



# GENDER-SENSITIVE LANGUAGE IN EVERYDAY UNIVERSITY LIFE



A HOW-TO FOR ALLIES



INFO



The following wordings are suggestions and examples for a language including not only female\* and male\* persons (mehr dazu: → VIDEO):

**TRANS** means that my gender does not align with the gender I was assigned to at birth. Trans does not necessarily mean that I “feel trapped in the wrong body”.

**INTERSEX** means that my body does not correlate with society’s understanding of female or male. Intersex does not mean that my body is sick and needs to be modified.

**NON-BINARY** means that my gender is neither only/always female nor only/always male. Non-binary does not mean that I am unsure.



## FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION

Introduce yourself with your name and personal pronouns.

EXAMPLE “Hello, I’m Laura and I use she/her pronouns.”

Ask the persons you are talking to how they would like to be addressed.

If you make a mistake and address a person incorrectly: Correct yourself, apologize briefly and continue the conversation.

Educate yourself and intervene! Show solidarity with trans, intersex and non-binary persons and don’t put up with cis-sexism (cis-sexism is sexism specifically against trans and non-binary persons). If you notice cis-sexism: Ask the persons affected what kind of support they would appreciate.



## ADDRESSING

**Good morning/day/evening TITLE FIRSTNAME SURNAME**

EXAMPLE "Good morning Dr. Maximiliane Musterperson"

**Dear Mx. TITLE (FIRSTNAME) SURNAME**

**(Mx. = gender neutral honorific)**

EXAMPLE "Dear Mx. Prof. Dr. Doe"

(Pronunciation: Dear Mix (or Em-Ex) Professor Doctor Doe)



## WITH YOUR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

**Clarify your own pronouns, possibly ask about the recipient's pronouns**

EXAMPLE "My pronouns are they/them, may I ask about yours?"

## IN CLASS

**Take initiative during presentation rounds and introduce yourself with your name and personal pronouns.**

**Ask lecturers to check attendance via surnames only.**



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**YOU CAN ASK YOUR QUESTIONS HERE:**

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