

BIGSSS Orientation Weeks

Last updated: August 28, 2025 (version 3)

[Find additional material and updated versions of this program in a shared folder here.](#)

Monday, September 1st

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|----------|--|---|
| 10:00 am | Introductory Meeting
Getting to know each other with coffee & snacks:
Official greetings and introduction of BIGSSS staff members and yourselves.

<i>Afterwards</i>
UNICOM Tour

Our managing director <i>Christian Peters</i> will show you the BIGSSS premises at University of Bremen. | BIGSSS
@University of Bremen
Conference Room 7.3280
(UNICOM, house 9, 3 rd floor)

Contact: Jessica Maczuga |
| 12:00 pm | IT Setup @UNICOM
You will receive your e-mail addresses and passwords. University of Bremen based DAAD Fellows will set up their computers or laptops with the help of our IT staff, receive their transponders (keys) and move into their offices. | BIGSSS
@University of Bremen
IT Office (9.3160)
(UNICOM, house 9, 3 rd floor)

Contact: BIGSSS IT |
| 13:00 pm | Lunch
We'll have lunch together at the University of Bremen canteen, the Mensa.
Before Lunch, you can pick up your Mensa Card * with which you can pay cash-free at the Mensa.

<i>*To receive a Mensa Card, you need to bring your ID or passport, student ID or semester ticket, and 10 Euro deposit.</i> | Mensa
@University of Bremen
Meeting point: in front of the Mensa (Boulevard)

Contact: Jessica Maczuga |

Tuesday, September 2nd

Note: These event is only important for Constructor University-based fellows:

11:00 am-12:00 pm **IT & Office Setup @South Hall**
IT Setup for all Fellows based @ South Hall. Fellows will set up their computers or laptops with the help of our IT staff, receive their transponders (keys) and move into their offices. IT support for setting up the VPN and Eduroam at Constructor for all Fellows.

BIGSSS
@Constructor University
South Hall 305

Contact: [BIGSSS IT](#)

12:00 pm **Lunch**
We'll have lunch together at the College Nordmetall canteen, Constructor University.

College Nordmetall
@Constructor University
Meeting point: in front of South Hall

Contact: [Jessica Maczuga](#)

Monday, September 8th

10:30 am **Introduction to the Curriculum**
Introduction to the BIGSSS curriculum with our Director of Studies *Regina Arant* and Academic Coordinators *Judith Vey* and *Franziska Deutsch*. Find the current [BIGSSS Course Schedules](#) soon on the BIGSSS website (main page, left side box)

BIGSSS
@Constructor University
South Hall, Seminar Room East (410)

Contact: [Regina Arant](#)

01:00 pm **Introduction to the Preparatory Forum**
Introduction to the upcoming Preparatory Forum and its modules with our Methods Center Coordinator Mandi Larsen.

BIGSSS
@Constructor University
South Hall, Seminar Room West (411)

Please check the Prep Forum schedule below for all modules!

Contact: [Mandi Larsen](#)

06:30 pm **A night out with BIGSSS Fellows** **Bremen City Center**

Meet other BIGSSS fellows in a relaxed atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and get an idea of where to hang out when you're not working on your dissertation - a must!

Tbd

Contact: [Fellow Representation](#)

Tuesday, September 9th

09:00 am **Preparatory Forum - Methodologies**

Start of the Preparatory Forum.

Please check the Prep Forum schedule below for all modules!

BIGSSS

@Constructor University
South Hall, Room East (410)

Contact: [Mandi Larsen](#)

03:00 pm **Constructor University Campus Tour**

You will be introduced to the most important facilities at Constructor University.

BIGSSS

@Constructor University

Contact: [Fellow Representatives](#)

Wednesday, September 10th

Note: Alternative date for anyone who couldn't make it to the Introductory Meeting on September 1.

10:00 am **Introductory Meeting**

Getting to know each other with coffee & snacks: Official greetings and introduction of BIGSSS staff members and yourselves.

BIGSSS

@University of Bremen
Conference Room 7.3280
(UNICOM, house 9, 3rd floor)

Contact: [Jessica Maczuga](#)

12:00 pm **IT& Office Setup @UNICOM**

You will receive your e-mail addresses and passwords. University of Bremen based DAAD Fellows will set up their computers or laptops with the help of our IT staff, receive their transponders (keys) and move into their offices.

BIGSSS

@University of Bremen
IT Office (9.3160)
(UNICOM, house 9, 3rd floor)

Contact: [BIGSSS IT](#)

01:00 pm

Lunch

We'll have lunch together at the University of Bremen canteen, the Mensa.
Before Lunch, you can pick up your [Mensa Card](#)* with which you can pay cash-free at the Mensa.

**To receive a Mensa Card, you need to bring your ID or passport, student ID or semester ticket, and 10 Euro deposit.*

Mensa

@University of Bremen

Meeting point: in front of Unicom

Contact: [Jessica Maczuga](#)

02:00 pm

University of Bremen Campus Tour

You will be introduced to the most important facilities at Constructor University.

BIGSSS

@Constructor University

Contact: [Fellow Representatives](#)

Thursday, September 11th

04:30 pm

Welcome-BBQ

Meet other BIGSSS fellows, faculty, and staff at our Welcome BBQ and kick-off of the new semester with us. An event you should not miss!

BIGSSS

@Constructor University

BBQ area located between **Krupp College & Mercator College**

Contact: [Noha Mahmoud](#)

Monday, September 22nd

10:00 am-
02:30 pm

Photo Session

A photographer will take individual portrait pictures of you for our website and for your professional use, followed by some group pictures.

Individual time slots will be assigned.

BIGSSS @University of Bremen

(UNICOM, House 9, 3rd floor)

Contact: [Jessica Maczuga](#)

BIGSSS Preparatory Forum Overview

A detailed **syllabus** for the Prep Forum and **reading list** [can be found here](#).
 For **updates** to the Prep Forum Plan, please check the Semester Plan: [BIGSSS Course Schedules](#)

Module	Instructor	Date	Time	Location
Introduction	Dr. Mandi Larsen	Monday, September 8th	1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Constructor University, South Hall, Room West (411)
Methodologies	Dr. Mandi Larsen	Tuesday, September 9th	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Constructor University, South Hall, Room East (410)
Experimental Research	Dr. Dora Simunovic	Thursday, September 11th	10:00 am-5:00 pm	Constructor University, South Hall, Room West (411)
Survey Methodology	Dr. Mandi Larsen	Friday, September 12th	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Constructor University, South Hall, Room West (411)
Qualitative Research	Dr. Markus Klingel	Monday, September 15th	10:00am-5:00 pm	Universität Bremen, BIGSSS Conference Room 7.3280
Case Studies or Computational Social Sciences	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined
Mixed Methods	Dr. Regina Arant	Thursday, September 18th	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Universität Bremen, BIGSSS Conference Room 7.3280