

Mei: CogSci

Middle European Interdisciplinary Master Programme In Cognitive Science



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Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Odbor za međunarodnu suradnju, 21. ožujka 2007.



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Partner Universities



- University of Vienna
Consortium Coordinator: Prof. Markus Peschl



- Comenius University in Bratislava
Local Coordinator: Dr. Igor Farkas



- Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest
Local Coordinator: Prof. Gyorgy Kampis



- Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Local Coordinator: Prof. Csaba Pleh



Univerza v Ljubljani

- University of Ljubljana
Local Coordinator: Prof. Andrej Ule



- University of Zagreb
Local Coordinator: Prof. Melita Kovacevic

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Programme Description

field: Cognitive Science

- psychology
- neuroscience
- linguistics
- artificial intelligence
- robotics
- biology
- philosophy
- ...

“The expression cognitive science is used to describe a broadly integrated class of approaches to the study of mental activities”

Bechtel & Graham

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Programme Description

- two years
- 120 ECTS
- student mobility in second year
- obligatory mobility within two universities
- annual intensive week of all students (student conferences)
- joint curriculum
- joint procedure of student selection and enrolment
- joint student administration
- joint study management
- joint study evaluation on each of the partner's university
- joint quality assurance

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Curriculum Architecture

Temporal Organisation

The curriculum consists of 2 phases (2 semesters each):

- **introductory phase**

enables students to orient themselves in the field of cognitive science and provides a foundation for interdisciplinary research

- **phenomenon-oriented phase**

students gain specialised knowledge of a chosen topic focusing on a cognitive phenomenon through the integration of research methods and perspectives from multiple disciplines

based on their research topic chosen individually, students select one of the universities participating in the network (student mobility) in line with the areas of expertise of the respective partner universities

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Curriculum Architecture

Functional Organisation: the 3 column architecture

3 columns that are mutually interconnected:

disciplinary column

tools column

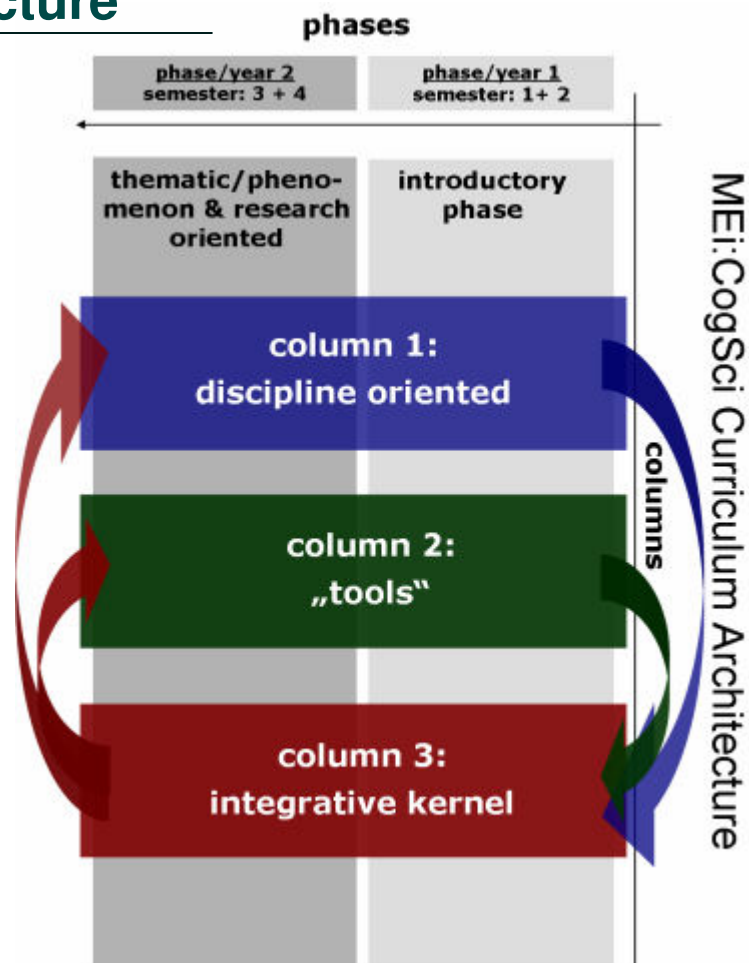
provide students with conceptual, practical,
and cultural experience of the disciplines in
cognitive science

integrative kernel

serves as a platform for collaboratively reflecting upon,
relating and integrating these experiences, as well as
providing training in cognitive science

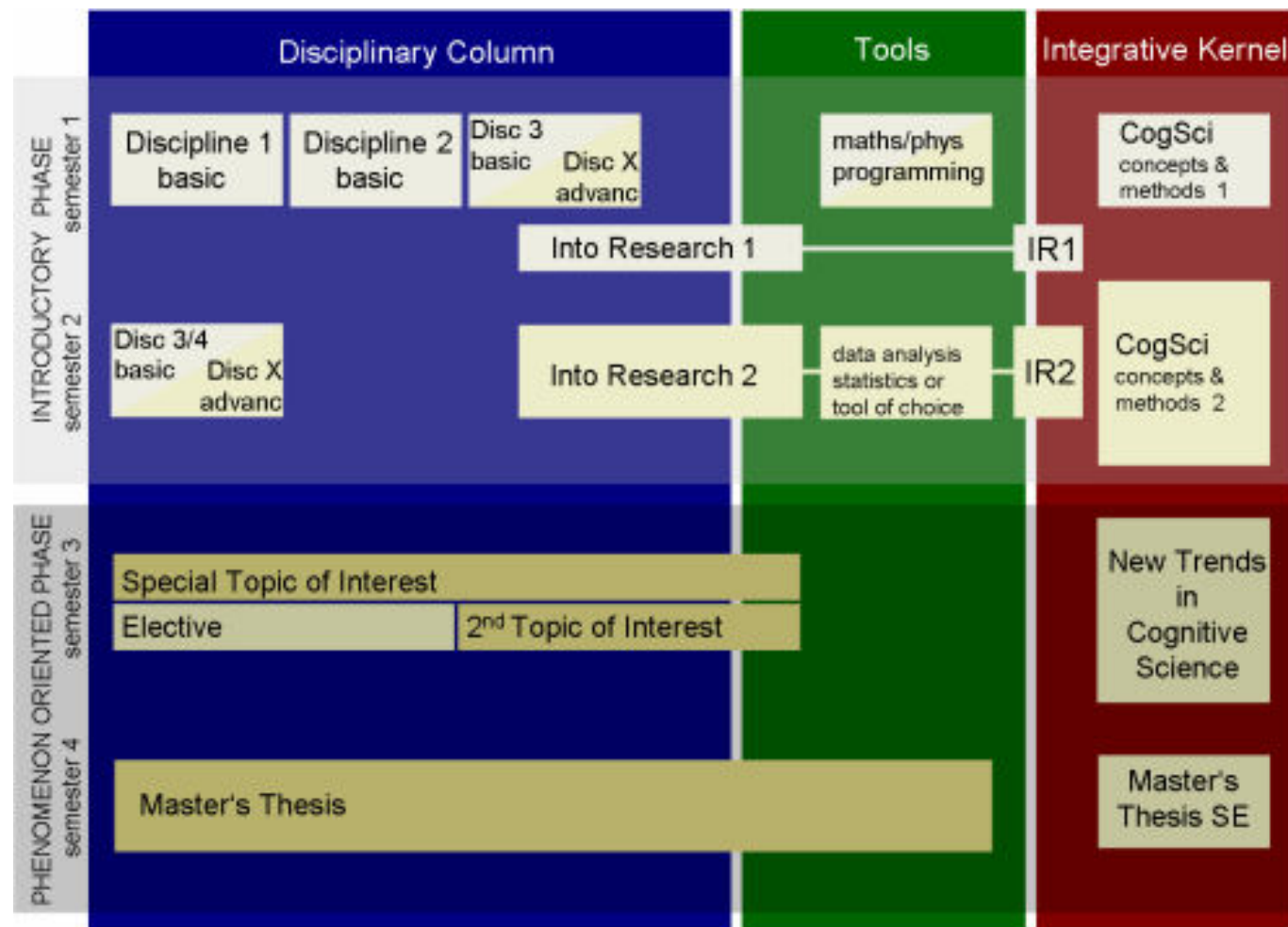
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Curriculum Architecture



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Curriculum Architecture



Didactical methods

eLearning

e-learning platform for discussion allowing inter-university communication and interaction

courses will incorporate eLearning within a blended learning paradigm

Student conference

yearly student conference in order to provide an opportunity for gaining experience in communication and critical discussion of students' scientific work

Tutoring

Mentors/Supervisors

there will be two supervisors from different partners of the joint degree network for the thesis

Project-orientation and Teamwork

at different stages of the programme students will engage in projects and teamwork

Interdisciplinarity

MEi:CogSci curriculum is interdisciplinary and intercultural, therefore special care will be given to the creation of an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect

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Learning Outcomes on the Curricular Level

Subject Specific Competences:

- Systematic knowledge & understanding of the nature, organisation and acquisition of knowledge in human, living, and artificial systems
- Basic knowledge & understanding of relevant/core disciplines with regard to phenomena related to cognitive science (Orientation)
- Specialised knowledge of a chosen phenomenon of cognition from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Awareness & understanding of current relevant topics & discussions in the field of cognitive science
- Ability to navigate in several scientific cultures & discourses in the disciplines related to cognitive science
- Ability to follow scientific developments in the field of cognitive science in a reflective & autonomous manner

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Learning Outcomes on the Curricular Level

Methodological competences/scientific skills:

- Knowledge and understanding of a variety of methods and their limitations
- Adequately selecting and competently applying and combining methods & concepts from several areas
- Plan, conduct, document & present scientific work

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Learning Outcomes on the Curricular Level

Generic Competences:

Instrumental

- Language competence (English)
- Basic numeracy
- Research and evaluate scientific literature
- Ability to conduct research according to scientific standards
- Ability to work in virtual environments

Systemic

- Integrative thinking
- Interdisciplinary work/debates/thinking
- Project (oriented) work and organisational skill
- Critical evaluation of approaches & methods
- Change of viewpoint/perspectives (intellectual mobility)
- Problem-solving abilities
- Ability to work autonomously

Interpersonal

- Collaborative work in virtual environments
- Teamcompetences:
 - Work within an interdisciplinary team
 - Deal with conflicts and different viewpoints
 - Moderating group work
- Intercultural competence

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Programme Objectives

Scientific Field

- to develop a deeper understanding of natural and artificial cognitive system
- to offer bachelor graduates from the core disciplines of cognitive science and related fields insight into the highly interdisciplinary enterprise
- to support the development of an European research community in a highly up to date field

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Programme Objectives

European oriented approach

- to foster the implementation of the Bologna Process with a degree which involves several faculties and multiple departments at the universities involved
- developing means of quality assurance
- to convey intercultural dialogue
- increasing teacher mobility, facilitating the European Higher Education Area as well as common research programmes
- mobility of students and teachers

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Programme Objectives

Methodology

- taking advantage of the particular strenghts in teaching and research at the different locations of the consortium
- creating a modular curriculum
- to offer a joint degree master programme with a common curriculum, folowing the criteria according to the Bologna Process: ECTS, ensuring student mobility
- the award of graduation diploma which is accompanied by a diploma supplement

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Problems and Obstacles

- **Legal systems**
 - lack of legislation for the joint degrees
 - different legislation on doctoral studies

- **Administrative procedures**
 - complexity of bureaucracy in order to make the international agreements mutually compatible

- **Learning structures**
 - difficulties in harmonizing curricula and modules

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