

Program Description

Management Information Systems (M.Sc.)

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Information on the Study Program

Management Information Systems, M.Sc. (MIS)

The study program "Management Information Systems" (MIS) is offered jointly by FB 7 (Faculty of Business Studies and Economics) and FB 3 (Faculty of Mathematics/Computer Science), under the leadership and administrative supervision of FB 7. The program pursues the University of Bremen's guiding principles of research-based learning through a close connection to the research projects in both faculties as well as through the use of project studies. It is interdisciplinary and internationally designed. On the one hand, as a business administration/organizational theory orientation of computer science, it is a particularly attractive subject for computer scientists interested in more than just informatics. On the other hand, students with a background in business studies gain further competencies in the field of computer science. The program is thematically linked with the focus on Digital Media and Interaction (DMI) within computer science and with "Diginomics" in business studies.

As a consecutive master's program, the program builds on bachelor's degree programs such as information systems and management, business studies, computer science, digital media, and industrial engineering. By focusing on Management Information Systems and introducing the mandatory modules in the study section of "Management Information Systems", the foundations are laid that are relevant for successful studies.

1. Overview of the Program

1.1 Legal basis

The structure of the study program is defined in the examination regulations. These are:

- the "General Part of the Master Examination Regulations" (AT-MPO) dated 27.01.2010 in its current version and
- the "Subject-specific Examination Regulations ("Fachspezifische Prüfungsordnung", FPO) of 18.05.2022 in its current version.

The AT-MPO defines the framework of the subject-specific examination regulations for all master's degree programs at the University of Bremen. The AT-MPO thus contains general provisions on the subject-specific regulations and specifications for the master's examination.

The subject-specific examination regulations define the framework conditions of the examination requirements and procedures in the master's degree program Management Information Systems. These include the standard period of study, the scope of study, the course content and the examination requirements.

Changes to approved examination regulations can be found in the respective amendment regulations. The approved examination regulations and amendment regulations can be viewed on the website of the Examination Office at "Examination Regulations":

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/zpa/examination-regulations>

1.2 Structure of the Program

The master's program MIS has a scope of 120 ECTS points (credit points, CP) and a standard period of study of 4 semesters. The MIS program is based on the bachelor's program "Information Systems and Management" with 180 ECTS, 6 semesters of regular study time. The aim of the master's program Management Information Systems is a research-oriented and job-related in-depth university education, based on a comprehensive basic scientific education. It is designed to enable graduates to play a mediating role in the digital transformation of business, administration, education, and society. In doing so, they should be able to identify and understand the perspectives of users and business requirements, as well as develop business information systems and complex software systems themselves. At the same time, the acquisition of scientific methods and research skills lays the foundation for a continuation of the academic career in the context of a doctorate. The master's program Management Information Systems consists of three study sections: "Management Information Systems" (MIS), "Managing Digital Innovation" (MDI) and "Computer Science" (INF).

- **Management Information Systems (MIS):** In this study section, which is offered jointly by the participating faculties, students acquire the theoretical concepts and methodological tools fundamental to MIS in four modules. This includes various theoretical foundations in the fields of information systems and organization studies, qualitative and quantitative methods for the study of information systems and transformation processes in the context of organizations, as well as a transfer module on the professional and academic practice of information systems research.

- **Managing Digital Innovation (MDI):** This section of the program deals with the business implications of digital technologies. This includes, amongst others, the module "Management and Organization", which illustrates the organizational consequences of digital technology for organizations.

- **Computer Science (INF):** In this section of the program, students focus in particular on research into the transformation processes in organizations caused by digitization. For this purpose, the module "IT Management" is mandatory, which deals with the strategic and operational processes of IT service management and develops models for the management of software projects based on research results. The focus is on data-supported decision-making processes as a particular challenge for governmental (especially education and administration) and economic actors.

A special feature of the MIS degree program at the University of Bremen is a strong embeddedness in the fundamental subjects of business studies and computer science. In addition, students learn interdisciplinary cooperation in teams.

Regular admission requirements are a general or subject-linked university entrance qualification, a bachelor's degree in a subject related to MIS (with at least 12 CP business studies and at least 12 CP practical computer science), as well as a sound knowledge of English at C1 level. The following table outlines the current study structure of the program.

		Management Information Systems, 48 CP			Managing Digital Innovation, 18 CP		Computer Science, 18 CP		Master Thesis, 30 CP	General Studies Area, 6 CP	Σ 120 CP ↓
1 st year	1 st sem.	MIS-1, Information and Organisation, 6 CP	MIS-2, AI and Computational Management Information Systems, 6 CP		MIS-MDI-1, Management and Organisation, 6 CP	MIS-MDI-2, Managing Technological Change, 6 CP	MIS-INF-1, IT-Management and Data Application, 6 CP				30 CP
	2 nd sem.	MIS-3, Methods and Theories in Information Systems Research, 6 CP	MIS-4, Academic and Professional Practice, 6 CP		MIS-MDI-3, Digital Innovation, 6 CP		MIS-INF-2, Computer Science for Management Information Systems, 6 CP	MIS-INF-3, Special Topics in Computer Science for Management Information Systems, 6 CP			30 CP
2 nd year	3 rd sem.			MIS-PM, Project, 24 CP						6 CP	30 CP
	4 th sem.							MIS-MA, Master Thesis, 30 CP			30 CP

Table 1: Study Plan Master „Management Information Systems“

- In the General Studies Area, courses from other programs than information systems and management, computer science and business studies can be taken. These can include key qualifications (e.g. foreign languages or study techniques) or be courses from other degree programs.
- Only a few modules build on each other in terms of content, so that most modules can be completed in a different order if required.
- The optional semester abroad is scheduled for the 3rd semester in the sample study plan.

2. Teaching and Examination Issues

2.1 Teaching Formats

The MIS degree program at the University of Bremen is modularized. Each module is completed with an examination. Credit points (CP) are awarded for all study/examination achievements, which represent the typical student workload (approx. 30 hours per CP).

In order to complete the program in the standard period of study, an average of 30 CP per semester must be earned. For this purpose, students take courses amounting to approx. 15–20 semester hours per week (SWS) per semester. During the lecture-free period, students have to prepare for exams and do some project work.

The MIS program offers various forms of teaching: A large part of the course offers consists of seminars, essentially supplemented by lectures (possibly with exercises) and projects. The projects are an essential form of teaching in the MIS program. In order to be able to work on extensive tasks in larger teams, they have a scope of 24 CP, which are completed in one semester. Courses can also be offered in the form of supported self-learning (independent studies). In this case, learning objectives and content are agreed upon individually between lecturers and students.

Today, almost all courses include digital components. Computer-assisted presentation techniques (possibly with integrated demonstrations of programming tools, animations to illustrate processes, etc.) and the storage of course materials on the web (typically in the university-wide Stud.IP platform) are common. Blended learning concepts are also used. Another offer is, for example, the so-called Mobile Lectures (m-lectures), which range from filmed lectures to specially produced video modules and are made available to students for self-learning. Some General Studies offers are available as online courses. Other digitization offers include flipped classroom concepts, use of Clickr systems, and computer-based testing.

2.2 Examination Organization

In the master's program Management Information Systems, all examinations are taken during the semester. Each module is completed with a module examination. A module examination (MP) can consist of one single examination performance or of a combination examination (KP). A combination examination can consist of several tasks that can be combined with each other.

The examination form for each module is published in the current module guide. At the beginning of the lecture period or the module, the students are to be informed of the form of examination determined by the lecturer.

Examinations take place during the course of study, which means that an examination is taken for the first time in the very semester in which the module was taken. There is an offer of at least one examination per semester for each module:

- **Written Examinations:** In Faculty 07, written examinations take place directly after the lecture period within a three-week examination period. For examinations of the current semester, the corresponding examinations are usually held in the second and third week of the examination period. The examination dates for the courses of the

previous semester (resits) usually take place directly after the lecture period of the following semester and thus lie in the first week of the examination phase.

- Examinations in the form of homework, presentations, etc. may be handed in at different times. If these examinations are conducted as portfolio examinations, early registration dates apply. The respective presentation and submission dates are determined by the lecturers or, in the case of the master's thesis, by the Central Examination Office.

Information on the organization and conduct of examinations is provided on the faculty's homepage at:

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/wiwi/studies/masters-degree-programs/management-information-systems/examinations>

2.3 Examination Forms

Students become acquainted with various forms of examinations in the MIS degree program. Particularly common (depending on the type of course) are portfolio examinations, the completion of exercises with a final discussion (a short oral examination) or a final written examination, an oral presentation with a written paper, and oral examinations. Special examination modalities are used for the evaluation of projects: There is a broad evaluation procedure that takes into account not only the result of the practical project work, but also the (usually detailed) documentation and presentation of the work done, the project management tasks and the teamwork skills.

Examinations may be repeated in a different form than originally conducted, at the discretion of the examiner. This will be determined by the respective examiner and communicated to the students at the beginning of the semester.

2.4 Participation in Examinations

Participation in an examination requires enrollment. It is not possible to take part in an examination during a semester of leave.

Students are required to register for an examination via the examination office PABO. Each participation in an examination requires an online registration via

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/zpa> → PABO-Login

Registration for examinations is done using the access data assigned to students by the Center for Networks (ZfN) when they set up their university account.

In the case of a **semester abroad**, the following should be noted:

Repeat examinations cannot be taken abroad or replaced by a course taken abroad. In order not to let an examination attempt lapse, the suspension of the examination procedure can be applied for at the Central Examination Office by providing proof of the completion of a semester abroad for the respective semester.

The **master's thesis** can only be repeated once.

Fixed Registration Deadlines:

Students must register for the examinations of the winter semester in the period from **10.12.–10.01.** and for the examinations of the summer semester in the period from **10.06.–30.06.** of the respective semester.

Please note the different registration deadlines for **portfolio examinations**: For the winter semester, registration takes place in the period from **28.11.–09.12.** and for the summer semester from **11.04.–01.05.**

If an exam takes place before the respective registration deadline, registration must be completed no later than 48 hours before the day of the exam.

Students have to register for each exam, there is **no automatic exam registration** in any case. It is irrelevant whether this is a first attempt or a repeat examination.

Deadlines for deregistration or withdrawal from an examination:

Winter semester: until **31.01.**

Summer semester: until **30.06.**

Deregistration is done directly via PABO without giving any reasons. A later deregistration is possible up to two weeks prior to the examination upon application to the responsible examination board via an informal application stating important reasons. If the examination takes place before the respective deregistration deadline set for the semester, the withdrawal must be made no later than 48 hours before the examination date.

Repeating examinations – four-semester rule:

If a student fails an examination, the examination may be repeated within a period of four semesters. The period begins with the semester following the first attempt. This means, up to five examination attempts can be taken. Every attempt requires a renewed registration for the examination. If the **registration for an exam is missed**, it is NOT possible to take part in this exam. In this case, students lose a possible examination attempt. Note: In this case, it is not possible to submit a belated application for withdrawal from the "not registered" examination. Applications of this kind will be rejected by the examination board.

In particularly justified exceptional cases, which comprehensibly threaten to result in a final failure of the master's examination, students can take advantage of counseling at the Study Center, in which an individual study and examination plan is worked out. The examination board decides on the measures necessary for the realization of the examination plan upon justified application and presentation of this plan.

Non-attendance:

If students do not attend an examination for which they had registered, this attempt is considered a failed attempt (miss). In the event of illness, an application for withdrawal from the examination due to illness must be submitted in writing immediately, i.e. within three working days, to the chairperson of the Examination Board via the Central Examination Office, accompanied by the original certificate of incapacity for work. This certificate must be submitted to the Examinations Office using the form "Sick leave - withdrawal from examination owing to illness". In cases of doubt, the Examination Office may request a medical certificate from a public health officer. In the case of notification of illness, the deadline for repeating examinations is extended by one semester accordingly. If it is a first-time registration, the sickness notification has the effect that the examination procedure for the module is considered not opened.

2.5 Examination Evaluation and Grading

The grades 1 to 5 are used for the evaluation of examinations. For the evaluation of the examination performances, intermediate values are formed by decreasing or increasing the grade numbers by 0,3; the grades 0,7 / 4,3 / 4,7 and 5,3 are excluded. In the case of combination examinations and partial examinations, a weighted arithmetic mean (W) is calculated from the examination grades of the individual partial performances. The module grade N results from the calculated value W according to § 16 paragraph 3 AT-MPO:

$W \leq 1,15$	$N = 1,0$
$1,15 < W \leq 1,50$	$N = 1,3$
$1,50 < W \leq 1,85$	$N = 1,7$
$1,85 < W \leq 2,15$	$N = 2,0$
$2,15 < W \leq 2,50$	$N = 2,3$
$2,50 < W \leq 2,85$	$N = 2,7$
$2,85 < W \leq 3,15$	$N = 3,0$
$3,15 < W \leq 3,50$	$N = 3,3$
$3,50 < W \leq 3,85$	$N = 3,7$
$3,85 < W \leq 4,00$	$N = 4,0$
$4,00 < W$	$N = 5,0$

By registering for an exam, the student makes a binding commitment to participate. If an exam is missed, i.e. if the exam is not taken or is cancelled without good reason, it will be graded as "insufficient (5,0)" and thus as "failed". The same applies if a written examination (e.g. presentation, term paper, master's thesis) is not completed within the specified processing time or, if an examination is not passed, it is not repeated within a period of four semesters.

The examinee must be allowed to inspect all written examination papers immediately after they have been assessed. The organization of the examination inspection is carried out by the respective examiner.

2.6 Master's Thesis

The compulsory final thesis (master's thesis) is worth 30 CP. To register for the master's thesis, at least 60 CP must be earned. The registration for the master's thesis is done at the Central Examination Office. The Examinations Office provides an application form "Application for admission to the B.A. / M.A. thesis phase", which must be completed.

If a student is interested in a practice-oriented master's thesis, the respective examiners should be contacted to find out whether they support a master's thesis in cooperation with a company. A practice-oriented master's thesis, just like an internship, offers valuable insights into a company during the course of studies.

The title of the thesis is approved by the Examination Board. The processing time for the master's thesis is 26 weeks. The examination board may approve a one-time extension of a maximum of eight weeks upon justified application.

The overall grade of the master's examination and thus the final grade is formed from the grades of the modules and the master's thesis, weighted with the respective credit points.

2.7 Deception and Plagiarism

Written exams are subject to regulations that must be observed by the students. Only those aids may be used that have been approved in advance by the examiner. The invigilator will make a note of any attempt to influence the result of an examination through cheating or the use of unauthorized aids, including electronic devices worn on the body. However, the examinee may continue the examination and is given the possibility to submit a statement to the Examination Board afterwards. The Examination Board hears the examinee and decides whether there has been deception in accordance with § 18 Para. 1 AT-MPO. In this case, the examination is to be assessed as "failed".

In the context of term papers and theses, intentional plagiarism constitutes deception, because plagiarism deceives about the independently produced performance. The verbatim or analogous adoption of text passages from other works without sufficient citation violates fundamental standards of scientific work and includes a deception about the independence of the scientific performance. In particular, plagiarism is to be assumed if the adoption of foreign ideas is not only isolated, but systematic and planned, for example if such plagiarism is found at several passages in the work. Accuracy of citation is also required in captions and texts on illustrations. Ignorance of proper citation does not protect from consequences.

If a performance is graded as "failed" due to deception, this deception will be noted in the examinee's examination file. If an examinee cheats repeatedly or seriously (plagiarism or other type of serious cheating), compulsory deregistration may be applied. Forced deregistration is carried out by the Legal Office. This is done with a time limit according to § 42 para. 6 BremHG, within which a new enrollment at a university within the scope of the Bremen Higher Education Act is not possible.

2.8 Recognition of Achievements

For examination achievements made in a previous study program or a semester abroad, there are clear recognition rules: Achievements are recognized if they correspond to the local learning objectives of the respective module. Examination achievements completed at other universities or in other master's programs can be recognized after enrollment in the MIS master's program by observing the rules for recognition.

The basis of all recognition procedures is the specified application procedure of the Central Examination Office. The required form "Application for recognition of credits" is available at

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/zpa/forms>

The procedure is the responsibility of the representative in the Examination Board and the Central Examination Office

3. Professional and Generic Skills

3.1 Research-based Learning

Research-based learning is an essential basic principle of the University of Bremen. This is also reflected to a considerable extent in teaching. In many courses, current research references of the lecturers find their way into teaching.

A central component of research-oriented teaching is the mandatory project, in some cases supplemented by project-specific accompanying courses. The projects usually have a size of 8 to 20 participants. The topic of a project is usually roughly specified; the exact form and the methods used are then agreed upon in a dialog between students and lecturers. In most cases, the questions have a clear relation to the research focus of the respective working group of the lecturers. In some cases, (partial) project results are processed into publications by the students in cooperation with the lecturers.

Of course, many final theses are in the research context of the respective supervising working group and often make decisive contributions to research results. In this context, joint publications with the supervising scientists may also be produced.

Some students work as student assistants in research projects of various research groups – or in research-related institutes such as the Institute for Information Management Bremen (ifib) or the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI).

The concept of independent studies is also interesting in this context: Beyond organized courses, special topics are coordinated and worked on individually with the lecturers (often in the form of homework or small development tasks with documentation). In many cases, the content is also related to the current research of the respective working group.

3.2 Development of Professional Competences

The MIS degree program at the University of Bremen also has a practical and application-oriented focus. An essential study element for professional qualification is the obligatory 24 CP project. The soft skills students gain in this project serve as an addition for specialized in-depth study (often involving the development of a larger software system) and also as direct preparation for professional practice, as project management, cooperation in larger heterogeneous teams and the presentation and documentation of results are also covered. Accompanying seminars on these topics support the students in their project tasks.

In the area of General Studies, students can also choose courses on (often practical) key qualifications. In this field, the University of Bremen offers a wide range of courses from several central institutions: e.g. the Career Center (various block seminars based on practical experience) or BRIDGE (support for business start-ups).

The strong transfer orientation of the University of Bremen is also worth mentioning. Several working groups have intensive praxis contacts with (regional) companies, e.g. within the framework of ifib or the Center for Computing Technologies (TZI, in which several working groups of the study program are organized with their transfer activities, among others), the Uni Bremen Campus GmbH (through which many industrial projects are handled) and the DFKI. Students sometimes benefit from this in the context of student assistant contracts or final theses.

4. Internationalization

4.1 Internationally-oriented Program

The MIS program at the University of Bremen is an international program. This is, for example, reflected in the fact that in addition to the English-taught compulsory modules, some elective modules are also offered in German.

Students are encouraged to study a semester abroad. As the University of Bremen is strongly involved in the initiative "Young Universities for the Future of Europe" (YUFE), a lively exchange with the partner universities is sought on how students of the MIS master program can take advantage of stays abroad and how the courses offered can be coordinated between the partners in a way that they offer students the greatest possible added value.

4.2 The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) serves to simplify the recognition of credits already earned. This applies both to courses completed at another German university and to examinations taken at a foreign university, including a semester abroad. For each module, numerical values, the CP credits (Credit Points), are defined in the subject-specific examination regulations. These credit points take into account the workload required for the respective module in relation to the total workload of the program. For a full academic year 60 credit points are awarded, for one semester it is 30 CP. The conversion key is that one credit point corresponds to a calculated workload of 30 hours of classroom teaching, preparation, and follow-up time. For an academic year, 1,800 working hours and thus 60 CP are used as a basis. This corresponds to a 40-hour week.

The credit points assigned to the respective modules are only awarded to those students who have successfully completed the entire module. The applicable examination regulations must always be met and the examinations successfully passed. Therefore, the sole participation in a course or module without passing an examination is not sufficient for the award of credit points.

4.3 Organization of a Semester Abroad

Studying abroad is not an obligation in the MIS master's program, but is recommended and supported by the faculty. Due to its structure, the third semester is best suited for the integration of a semester abroad.

Regardless of how many CP are still to be earned within the master's program, all students who wish to spend a semester abroad are expected to complete a workload of 30 CP during their time abroad. Students must demonstrate language proficiency in the language of instruction abroad at the B2 level. A learning agreement must be completed with the home and host university. This agreement specifies the courses and examinations through which 30 credit points per semester are to be earned. The master's thesis cannot be supervised, evaluated and subsequently recognized in Bremen while abroad.

Applications for studying abroad are to be addressed to the Office for International Affairs of the Faculty of Business and Economics first. The **deadline for applying to a partner university abroad** is (for all programs)

➤ **December 15th**

and applies to a stay abroad within the entire following academic year, i.e. for the winter and the following summer semester. The application must first be submitted via the FB 07 application portal.

ATTENTION: Only after you have received a confirmation from the faculty on January 25th, you have to register in the central portal of the University of Bremen "Mobility Online" until February 15th. Late applications after the deadline are possible, but these will only be considered for remaining places.

Information on the current international cooperation and partnerships of the Faculty of Business and Economics as well as detailed information on studying abroad, the application procedure, lists of remaining places and deadlines can be found at

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/wiwi/international-affairs>

Please also check

- the Stud.IP course "Büro für Praxis und Internationales"
- Facebook group "Auslandssemester am FB 07 Uni Bremen"
- Instagram @wiwibremeninternational
- Stud.IP-course "Studienbegleitprogramm"

The central International Office (IO) of the University of Bremen provides support for financial funding and is responsible for the University Fair for Studies and Internships Abroad.

Contact:

Office for International Affairs at the Faculty

Sandra Dinkeldein
phone+49 (0)421 218-66515
e-mail: fb07international@uni-bremen.de
WiWi1 building, room A3440

Central International Office

Barbara Hasenmüller (ERASMUS+)
phone +49 (0)421 218-60362
e-mail: barbara.hasenmueller@uni-bremen.de
SFG, room 0360

Silke Prangemeier
(worldwide exchange programs, except for ERASMUS+, PROMOS, DAAD, Fulbright)
phone +49 (0)421 218-60364
e-mail: auslandsaufenthalte@uni-bremen.de
SFG, room 0320

5. Academic Advising

The subject-specific study advice is carried out by the study center of the Faculty of Business Studies and Economics and the study program coordinator, depending on the respective issues.

Information is provided at:

- the Stud.IP course “Studienzentrum Wirtschaftswissenschaft”
- via the university’s email tool “InfoMail”
- Facebook “Studienzentrum Wirtschaftswissenschaft“

In order to receive all necessary information, students need to use their university e-mail account.

Contact:

Study Center

Dr. Katharina Liebscher

e-mail: stzwiwi@uni-bremen.de

6. Quality Management and Student Participation

Quality management in teaching and studies is decentralized at the University of Bremen and is thus designed independently by each faculty. The Faculty of Business and Economics strives for a continuous improvement of the teaching and learning conditions for the students.

To ensure this, students are closely involved in quality management. Through regular course evaluations via Stud.IP, students have the opportunity to give anonymous feedback to the lecturers on the courses. Exam evaluations are also carried out in selected courses. Furthermore, students can give suggestions on all areas of study in student discussions, which are held every semester with the Dean of Studies. In addition, discussions take place between the Dean of Studies and the Student Council, and once a year the university-wide Dies Academicus is held, during which important topics of the faculty are discussed in an appropriate setting.

Student participation is an indispensable part of quality management. All students are therefore encouraged to participate in the Student Council, in evaluations and discussions. However, if they have any criticism or suggestions, they can contact the faculty's study center at any time. Criticism can also be voiced anonymously via the Stuga WiWi (Student Council), which then forwards the students' feedback to the study center.

7. Graduation and Alumni Activities

A festive graduation farewell ceremony is held at the end of each year in the historic concert hall "Die Glocke" on Domsheide, to which graduates of the previous year are invited.

Keeping up to date professionally, maintaining valuable contacts with former fellow students or making new contacts, providing practical perspectives through lectures by alumni at the university and much more is associated with alumni activities. The alumni networking takes place through various media channels and is supported by the Faculty of Business and Economics. For example, on the business portal XING and on Facebook, a group has been set up

"WIWI Sektion Alumni Universität Bremen"

to which students and graduates are asked to register.

In order to stay connected after graduation, the faculty recommends signing up at the faculty's career portal. Events as well as job offers for young professionals and alumni are offered there. There is also a networking function, which enables an exchange of experiences from "alumni to alumni" but also "alumni to students". Access to the career portal of the faculty:

[https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/wiwi/practice-and-transfer/
offers-for-students/faculty-career-portal](https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/wiwi/practice-and-transfer/offers-for-students/faculty-career-portal)

Contact:

Coordination of alumni activities at the faculty

Maren Hartstock

phone +49 (0)421 218-66505

e-mail: prakwiwi@uni-bremen.de

WiWi1 building, room A3420

8. Contacts for MIS Students

Academic Advisor

Program Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Julia Kensbock
kensbock@uni-bremen.de

Study Center Faculty 07: Dr. Katharina Liebscher
stzwiwi@uni-bremen.de

Counsellor Study Abroad

Office for International Affairs: Sandra Dinkeldein
fb07international@uni-bremen.de

Counsellor Practice & Transfer

Office for Practice und Transfer: Maren Hartstock
prakwiwi@uni-bremen.de

Recognition of Credits

Program Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Julia Kensbock
kensbock@uni-bremen.de

Examination Office

Central Examination Office (ZPA), Administrative Office Faculty 07: Ms Schulte & Mr Arnold
zpa-fb7@uni-bremen.de

Master Examination Board (MPA) & Selection Board

Professors:	Prof. Dr. Andreas Breiter Prof. Dr. Julia Kensbock Prof. Dr. Thorsten Poddig
Academic Staff:	Dr. Juliane Jarke
Students:	Jethro Bartel