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Name Registration on the Moodle Platform for Students

Dear students,

at the beginning of a seminar all course participants usually meet in a room, are greeted by the lecturers, receive introductory information regarding organisation and content of the course and finally get to know each other. Name tags are frequently used to make addressing each other easier. It enables us to know, with which name a person would like to be addressed.

This first get to know situation with handwritten name tags has to be recreated digitally via online sessions. Personal data like first name and last name will be transfered from the course enrolment system in to Moodle in an automatically digital process. First name and last name are shown in Moodle activities. In the beginning of 2021 a modified name registration was implemented of ASH IT. During the implementation phase of the modified name registration process the needs of people, who have adopted a personally chosen name differing from the one stated on their ID or birth certificate, were taken into special consideration.

A new version of moodle now offers a more viable option of name changing, in order to meet the requirements of a possibly most realistic seminar situation.

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1. Background

Why is this so important? Using a new name may be due to various reasons[1], e.g.:

incompatibility of prefered gender identity or expression with given name:
Some people may use a self-chosen name, if the name stated on their ID represents a gender identity that does not match with how they actually identify. (An official name change for this reason is accompanied by high bureaucratic barriers in Germany and not accessible to every person.)

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[1] We express our thanks to Prof. Dr. Nivedita Prasad and Prof. Dr. Utan Schirmer for the listing Sof possible reasons for using a self-chosen name. This should however not be considered an exhaustive list of reasons.

violence: Having experienced violence & abuse that is associated with the name, e.g. childhood abuse. For these people the name remains a constant reminder of the abuse and is therefore a strain on their mental well being.

wanting to escape the political affiliation of one's parents: If the name is indicative of a problematic political affiliation within one's family home, e.g. the name Adolf.

names being the result of political oppression:
Some people bear „official" names that actually weren't used. An example would be Kurdish parents, who were forbidden from giving their children Kurdish names or did not wish to do so, to protect them from discrimination. About forty years ago there was a brief TEMPORARY regulation, mandating non German parents to give their children German names. These people also bear official names differing from the names they use in their day to day life.

adjustment of names for matters of easier communication:
Some names are perceived as difficult (e.g. pronunciation) in new contexts, people then adjust their names accordingly, in order to not be addressed incorrectly all the time, but also to make communication easier with others. For example the name Nivedita/Nita.

name changes, to prevent racist discrimination:
A person changes their name hoping to reduce the threat of racist discrimination. Posssible examples: Shortening Mohammed to Mo or Israel to Isi.

name changes to prevent classist discrimination:
A person, with a name that is possibly indicitave of a certain social class (e.g. Kevin, Chantal), may choose a different name with the hope of reducing the possiblity of classist discrimination.

name changes, to hear oneself better:
This is the case, when a person with impaired hearing bears a name with soft consonants and vocals (e.g. Ben). Changing one's name to a variant with many long hard consonants and vocals (e.g. Frederick) increases the chance of hearing one's own name when called for.

Other reasons:
Any person, who does not feel comfortable with their official name, because they use a different name (or a shortened version) in their day to day life.

This includes adjustments in the management of Moodle and applies to lecturers and students equally. We try to be as user-friendly as possible, but unfortunately it turns out that under the given circumstances the real teaching / learning situation cannot be technically converted to online formats in all aspects. We apologize for any inconveniences and associated increased efforts on your part! We hope that what has always been practiced at ASH, the creation and labeling of name tags, as well as all other habits in the implementation of face-to-face seminars, can be practiced again as soon as possible.

Name Registration is described below.

2. Name Registration

The names of the participants of a course will initially be displayed in Moodle in the participant list as follows:
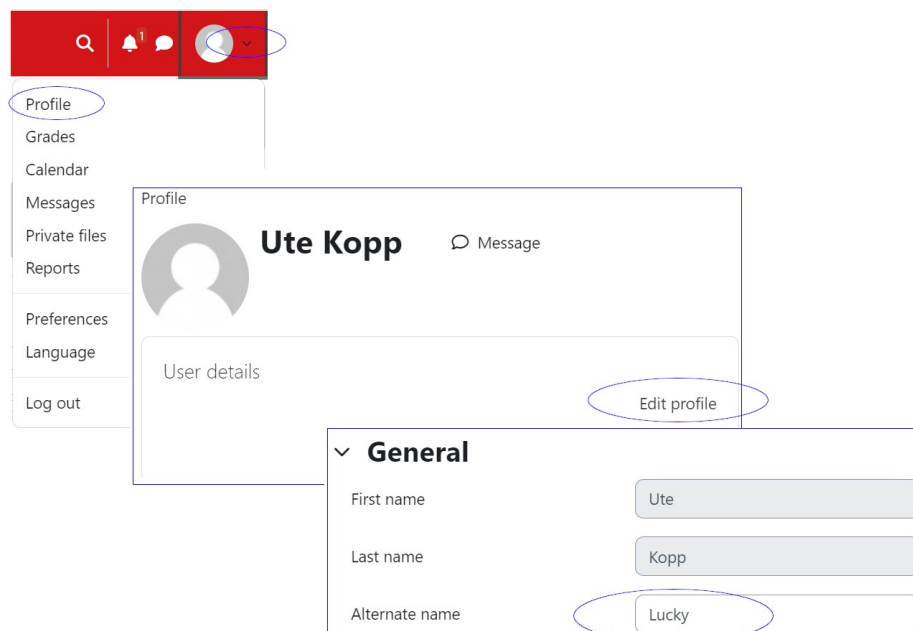

The ad follows the pattern *Alternate name[2] / Last name*. The information is retrieved from the electronic enrolment system by default. The entry under **Alternate Name** can be changed, if desired, as described below:

At the beginning of a seminar or when you log in to Moodle for the first time, you enter your name once, with which you would like to be addressed in the course, in the **Alternate name** input field in your personal profile (top right).

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[2] In the german Moodle version „Pseudonym". The term „Pseudonym" is determined by Moodle and cannot be altered. In this context „Pseudonym" refers to the first name you would like to be addressed with in a seminar.

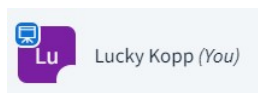Save your entry with *Update profile* at the bottom of the page:

The names entered in the *Alternate name* input field then appears in the list of participants:

	Alternate name / Last name ▲ —	Roles —
☐		Kursverantwortliche_r
☐	**Lucky Kopp**	Student_in
☐	**Cato LaLuna**	Student_in
☐	**Vivian Schulz**	Student_in
☐	**Eva Xteste**	Student_in

The Alternate names entered will then be used in all Moodle activities such as the forum, Etherpad, BBB etc.:

Lucky Kopp *(You)*

	Discussion	Started by	Last post	Replies ↓	Subscribe	
☆	Test falsche Datei hochgeladen	Eva Xteste 12 Jun 2023	Lucky Kopp 23 Aug 2023	1	⬤	⋮

For your information: <u>All</u> names are visible in lecturers view.

If you have any questions or would like to offer feedback, please contact koop@ash-berlin.eu or by ticket https://ticket.ash-berlin.eu.

Translated into English by: Breandán Drewes (student tutor) and Ute Koop (staff ComZ)