

Zeppelin Project

Introductory Phase | Undergraduate Research

Dr. Iris-Niki Nikolopoulos & Dr. Christian Zettl

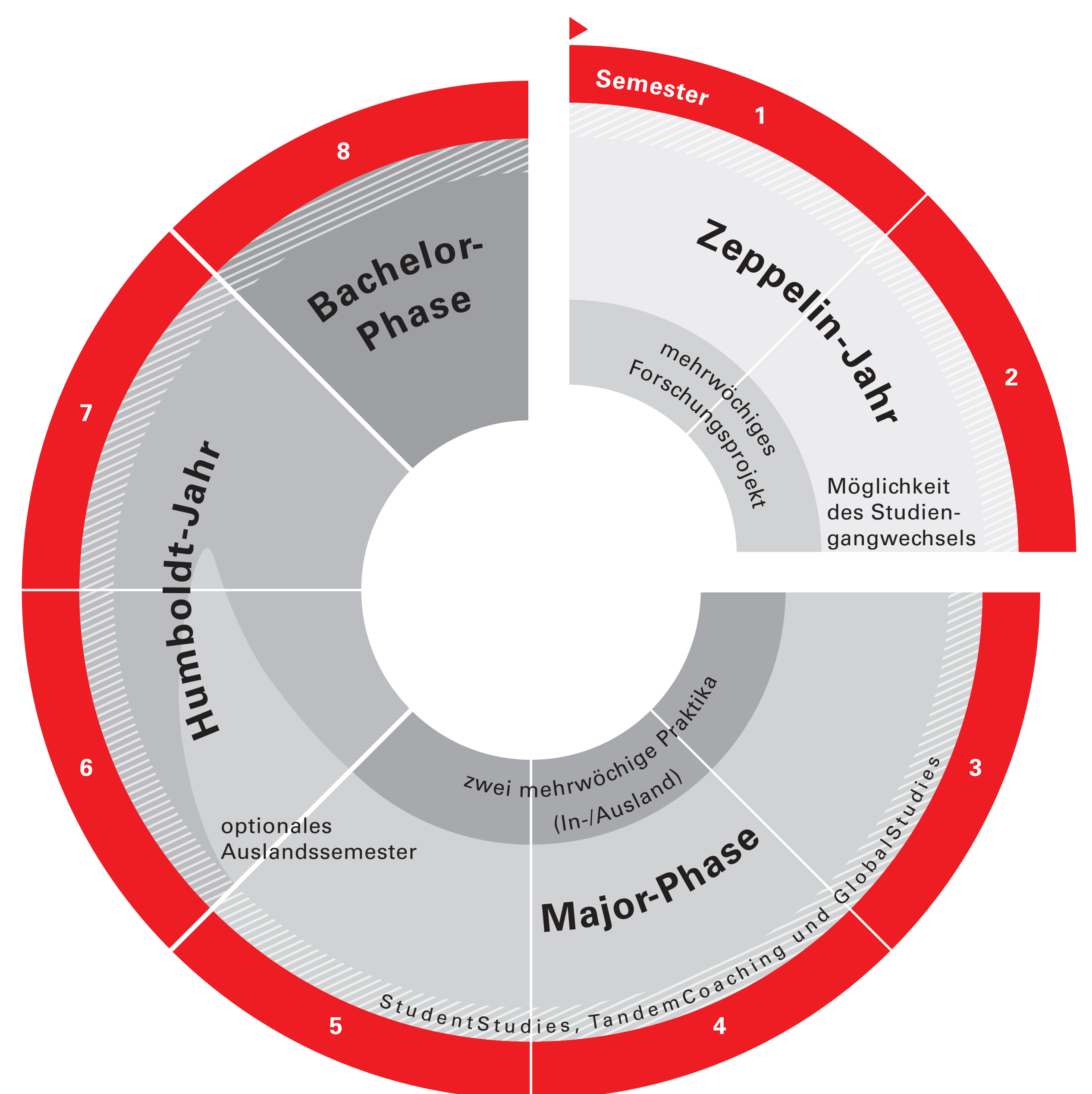
Structure of all BA Programmes

- | Scientific foundations: „Philosophy of Science“ & „Introduction to Academic Research“
- | Disciplinarity: 3 mandatory disciplinary courses
- | Interdisciplinarity: 3 electives out of other disciplines
- | Methods: „Statistics“, „Empirical Social Research“
- | Student research: **Zeppelin Project**

Goals of the Zeppelin Project

Students learn to...

- | address scientific problems and
- | apply scientific methods



Implementation of the Zeppelin Project

1st Semester

- | **Course „Interdisciplinary Perspectives“**
Introduction to the annual topic by researchers of the different disciplines
- | **Course „Intro. to Academic Research“**
Students learn the foundations of academic research and get support in finding group specific research questions
- | **Executive Programme Directors**
Central contact persons for lecturers and students

Results

Students...

- | develop a research question
- | form in small research groups (ca. 20 groups per semester)
- | find a group mentor (ca. 15 students per mentor per semester)

2nd Semester

- | **Methods Workshops**
Demand-based methods workshops for the group research projects
- | **Group mentoring**
Subject-specific group work mentoring for research methods and content
- | **Executive Programme Directors**
Central contact persons for lecturers and students

Results

Students...

- | present research project and get feedback
- | file a research report (assessment)

Lessons learned from the Zeppelin Project

- | High effort for students and academic/administrative staff in terms of cognitive and organisational tasks, as well as time management
- | Positive learning effects appear in the final stage of study („Humboldt Year“ and bachelor thesis)
- | Future prospects: establishment of a methods laboratory and international cooperations