educational.

If you are interested in science and innovation, you might want to check out [Tomorrow Labs 2026](#) at the Wissenschaftshafen. As an

alternative to the well-known Long Night of Science, this event offers fascinating insights into current research and future technologies in a dynamic setting.

Nature lovers should not miss a visit to the [Elbauenpark](#). Whether you explore the tropical butterfly house or take a trip through time in the [Jahrtausendturm](#)—with its impressive exhibitions, including a dinosaur display—there is plenty to discover for everyone.

And if you are simply in the mood for a relaxed outing, why not visit the [Magdeburg Zoo](#)? Spending some time outdoors and stopping by to see the elephants and other animals can be a refreshing way to recharge.

With so many options available, this semester offers countless ways to balance your academic life with fun and memorable experiences. So make sure to take advantage of what Magdeburg has to offer!

Important: New Requirements for Winter Term Applications

The applications for the Winter Semester 2026/27 will be open soon. Applicants with a German Abitur can apply via the myovgu-portal from May 15th to September 15th. International applicants with a non-German qualification can apply via uni-assist from April 15th to July 15th.

As already announced on our website, we have revised our admission criteria. Hard requirements include the German HZB (*Hochschulzugangsberechtigung*), which varies from country to country. Specific regulations for your background can be checked via uni-assist. Furthermore, applicants must present certificates for an English level of B2, according to the new OVGU Framework of Reference for Language Skills. For the German track, students have to also fulfill German B2.

In addition to these hard criteria, applicants have to collect at least 8 points in the eligibility process. Points can be collected in the following categories:

- Average grade of German Abitur in natural sciences, math and computer science, OR TestAS Score in core test and subject module, yields up to 6 points.
- Proof of special aptitude through internships or working experience relevant to computer science AND internationally recognized certificates or other documented experience relevant to the study course, yields up to 5 points.
- Certified German knowledge beyond A1 yields up to 5 points.

We are looking forward to your applications and to starting the BiBa journey with a third

cohort in October 2026!

Resources

- OVGU Language Requirements
- Eligibility Regulations for BiBa
- Uni-assist website for checking HZB requirements for your educational background

BiBa Calendar

May 1	Labour Day - public holiday, all shops will be closed
May 9, 11 am to 3 pm	Studieninfotag: Come by and get to know BiBa in person!
May 14	Ascension Day - public holiday, all shops will be closed



Your BiBa Team

Bilingual Bachelor's Program (BiBa) in Computer Science

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