

Welcoming Speech cohort 10

Dear staff, dear fellow students, but especially dear new LASers.

Prepare yourselves, we (hopefully) have a long night ahead of us. Although we sincerely hope you can all agree to the motto “one needs no reason to celebrate”, this Wednesday truly feels exceptional: we feel that today’s an event that calls - no, *demands* - for proper celebration. Not only will the University College Freiburg turn ten, but also many excited-looking, brightly-faced, fresh LASers are sitting in front of us right here in person - wow.

And with this come many other reasons to celebrate: sitting here in front of us at the very start of your study path, we think you have come pretty far already! You have successfully finished high-school, written applications, overcome a cold and humid pseudo-summer transitioning to a not quite yet post-pandemic life and most importantly, you have decided to spend the next few years of your lives *at least more or less* at university - a period that many graduates refer to as ‘the most fun time of their lives’. And to lay the foundation for this ‘fun time’ to come, you have opted for a study program whose students struggle to explain to somebody what exactly it is we’re trying to do here, in a city where the housing costs seem higher than the Empire State building! Congratulations! (laughs hopefully?)

But now all jokes aside.

So far this week, you met UCF staff, your peers and advisors, other students (so many people!) you’ve climbed the Schlossberg together, had lunch at the mensa and you’ve probably been sweating over your first reading already. You’ve started getting to know the LAS community. And if you let us, we are going to be your family for the next four years: with regard to all academic concerns, from citation checking and peer-reviewing to mental support during exam season, but we’re also here for fun things like mensa hopping, jam sessions or pub crawls, and we hope with this week we assured you on that score.

So, on behalf of all LASers, we are very much looking forward to shaping our study paths and with that an inspiring part of our lives together with you at UCF - supporting, challenging and lifting each other up! We can’t wait for this new term to start - and we warmly welcome you, cohort ten, at UCF!

Cheers!