

“Those who are happy are curious.”
Friedrich Nietzsche

Dear students and guests,

Interdisciplinary know-how and competence, cultural background knowledge, participation and social engagement are, in our opinion, vital for shaping a future society worth living in. Facing times of rapidly increasing knowledge, digitalisation, and political instability in many regions of the world, it becomes very important – but at the same time also more difficult – to form a differentiated view on the big picture. For this reason, our activities at ZAK continuously focus on recent developments in order to offer new and broadened perspectives – and we have successfully been doing this for more than 15 years.

As a central academic unit of KIT, ZAK does not only foster interdisciplinary and intercultural education with its manifold teaching portfolio, but also engages in the individual social education of young people by offering various training programmes. Moreover, it strengthens the interdisciplinary exchange at KIT and creates platforms for the dialogue between science and society through its Public Science events. We at ZAK aim to deliver a significant contribution to sustainably secure the social responsibility of KIT in research, teaching, and innovation.

I cordially invite you to participate in our programmes!



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An Overview – Profile of ZAK RESEARCH TEACHING PUBLIC SCIENCE



ZAK | Zentrum für Angewandte Kulturwissenschaft
und Studium Generale
Centre for Cultural and General Studies

KIT – The Research University in the Helmholtz Association

www.zak.kit.edu

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Teaching

ZAK offers interdisciplinary courses to all KIT students. Our courses and teaching programmes supplement and enrich the degree courses offered at KIT. Students acquire an attractive additional qualification relevant to both employment and practice, and which also fosters reflective engagement, helping them become responsible members in a changing global society.



Courses for students of all departments:

Key Skills at ZAK (Schlüsselqualifikationen)

ZAK offers more than 70 courses every semester in which students can obtain credit points for BA/MA elective 'key skills'. As most courses are taught in German, students require an adequate level of German in order to participate. However, ZAK also provides a number of courses taught in English:

www.zak.kit.edu/english/general_studies

Supplementary Studies on Culture and Society (Begleitstudium Angewandte Kulturwissenschaft)

The Begleitstudium is comparable to liberal arts studies at Anglo-American institutions. ZAK offers a multidisciplinary course catalogue. After successfully taking all classes necessary to complete the curriculum, students will receive a graded ZAK and KIT certificate. Most of these courses are taught in German.

Supplementary Studies on Sustainable Development (Begleitstudium Nachhaltige Entwicklung)

Supplementary Studies on Sustainable Development provide students with interdisciplinary approaches to transformation knowledge, as well as with the basic principles and application areas of sustainable development. After successfully taking all classes necessary to complete the curriculum, students will receive a graded ZAK and KIT certificate. Most of these courses are taught in German.

Interdisciplinary Qualifying Modules

Students can choose from a variety of interdisciplinary modules to obtain a ZAK certificate. These courses are organised according to thematic areas in key fields such as internationalisation, diversity management, media, leadership, data literacy, and sustainability, as well as music, film, and theatre.

Studium Generale/General Studies

The course catalogue includes more than 200 courses each semester, organised into five interdisciplinary thematic fields: the Human & Society, Nature & Technology, Culture & Media, Economy & Law, and Politics & Globalisation, in addition to the two domains of introductory lectures and Basic Skills & IT. A large variety of extracurricular orchestra and choir activities are also offered.

Public Science

Public Science aims to present complex topics in an easily comprehensible manner in order to make them accessible to a broad audience.

The objective is to impart the necessary knowledge for the public to participate in discussions about the latest scientific findings, and debate the consequences of scientific action. ZAK has been host to numerous conferences, symposia, panel discussions, and lectures with internationally renowned experts.

Events include:

Colloquium Fundamentale

The Colloquium Fundamentale covers social and scientific topics and is one of the central KIT lecture series.

KIT in the City Hall

Event series in which the KIT departments, centres, competence areas, and focuses are presented to the general public; the Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe and the president of KIT host this event.



International Forum

Platform for international cultural exchange at KIT, including regular public lectures with well-known personalities from politics, science, and the arts; other formats include film and discussion panels.

Jean Monnet Keynote Lecture

The lecture promotes open and controversial dialogue about European integration and identity, including issues in the context of recent European developments, as well as the role and responsibilities of Europe in global matters of development, conflict, and change.

World Science Café

Event series in which academic active refugees or threatened scientists give insights into their research fields.

www.zak.kit.edu/english/public_science

Research

ZAK's research projects provide the basis for teaching and public science. Projects such as the accommodation of diversity, processes of identity, integration processes, the development of transcultural understanding, and the demand for interdisciplinary qualifications are currently being worked on at ZAK. Further points of reference for research are public science and scientific communication, new media, technological change, cultural heritage, and globalisation topics.

Thus, ZAK contributes to scientific reflection and the shaping of development in society and culture.

www.zak.kit.edu/english/research

How to find us

You can find a free copy of the comprehensive **General Studies course catalogue** every semester either at ZAK or at various central locations on the KIT campus and in Karlsruhe. The online version can be downloaded here:

www.zak.kit.edu/vorlesungsverzeichnis