

## The ICS Planner Guide V1.1, October 2016

The ICS planner is a simple Excel 97 spreadsheet, which also runs under OpenOffice. It is meant as a planning aid to select the appropriate courses under the ICS specialization of the Systems Engineering program at Saarland University. It also may help students to schedule their individual workload per semester. The planner reflects a specialized and therefore a simplified version of the official study and examination regulations (only available in German language) which govern the whole Systems Engineering master program. Please note that these official regulations overrule the advice given by the ICS planner tool in case of any conflict. If you are in doubt please contact the ICS study affairs administrator before you proceed with the result of the planner tool.

This is how the planner works:

### 1) Throughout the entire ICS Planner:

Available selections are always displayed by dark shaded, black-framed boxes. Selections can be made by entering any input (a character or a number) into a framed box. Deleting the input de-selects.

In addition to selections there are also entry fields (e.g. *ICS Project Seminar*) that require to select a workload (CP) number out of a selection menu (the menu appears once you click on the respective framed box). In this case select the semester during which you like to attend the respective module/course and select the workload that belongs to your individual selection.

If the current selection state of the Planner does not meet the regulation requirements the related fields are displayed in red color. This may happen if you select a lecture twice or if you haven't selected enough courses to meet any minimum or maximum Credit Point (CP) criteria or number of lectures criteria.

2) At the head of the planner there is a red shaded box containing *Obligatory modules*. Every student has to pass these modules, which are either already scheduled for a fixed semester (e.g. the *Master Thesis* takes always place in the final (fourth) semester) or can be chosen amongst the selection choices offered by the Planner. As the *ICS Project-Seminars* and the associated workload are usually being announced during the first weeks of a semester you may enter a preliminary 3 CP workload, which is the minimum requirement, and refine it after you have got the confirmed workload of the individual Project-Seminar you are going to attend.

3) The ICS specialization is structured in *Areas of interest* (e.g. *Advanced Electromagnetics, Electronics & Hardware*) each highlighted by a blue colored row in the Planner. This structure may help you to identify possible areas of interest. However, you are free to focus on and select your individual preferred areas and lectures at your discretion. Detailed information on each lecture can be found in the *Module Handbook* available at ICS homepage.

4) All areas of interest are divided into *Obligatory modules* (the column in red shaded background color), *Enhancement lectures* (column in green shaded background color) and *Supplement lectures* (purple shaded). On top of each of these three divisions a monitor box reflects the status of your current selection. If the background color of a control field appears in green your selections meet the regulation requirements. If it appears in red your selection has to be modified until the number in the control field meets the requirement displayed at the right hand side of the respective control

field. Please note that in the *max. 26 CP* and *max. 12 CP* requirement of the *Supplement lectures* control field does not mean that you must not select more than 26 CPs and 12 CPs but only a maximum of 26 CPs and 12 CPs will be considered in the respective section of your transcript of records.

5) In the middle on top of the Planner a grey shaded box monitors your selected individual workload per semester. Try to keep it as close to 30 CPs per semester as possible. This is considered to be a reasonable workload to finish the ICS course of study within the scheduled 2-year term. The box also displays the total workload of your individual ICS course of study. The minimum workload requirement is as high as 120 CPs.