How to Survive RWTH in 5 Steps
By Aya Mostafa
About me

• Went to a German school in Cairo, Egypt
• Left my parents‘ house and home country at the age of 18
• Have studied in Germany for 6 years
• Work as a student assistant in RWTH International Office

→ Six years ago, I was in your place!
Step 1: Plan your semester

Make realistic plans!

- Set priorities

- Check course curriculum and exams structure (RWTHonline, former exams)
  - Insider Tips:
    - For mechanical Engineers: Maschboard Platform
    - For electrical Engineers: uni.ist.hirnlos.net (for old materials)
    - For all students: Studydrive

- Plan ahead according to your exams dates

Work-life balance

- Consistency is the KEY

- Engage in a student organization

- RWTH Welcomes Internationals (Facebook Group)
Step 2: Don’t attend all classes

Go to the classes YOU need.

• Try all classes and decide for yourself

• Normally, there are 3 forms of classes
  – Vorlesung (lecture)
    ▪ Personally, helpful when I have difficulties in a specific subject/class
  – Vorrechenübung (VRÜ, preliminary tutorial)
    ▪ Personally, very helpful to kick start in a specific subject
  – Selbstrechenübung (SRÜ, Self-calculation tutorial)
    ▪ Personally, extremly helpful to practice and get help when needed
Step 3: Ask for help

It’s okay to ask for help!

- Put together a study group (Maschboard, Studydrive)

- Ask students in higher semesters (for insider Tips: Maschboard, Studydrive)

- If you need more professional help:
  - Mentoring
  - Asta

- Some student organizations can help too
Step 4: Develop yourself

Deal with your learning

• Learn how to manage your time and be efficient in your studies
  – Attend workshops of RWTH Student Advice Center

• Other personal recommendations for self development:
  – Coursera Course: The Science of Well-Being (for free)
  – Lernpower by Verena Steiner (a German Book)
Step 5: Have your own perspective

Superficial opinions are not to take by word!

• Superficial opinions may indicate some information about the effort you need to put in but are not to take by word!

• Everyone get along differently, you need to find out what works for you

• we live in a performance culture
  – Use your student time to draw your values in life
Thank you very much for your attention!