LIVE-CHAT NANO(BIO)TECHNOLOGY

On Friday, 22 February 2019, the Distance and Independent Studies Center took part in the Distance Learning Day. The following live chat was held with Simone Plog, programme manager of the Master’s distance learning course „Nanotechnology“ and the certificate course „Nanobiotechnology“. She answered questions regarding both programmes.

Simone Plog: Good morning everybody, welcome to the live chat. I am glad to answer your questions regarding the study programme. How can I help you?

E.: Hi, can you tell me when the application deadline is?

Simone Plog: Dear E., the application process starts on 15th May and ends on 15th July.

E.: Thanks!

B.: I have read the standard course length is six semesters. Is it possible to finish it in this time?

Simone Plog: Dear B., the length of the study programme is six semesters. Most students receive their Master’s degree in seven semesters. The duration of the certificate programme is two semesters and most students finish their certificate within two semesters.

S. Z.: So, could you explain a little bit more how that works? In which condition does the programme extend to seven semesters?

B.: thank you!

J.: Hello

Simone Plog: If you pass all modules in the regular time, the course will be finished within six semesters. However, sometimes a student decides to take an examination for personal reasons later. In this case, the study time can be longer than six semesters.

E.: So is it possible to pause my studies for a semester?
Simone Plog: Yes, that's possible. You can apply for a holiday semester and take a break under certain circumstances.

S. Z.: OK. Thank you. So, for example, if you fail from all exams in a semester, is it possible to take exams of those ones together with the next semester’s lectures? Or is there a limitation of how many lectures you can take in a semester?

Simone Plog: Officially, there is not limitation, but we recommend not taking more than two or three examinations. Even if you fail from exams, it is possible to finish your studies in six semester. Often the student takes the examinations in the sixth semester and finishes the Master’s Thesis.

B.: When and where will the written exams take place?

Simone Plog: The examinations take place during the on-campus phases.

S. Z.: OK. A student can take the exams of all 5 semester together in the 6 semester. Okay. I am asking this in terms of possibility.

Simone Plog: There are only examinations during the first fifth semesters. In the sixth semester, the Master's Thesis is written. But of course you can take examinations in the sixth semester.

E.: When is the on-campus phase and how is it structured?

Simone Plog: In the first five semesters, there is always an on-campus phase which lasts for one weekend. You will get the possibility to do laboratory work. Besides there are talks related to interesting scientific topics.

E.: Do I have to be always present because I live abroad?

Simone Plog: Yes, the on-campus phases are compulsory. They take place in Kaiserslautern, Hannover and Jülich (M.Sc.) or Hannover and Kaiserslautern (Certificate).

E.: Do I need an accommodation during the phases?

J.: How long are the on-campus phases?

Simone Plog: You will need to book the accommodation by yourself, but you will get support.

Simone Plog: Dear J., the on-campus phases start on Friday or Saturday and end on Sunday.

E.: Thank you ;)

Simone Plog: You are welcome.

P.: What are the qualifications for getting admission into Nanobiotech? I mean „qualifications required“.
Simone Plog: The applicants need a bachelor degree in engineering, pharmacy, medicine or natural science. For the certificate, you do not need working experience. You will find more information on our website.

P.: So the lectures are video conference.

Simone Plog: All students get access to our online learning platform. The study material can be downloaded as pdf-file. For all modules, there is a discussion forum, which lasts for several weeks. Your questions will be answered in the forum. Besides there are tutorials for some lectures during the on-campus phase.

P.: Is it possible to get an appointment with lecturer/teacher/professor to clarify certain doubts?

Simone Plog: Normally the questions can be clarified during the online tutorials. The answers should be published in the forum, so all students receive the same information.

Simone Plog: Do you have further questions?

S. Z.: Thank you. I do not have any more.

A.: Hello, I have a question about the master thesis. How will I be supported in finding a topic?

Simone Plog: Dear A., in general, the student finds a topic, which is closely related to work. But in case you do not find a topic it is possible to get support. In this case, you will need to come to Kaiserslautern for at least three months. Therefore we recommend you choose a topic by yourself which you are interested in and which is related to your daily work.

B.: How much does this course cost and are the any other fees?

A.: Thank you very much, that's good to know and helps me a lot.

Simone Plog: You will need to pay a tuition fee of 820 Euro per semester for the first six semesters. Besides 500 Euros will be charged for the Master's Thesis. You will receive a student ID and you need to be enrolled. The social fee is currently 101 Euro per semester. If you study more than two semesters longer then the regular study time, a tuition fee of 30% will be charged.

B.: Thank you very much!

P.: I hope expected workload (125h for a module I saw) is similar independent of previous qualification.

Simone Plog: Yes, the average and expected working load depends on the credit points (25h per CP). The time a student needs for study preparation depends on his or her background.

P.: Ok Thank you :)
Simone Plog: No problem, you are welcome.

J.: Thanks a lot

Simone Plog: I hope all your questions were answered. If something is unclear, please feel free to contact me via phone or email (nano@disc.uni-kl.de).

J.: It was very informative

S. Z.: Thank you

B.: Thank you.

E.: For me too, thank you very much

Simone Plog: I wish you all the best and hope to meet you here in Kaiserslautern soon. Have a nice day and see you soon.