If you want to join an elective course please send your registration by e-mail to econgrad<at>uni-mannheim.de no later than February 1st.

Information for exchange students, MMM students and Business Mathematics students: Please note that you can choose freely from our elective courses as long as you fulfill the prerequisites mentioned there. (In case of doubt, please contact the lecturers for more information about the prerequisites and to discuss if you fulfill them.) Core courses are not open for exchange students and students from other programs.

**Elective Courses**

**E505 Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies (lecture + exercise)**

*Peitz*

This course covers strategic planning problems. It provides an overview of modern industrial organization with an emphasis of the theory and formal models. Models are adapted to tackle concrete problems. Students are provided with a toolkit and are encouraged to think strategically. This course covers the fundamentals of the theory of industrial organization. These are complemented by case studies and background knowledge of competition policy.

*Prerequisites:* E700, E701, E702, E703 or E601, E602, E603 or equivalent (this course is only suitable for Economics students)

*ECTS credits:* 14.0

*Start:* 09.02.2015  *End:* 25.05.2015

- **Monday (lecture), 13:45 to 17:00 in L7,3-5 - P 043**
- **Thursday (exercise), 15:30 to 17:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003**

*Essential reading:*


*Contact person:*

Prof. Dr. Martin Peitz, L7, 3-5, 3rd floor, room 330. E-Mail: martin.peitz@googlemail.com

**E506 Seminar on Human Capital Formation (seminar)**

*Pfeiffer*

Goals and Contents of the module:
In the seminar education and human capital formation will be discussed from a theoretical and empirical point of view. We will study initial life conditions, the role of investments by the individual, the family and educational institutions and their expected returns. Especially optimal investments into human capital over the life cycle are examined together with the role of families and educational institutions in financing and producing skills. The intentions, structure and limitations of important empirical studies in the field, like SOEP, PISA or NEPS will be investigated, together with educational policies and reforms.

Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module:

Ability to write, present and defend an academic essay.

Prerequisites: E601, E602, E603 (or equivalent). Good knowledge in microeconomics and basic econometrics; interest in research on the economics and econometrics of education and human capital formation

ECTS credits: 5.0

Start: 11.02.2015 End: 27.05.2015

Wednesday, 15:30 to 17:00 in ZEW, room 310

Contact person:

Friedhelm Pfeiffer, Phone 0621 1235-150, Email: pfeiffer@zew.de

In case you would like to participate in the seminar, please contact me via email. In response I will send you a list of seminar topics and further application procedures.

E508 Multiple Time Series Analysis (lecture + exercise)

Trenkler

The lecture gives an introduction to multiple time series techniques and will cover vector autoregressive (VAR) processes, VAR estimation, VAR order selection and model checking. If time permits, we will also cover VARMA, Structural VAR models and so-called VEC models. The use of VAR models in forecasting, causality and impulse response analysis will be explained and illustrated using empirical examples and by discussing a selected set of research papers. The methods will be applied in computer tutorials.

Prerequisites: Master in Economics: E601 - E603 (E700 - E703 until autumn term 2012) or equivalent courses for exchange students; Master in Business Economics: none

ECTS credits: 9.5

Start: 09.02.2015 End: 25.05.2015

Monday, 17:15 to 18:45 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Wednesday, 17:15 to 18:45 in L9, 1-2 - 003

ATTENTION Change Exercise Sessions!
Wednesday 19:00 20:30
Einzeltermin 23.2.2015
158 Poolraum L 7, 3-5

Textbook: Lütkepohl, H. (2005), New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis, Springer, Berlin, Chapters 1 - 4, 6 - 9 and 11 - 13, Appendices A - D. The list of covered research papers will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Contact person: Prof. Dr. Carsten Trenkler, Tel. 181-1851, E-mail: trenkler@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3 - 5, room 105

E516 Labour Economics: Empirical Analyses of Wage Formation (block seminar)

Gürtzgen

The seminar mainly deals with topics related to “Wage formation“, with a focus on micro-econometric empirical analyses. The seminar covers topics, such as union wage differentials, minimum wages, seniority remuneration, efficiency wages, insurance contracts etc.

Prerequisites: E601-E603 (or equivalent)
ECTS credits: 5.0
Organizational meeting: Individual Meetings
Block seminar: Thursday/Friday, 21./22.05.2015 in ZEW, room and exact time tba

After individual meetings during the first half of the semester the seminar will take place as a block seminar on 21th and 22th May, 2015 at ZEW (Room tba). For more information and a list of the available topics please consult the web page of Nicole Gürtzgen at http://www.zew.de/de/mitarbeiter/mitarbeiter.php3?action=mita&kurz=ngu.

To enrol for the seminar, please send an email to Nicole Guertzgen including your matrikel number and 2-3 topics of your choice.

Contact person: PD Dr. Nicole Gürtzgen, phone: 0621/1235-155, ZEW, L 7, 1, email: Guertzgen@zew.de

E520 Seminar in Empirical Industrial Organization (block seminar)

Nosal

This seminar covers recent empirical research in Industrial Organization. The reading list for the class will focus on a particular industry, such as electricity or healthcare markets. Each student will present a paper chosen from the list to the class and write a report critiquing the paper. Emphasis will be on identifying the central questions addressed in the paper, evaluating the methodology and data, and making suggestions for improvements and extensions.
**Prerequisites:** E601-E603 (or equivalent)
ECTS credits: 6.0

Organizational meeting:

Organizational Meeting: February 13, 2015, 3:00-5:00 pm, L9, 1-2 - 003

Blockseminar:

Fr. 24.04.2015, 09:00-17:00h, L9, 1-2 - 002 and Sat 25.04.2015, 09:00-17:00h, L9, 1-2 - 002

Contact Person: Kathleen Nosal, knosal@mail.uni-mannheim.de

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**E521 Methods in Empirical Industrial Organization (lecture + exercise)**

*Durrmeyer*

This course introduces students to empirical methods in Industrial Organization. The course will put a substantial amount of effort in having the students work with econometric software in analyzing actual data sets, reproducing and criticizing results in previous work and learning the actual practice of econometrics as undertaken by the best applied economists. There will be “problem sets” based on the readings. They are likely to be computer and data intensive. Students should make sure you have access to the relevant computer programs, such as Stata. Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will learn the standard models used in empirical industrial organization. They should be able to use appropriate econometric tools to antitrust or industrial organization problems. Skills in data analysis and computer programming (STATA).

*Prerequisites:* Advanced Microeconomics and Advanced Econometrics for Master Students
ECTS credits: 9.0

Contact Person: Isis Durrmeyer, Tel.: 0621 181 1840, idurrmey@staff.uni-mannheim.de, Office: 3-26
Office hours: upon appointment

11.02.-18.02.: L9, 1-2 - 002 weekly
25.02.-20.05.: L7, 3-5 - PC Pool 158, bi-weekly
04.03.-27.05.: L9, 1-2 - 002 bi-weekly

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**E530 Topics in Industrial Organization (block seminar)**

*Schutz*

The seminar will cover selected topics on vertical integration and the boundaries of the firm. A reading list will be communicated at a later stage.

Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module:
Students will acquire a broad knowledge on topics related to vertical integration, its anticompetitive effects (the double Cournot model à la Salinger (1988), the foreclosure effect à la Ordover, Saloner and Salop (1990), the opportunism problem à la Hart and Tirole (1990)), and its efficiency effects (the transaction costs approach à la Williamson (1978), the property rights approach à la Grossmann-Hart-Moore (1986, 1990)). They should also understand the limitations of these theories, which have been highlighted in the literature (see, among others, Reifen (1992), McAfee and Schwarz (1993) and Rey and Vergé (2005)). After reading research articles related to these topics, they will acquire an excellent command of the technical tools used by researchers contributing to this field. Relevant techniques include advanced game-theoretical tools (perfect bayesian equilibrium and its refinements, repeated games) as well as mathematical tools (polynomials, multivariate analysis and proof-writing skills). A student who successfully passes this course should use this new knowledge as a starting point to start contributing in a research-oriented way to the vertical integration literature.

Prerequisites: For Economics students: E601-E603 or E700-E703 or equivalent; For MMM students: none (not suitable for Business Mathematics students)

ECTS credits: 5.0

Introductory Session: Monday, 16.02.2015, 18:30 to 19:30 in L9, 1-2 - 002

Block seminar: Friday/Saturday, 08./09.05.2015, 09:00 to 18:00 in L 7, 3-5 - 4.10

Contact person: Prof. Nicolas Schutz, Ph.D., E-Mail: nschutz@mail.uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 310, Tel. 181-1872, Office hours: Wednesday, 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

E539 The Economics of Information and Communication Technologies (block seminar)

Bertscheck

In the seminar, we will discuss the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) for the economy with a focus on empirical microeconometric studies. The following topics will be discussed:

- ICT and productivity growth
- ICT and job polarization
- ICT-enabled research collaboration
- Firm success and media exposure
- User-generated content

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent) for all Master’s elective courses; For Business Mathematics and MMM students: Applied Microeconometrics

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organisational Meeting: Friday, 13.02.2015, 13:00 to 14:00 in ZEW, L7, 1, room 310

Block seminar: Thursday/Friday, 08./09.05.2015, 09:00 to 18:00 in ZEW, L7, 1, room 110
E551 Experimental Methods in Economics (lecture + exercise)

Orzen

Once viewed as an exotic niche area, experimental economics has over the last few decades developed into a mainstream tool of fundamental empirical research in our field. This module will provide an introduction to experimental methods in economics. We will examine specific topics in experimental economics, and also discuss various methodological questions regarding experiments, their design and their analysis.

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent); MMM students: E510 and E511

ECTS credits: 9.0

Start: 10.02.2015 End: 26.05.2015

Tuesday (lecture), 13:45 to 15:15 in L9, 1-2-002

Thursday (exercise), 17:15 to 18:45 in L9, 1-2-002

Further Information:

There is no single text that covers the contents of the module. On many occasions we will refer to specific academic papers. Some useful general sources on experimental economics include:


Contact person: Prof. Dr. Henrik Orzen, Tel: 181-1890, E-Mail: henrik.orzen@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 4.05

E557 Public Economics (lecture + exercise)

Boyer/Zudenkova

This course focuses on the state’s role in correcting market failures and on the optimal use of taxes. We will take a normative perspective, i.e., we ask what an ideal state would do in order to achieve
distributive objectives. It will be composed by two parts. The first part will deal with market failures and public intervention. The second part will be devoted to tax theory.

Part I: (by Pierre Boyer) Market failures and public intervention
1. Introduction: the public sector in a mixed economy
2. Efficient allocations and market equilibrium
3. Why and when the government should intervene in the economy
4. Public Goods
5. Externalities

Part II: (by Galina Zudenkova) Tax theory
1. Introduction to Taxation
2. Optimal commodity taxation
3. Many Person Ramsey Tax Rule
4. Non-linear taxation of income
5. Commodity taxation when non-linear income taxation is possible
6. Ricardian Equivalence
7. Tax Smoothing problem

Prerequisites: E601-E603 (or equivalent)
ECTS credits: 7.0
Start: 11.02.2015 End: 27.05.2015
Wednesday, 14:30 to 17:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Responsible teacher of the module Pierre Boyer, pierre.boyer@uni-mannheim.de Galina Zudenkova, galina.zudenkova@uni-mannheim.de.

Lecture notes will be available.

Useful references are:
Salanié: Microeconomics of market failures
Cornes and Sandler: The theory of externalities, public goods and club goods
Salanie, The economics of taxation, MIT Press, 2003
Myles, Public Economics, Cambridge University Press, 1995
E561 Fiscal Policy (block seminar)

Pfeifer

Since the beginning of the global financial crisis, we have seen large swings in the fiscal policy stance. At first, countries countered the recessionary impact of the crisis by embarking on a massive fiscal expansion. With public debt spiraling, the focus has now shifted towards fiscal austerity. These developments have triggered heated debates among academics and policymakers, bringing fiscal policy back to the center of the economics research agenda. In this seminar, we will discuss research papers at the frontier of this debate. Topics include the correct identification of government spending and tax shocks, how to design a fiscal consolidation program, the role of the zero lower bound for interest rates, how the effects of fiscal policy are different in a currency union or in a deep recession, the spillover effects from one country to another, and the choice to default on public debt. Participants can either pick a topic from the list on my website or propose their own topics. More details will be given in the kick-off meeting.

Prerequisites: for Economics students: E601-603 (or equivalent); for MMM and Business Mathematics students: good foundations in macroeconomics and econometrics

ECTS credits: 5.0

Introductory Session: Wednesday, 11.02.2015, 13:45 to 15:15 in L9, 1-2 - room 002

Block seminar: 17.04. /18.04. 2015, 09:00 to 18:00 in L9, 1-2 - room 001

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Johannes Pfeifer; L7, 3-5 room 2.42; phone: 3430; pfeifer@uni-mannheim.de

E563 Game Theory (lecture + exercise)

Siedlarek/Nocke

This course provides a thorough treatment of game theoretic tools used to analyse strategic interactions. We will cover the key components of game theory and solution concepts in static and dynamic games as well as games of perfect and imperfect information. The course then discusses models in various areas of application, such as bargaining, industrial organisation, etc.

Prerequisites: E700, E701, E702, E703 or E601, E602, E603 or equivalent (This course is only suitable for Economics students)

ECTS credits: 7.0
Start: 13.04.2015 End: 28.05.2015

Monday (lecture), 08:30 to 11:45 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Thursday (exercise), 08:30 to 10:00 in L9, 1-2 - 002

Contact Information: Dr. Jan-Peter Siedlarek, E-Mail: siedlarek@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5 room 301, Tel. 181-1911.

**E564 Impact evaluation, treatment effects, causal analysis (lecture)**

*Vasquez-Escallon*

Students will have a working knowledge of recent developments in robust impact evaluation methods and skills in their application using Stata. In particular, they understand concepts of identification and causality and the different types of treatment effects. They will understand the theoretical and practical implications of different sample scenarios (random control trials, selection on observables and unobservables) and can choose the appropriate estimation strategy (matching estimator, propensity score, IV, regression discontinuity, difference in difference). They understand assumptions made and theoretical properties of the related nonparametric estimators and the pitfalls of the classical parametric estimators.

*Prerequisites:* For Economics students: E601, E602, E603 or equivalent; for Business Mathematics students: advanced knowledge of econometrics (not suitable for MMM students)

ECTS credits: 5.0

Start: 10.02.2015 End: 26.05.2015

Tuesday, 08:30 to 10:00 in L9, 1-2 – 003

**E570 Competition Policy Analysis (lecture)**

*Samkharadze*

This course presents an economic analysis of the three fundamental types of anticompetitive conduct: monopolization, collusion, and horizontal and vertical mergers. We will explore the underlying economic theory as well as the practice of competition policy (legal and institutional framework for competition policy in the European Union, recent cartel and merger cases in EU). Main analytical tools will be microeconomic theory and game theory.

*Prerequisites:* To learn effectively from this course, students should have taken undergraduate level microeconomics, game theory or introductory industrial organization. (Microeconomic A+B, Industrial Organization).

ECTS credits: 7.0

Start: 11.02.2015 End: 27.05.2015
Wednesday, 12:00 to 14:30 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Contact person: Lily Samkharadze, 621-181-1833, lsamkhar@mail.uni-mannheim.de, office: L7, 3-5, 3.32. Office hours: by appointment

**E574 Internet Economics (block seminar)**

*Wang*

The rapid development of Internet provides not only new business models and life styles but also a novel area for economists to explore. In this seminar, students will present research papers on related topics including two-sided market, price dispersion, information congestion, search engine pricing, and so on.

*Prerequisites:* E601 - E603 (or equivalent), Industrial Organization / Game Theory

ECTS credits: 5.0

Introductory Session: Thursday, 13.02.2015, 10:00 to 12:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Block seminar: Fri 17.04.2015 and Sat 18.04.2015, 10:00 to 18:00 in Castle, East Wing - O 131

Contact person: Dr. Chengsi Wang, Tel. 181-2786, E-mail: chengsiwang@gmail.com, L7, 3-5, room 3.31

**E576 Economic Modeling - Historical and Methodological Perspectives (block seminar)**

*Svorencik*

During the last two centuries, the way economic science is done has changed radically: it has become a social science based on mathematical models in place of words. The goal of this seminar is to illuminate the nature and the implications of these changes, explain how economists create(d) their models and how they reason with them. The participants can choose a project based on a series of case studies covered in the chapters of Mary Morgan’s widely acclaimed book *The World in the Model: How Economists Work and Think* (2012). In addition, students will have to delve into the more technical details of the models that are not covered in the book.

*Prerequisites:* Economics students: E700, E701, E702, E703 or E601, E602, E603 or equivalent; for MMM and Business Mathematics students: good foundations in economic theory

ECTS credits: 5.0

Introductory Session: Thu, 12.02.2015, 15:30 to 17:00 in L7, 3-5 - 001

Block seminar: Sat 21.03.2015, 10:15 to 17:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Block seminar: Sat 18.04. 2015, 10:15 to 17:00 in L7, 3-5 P 044

The seminar consists of an introductory lecture and a seminar block where students present their topics.

**E577 Income and Wealth Inequality (block seminar)**

*Findeisen*

The rapid and unanticipated growth of earnings inequality in many developed economies in the last 30 years, most notably in the U.S., U.K. and also in Germany, has triggered controversial debates.

This course deals with the evolution and causes of economic inequality. We start by reviewing the basic facts about the evolution of income and wage inequality in the EU and the US in the last decades. We then subsequently discuss the role of technology, education and institutions as determinants of inequality. We draw on many recent academic papers from the fields of Public Economics, Macroeconomics and Labor Economics.

*Prerequisites:* E601-603 (or equivalent) for all Master’s elective courses

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational Meeting: Mon 09.02. 2015, 15:30 to 17:00 in L7, 3-5 - S031

Block Seminar: 13.03., 08:00 to 18:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003 (8-12); L7, 3-5 - P043 (12-18)

Block Seminar: 14.03., 08:00 to 18:00 in L7, 3-5 - P043

**E581 International trade (lecture + exercise)**

*Liu/Nocke*

This course will focus on the determinants, patterns and effects of International trade. It will cover the core trade models as well as their empirical applications. A tentative list of topics includes: Ricardian model, Heckscher-Ohlin model, trade with monopolistic competition, gravity equation, openness and firm productivity, trade and innovation, the interrelation between trade and income distribution, and other closely related topics. It will place equal weights on the trade theory and empirics of international trade.

*Prerequisites:* E601-603 for all Master’s elective courses

ECTS credits: 7.0

Start: 10.02.2015 End: 26.03.2015

Tuesday, 10:15 to 12:30 in L7, 3-5 - P044

Thursday (exercise), 12:45 to 15:15 in L7, 3-5 - P044

Contact person: Yanping Liu, yanping.liu@uni-mannheim.de; Office: Room 318, L7, 3-5; Tel: 0621-181-1910
E584 Topics in Public Economics (block seminar)

Dörrenberg/Dolls /Fuest

The course covers various areas in modern public economics. Topics for seminar papers include both theoretical and empirical contributions, for example efficiency costs and incidence of taxation, income taxation, behavioral responses to taxes and transfers, social insurance and capital income taxation.

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent) for all Master’s elective courses
ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational Meeting: Thu 12.02.2015 (ZEW), 17:00 in L7, 1, room 1
Block seminar: Tue 14.04.2015 and Wed 15.04.2015 in rooms tba
Students will be assigned a research paper after registering to the course.

E586 Evaluation of Labor, Development, Education and Health Programs and Policies (block seminar)

Kaufmann

This course will introduce students to the most important approaches of program evaluation with a particular focus on the application of these methods. These approaches have been widely used in the economics literature in diverse fields (development, labor, public economics, economics of education and health) and can be applied to a wide range of questions such as evaluating the effects of antipoverty programs (e.g. conditional cash transfer programs), educational and job training programs, of changes in laws such as minimum wage laws and minimum drinking age, preventative health care and family planning programs, etc.

The course will be structured according to the most important methods of program evaluation. Each method has been applied in different research areas (i.e. labor, development, education, health and public economics), so students can choose a topic to present and to write a short research paper on from the list of different research areas and of the different possible program evaluation methods.

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent) for all Master’s elective courses
ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational Meeting: Tues 17.02.2015, 19:00 to 20:30 in L7, 3-5 - P044
Block Seminar: Fri and Sat 29.05. / 30.05.2015, 08:00 to 18:00 in L9, 1-2 - 002

Papers to be presented and research topics can be chosen from the reading list below (to be extended):

A Introduction to Program Evaluation Methods
B Randomized and Natural Experiments


C Difference-in-Difference Estimator


D Regression Discontinuity Approach


E Comparison of different Approaches and Critical Evaluation


F Instrumental Variable Estimation (IV, LIV, IV-Quantile Regression)


E589 Financial Contracting (lecture + exercise)

Tarantino
The aim of this course is to show how financing decisions are affected by moral hazard and asymmetric information, and how securities’ design can mitigate agency costs. The course will review the theoretical and empirical literature on financial contracting.

**Prerequisites:** E601-603 (or equivalent)

ECTS credits: 9.0

Start: 10.02.2015 End: 26.05.2015

Tuesday (lecture), 15:30 to 17:00 in L9, 1-2 - 003

Thursday (exercise), 10:15 to 11:45 in L7, 3-5 - P043, 00:00


**E591 Advanced International Trade (lecture + exercise)**

**Fadinger**

This is an advanced course in international trade. Students are expected to have already taken the course International Trade taught by Yanping Liu. We will cover a number of topics in international trade such as: firms in international trade, horizontal and vertical FDI, trade and growth, trade policy, the political economy of trade.

**Prerequisites:** E581 International Trade

ECTS credits: 7.0

Start: 14.04.2015 End: 26.05.2015

Tuesday, 10:15 to 12:30 in L7, 3-5 - P044

Thursday, 12:45 to 15:15 in L7, 3-5 - P043

**E596 Psychology and Economics (lecture)**

**Riener**

This course gives an overview of recent experimental economics research and an application of ideas in psychology in the field of economics.

**Prerequisites:** E601-603 (or equivalent)

ECTS credits: 5.0

Start: 11.02.2015 End: 27.05.2015

Wednesdays (weekly), 13:45 to 15:15 in L9, 7 - 308

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 13:45 to 15:15 in alternative room: tba
Further information:


A list of literature for the seminar presentations will be provided at the start of the course.

**E597 Field Experiments in Development and Labor Economics (block seminar)**

**Riener**

This course gives an overview of recent developments in field experimental research in development and labor economics.

*Prerequisites:* E601-603 (or equivalent)

ECTS credits: 5.0

**Introductory Session:** Tue 10.02.2015, 19:00 to 20:30 in L7, 3-5 - room P043

**Block seminar:** Fri 24.04.2015 and Sat 25.04.2015, 08:00 to 18:00 in L9, 1-2 - room 001

Further information:


A list of literature for the seminar presentations will be provided at the start of the course.

**E598 Financial Time Series (seminar)**

**Jentsch**

The students will work on a topic from financial time series analysis. The main emphasis is on so-called GARCH processes (generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedastic). This class of models plays an essential role in econometrics for modeling financial time series (Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences 2003 for Robert F. Engle). The seminar topics will refer to mathematical properties of GARCH processes that have to be carved out in the term paper. The seminar is suitable as a basis for a master thesis in theoretical statistics for students from economics and from business mathematics. The maximum number of participants is limited to 14.

*Prerequisites:* E601-603 (or equivalent)

ECTS credits: 5.0
Start: 11.02.2015 End: 27.05.2015

Wednesdays (weekly), 12:00 to 13:30 in L 9, 1-2 - 009

Responsible teacher of the module: Carsten Jentsch; e-Mail: cjentschmail.uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, Raum 125, Tel. 181-1938l