

The “Vorkurs Mathematik” at the RWTH Aachen University

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The “Vorkurs
Mathematik”
at the RWTH

Aachen University

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What is “Vorkurs”?

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- preparatory course in mathematics for
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Outline of this presentation:

- Why is it necessary?
- Aims
- How is it done?
- How about success?

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⇒ wide range of **different preparatory education**

Aims of the Vorkurs

Help beginning students to bridge the gap between
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- in 2005 there were 1650 participants (out of about 6000 first year students at the RWTH altogether)

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- **Probability and Statistics** (Dr. Wolfgang Herff)
 - description and representation of data
 - regression analysis
 - foundations of probability, combinatorics
 - estimation of parameters

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Number of participants / Feedback

The Vorkurs has become quite popular:

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	460	490	541	576	669	709
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Number	927	1087	1157	1377	1379	1650

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⇒ **impossible to satisfy all needs!**

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⇒ **impossible to satisfy all needs!**
- can be different after half a year

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- ⇒ **many participants learn something**

Provocative statement

In the current situation in Germany

- universities have to offer bridging courses in mathematics between school and university
- even if this does not fall into the traditional scope of duties for universities

due to the wide range of different preparatory education.