

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, 79085 Freiburg



Makro at Freiburg - Beyond 2020

Dear Students,

As you are aware the Institute for Macromolecular Chemistry (IMC) is going through some significant changes. As the Managing Director of the institute and soon to be the senior most professor in the Institute I have a solemn obligation to ensure the scientific and physical longevity of the IMC. Changes are good. Changes are good if properly managed and changes present a once in a life time opportunity to chart a viable and sustainable course for the institute. I intend to chart this course through an inclusive approach that takes your concerns and ideas into account while ensuring that the IMC at Freiburg builds on its historic place in the annals of polymer science and also represents a place for cutting-edge science and technology.

We will soon be hiring two new W3 professors. One W3 professorship will be in the general area of Macromolecular Science broadly speaking, and the other will be in the area of active soft matter and closely linked to the livMatS excellence cluster. It is important to make sure that we hire the right candidates who will play a strong and sustained role in the implementation of the vision for Makro. Of course, these new hires will most likely only join the faculty in the WS2021. That means there will be a gap in capacity until then. I am sure that many of you are anxious about how things will shake out for you if you chose to concentrate/major in Makro for your Bachelors or Masters studies. I want to assure you that Makro will be fully functional and operational as it has been in the past. We are exploring several options to ensure the implementation of all the core courses of Makro and obligations of Makro to other programs. One such option is to hire a Vertretungsprofessur and the other option as a backup, is to cover all the classes through existing internal capacity. I will be teaching the English version of MC1 as always, and Drs.' Forget, Hanselmann and Thomann have all agreed to work together with me to ensure a robust offering of MC2 and MC3. Regarding examinations (mündliche Prüfungen), all students at both Bachelors and Masters level will be able to have their oral examination in German and if they so desire in English as well. With regards to Bachelors and Masters' thesis, there are several projects available in topics, ranging from polymer synthesis,

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Freiburg, July 11, 2020

■ characterization and processing, 3D-printing, nano(bio)composites, and life technologies (drug delivery, nanomedicine, nanoparticle synthesis and functionalization, polymer surface modification). Naturally, topics that were the primary focus of Profs.' Walther and Mülhaupt will no longer be available, but then that is part of the natural progression and evolution of an institute. Students can still carry out their lab internships (Forschungs-/Vertiefungspraktikum) at Makro either in my lab or another research group (or laboratory) of your choosing as long as they meet the criteria for studies in Makro. All you have to do is to get this approved by me and the grading will be done by me with input from your internship mentor or advisor. If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to contact my secretary Ms. Chen (email: emma.chen@makro.uni-freiburg.de).

I hope I have been able to clarify and provide assurance to all of you that the future of Makro at Freiburg is bright and vibrant and that means all of you also have a bright and exciting future if you chose to concentrate/major in Makromolekulare Chemie (Macromolecular chemistry).

Best wishes,


V. Prasad Shastri, Ph.D.

Professor of Biofunctional Macromolecular Chemistry
BIOSS Professor of Cell Signalling Environments