

(R&D?) Funding in Germany

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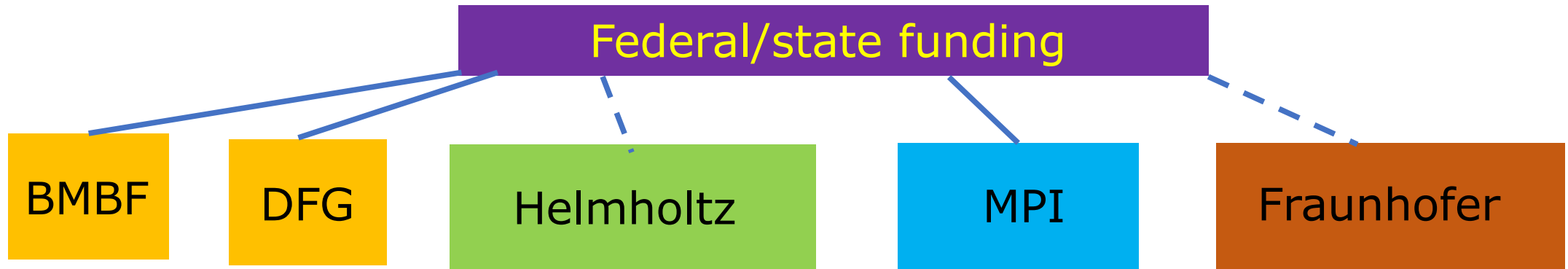


European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

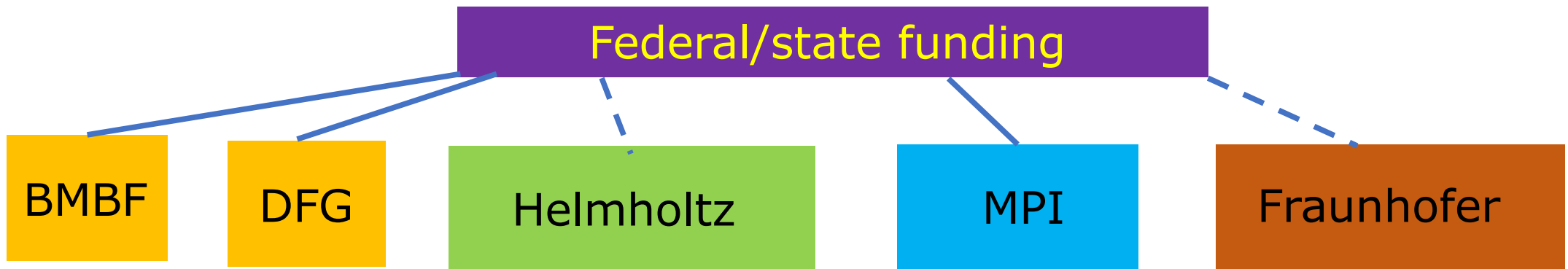
Thanks to Jens Dopke, Thomas Mueller, and Christian Schwanenberger for useful discussions
(and Jens for selling my soul!)

Disclaimer: I am no expert on this topic; don't sue me

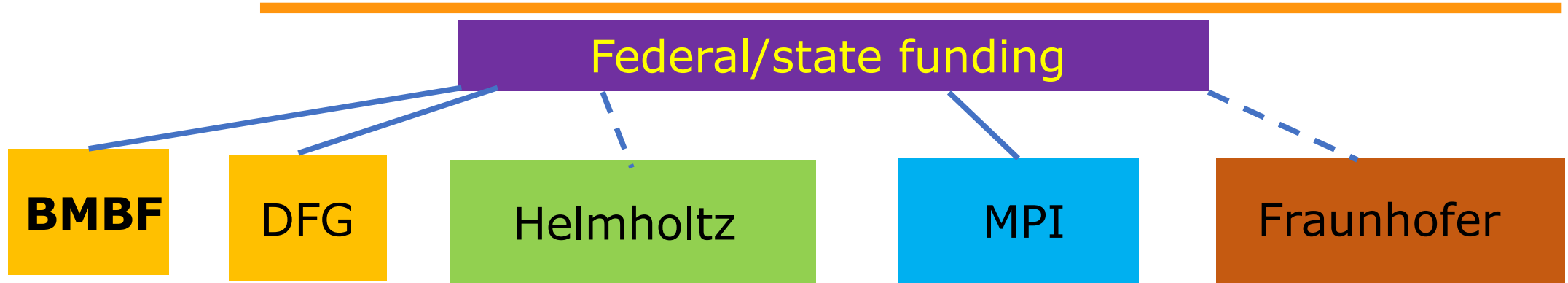
Overview



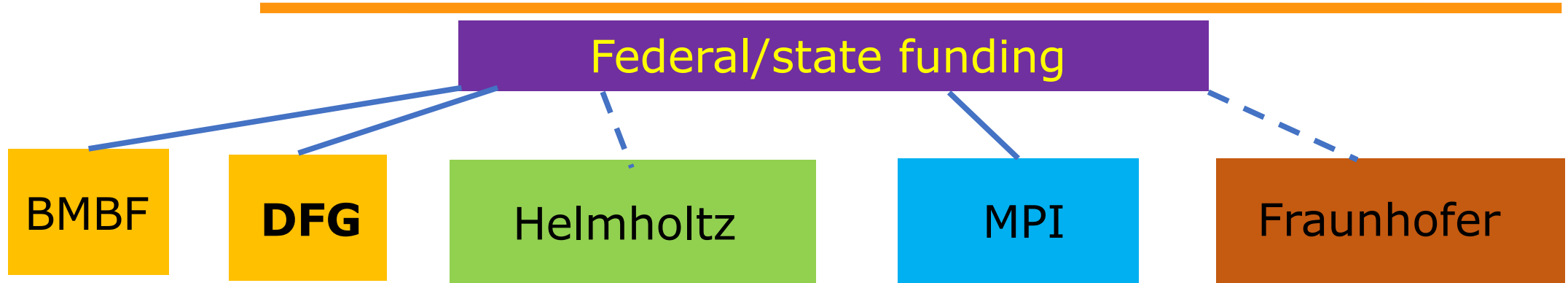
General Remarks



- University Professor: usually gets **several positions** payed by the university with their post
 - Around 2 “Teaching assistants” (permanent posts), 1-2 PhD students, ~1 technician
 - All have teaching duties
 - New profs get about 1M Euros additional **start-up funds** (e.g. laboratory equipment, etc)
- Universities and their research are entirely responsibility of the 16 States in Germany
- The federal government (BMBF) is forbidden to give support



- BMBF: strategic interest in certain **certified large scale projects** (e.g. CERN, ESS, GSI, DESY, participation in the ESFRI Roadmap)
 - Projects are of strategic interest for the **federal government**
- To make these projects successful and to benefit from them, BMBF supports Universities to participate in the related research
 - R/D, travel, research personnell, construction, maintenance...
- Support is organized in **clusters of groups** and lasts for periods of 3 years (a bit like STFC CG grants; +20% overhead of which about ¼ go back to groups)
 - It is renewable following peer review, as long as the project lasts
- Also: particle physics cluster; like a 10-year roadmap for cluster research
- Only funds projects not funded via DFG or Helmholtz



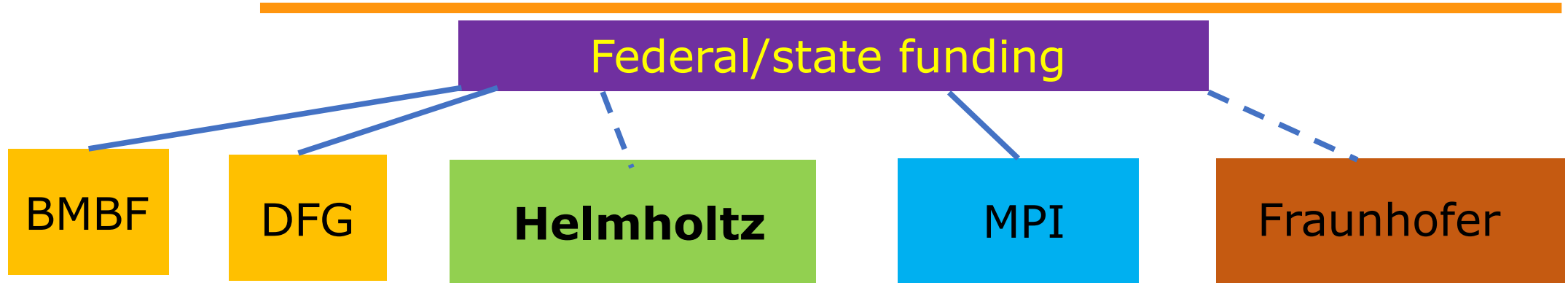
- German Research Foundation

- Self-governing institution for the promotion of science and research
 - A bit like Royal Society
- "bottom up" approach; funds for **cooperation work** and project funds
 - Main source for projects outside BMBF remit (e.g. for other R&D; computer clusters; infrastructure)
- Includes various prizes and programmes for fellowships and professorships, and young investigator groups (Emmy Noether programme)
- Graduation colleges; collaborative research centres;...

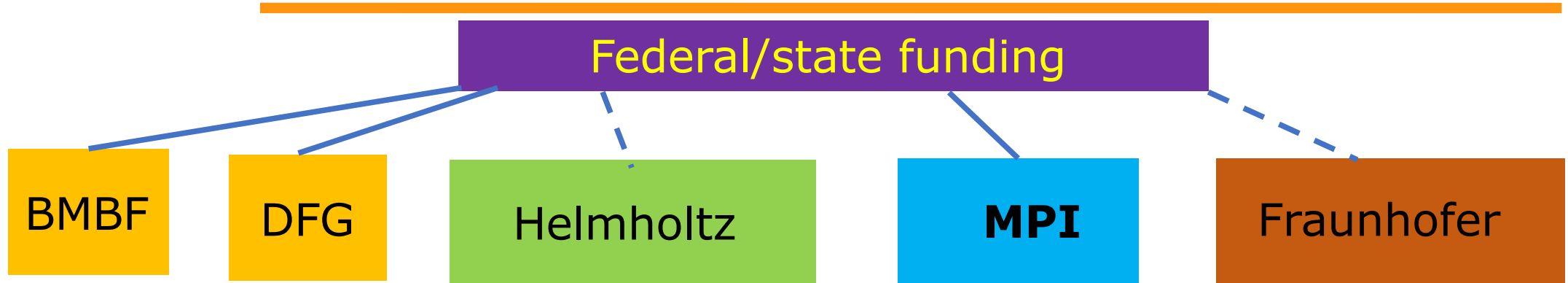
- Further initiative: excellence clusters

- Funding for clusters of excellence of universities

Helmholtz



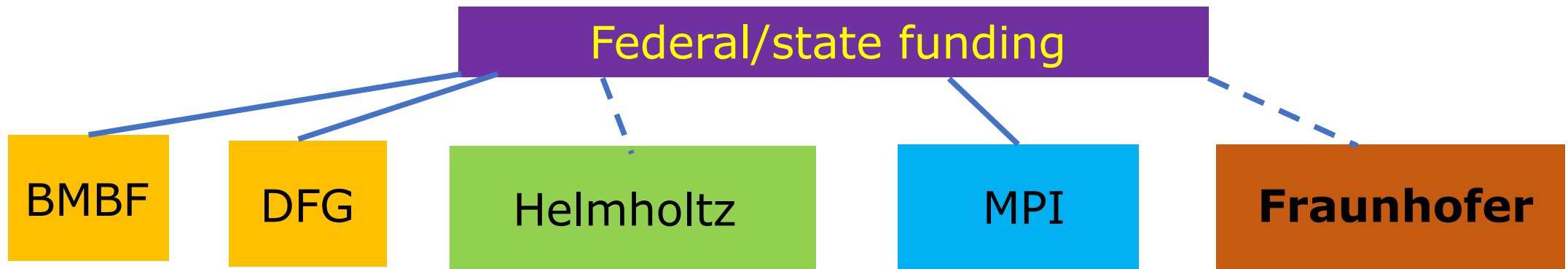
- Funding of specific “Helmholtz centres”
 - About 72% public funding (from federal government)
 - Association of 18 scientific-technical and biological-medical research centres (e.g. DESY, KIT)
- All centres part of one of 6 programmes
 - Particle physics: “structure of matter”
 - Usually large labs for R&D and integration projects
- Also offer “Helmholtz Young Investigator groups” (similar to ERC Starter grants), Helmholtz professorships, etc
- Helmholtz centres: can not apply for other funding sources
- New projects: needs to go via research centre



- Max Planck institutes:

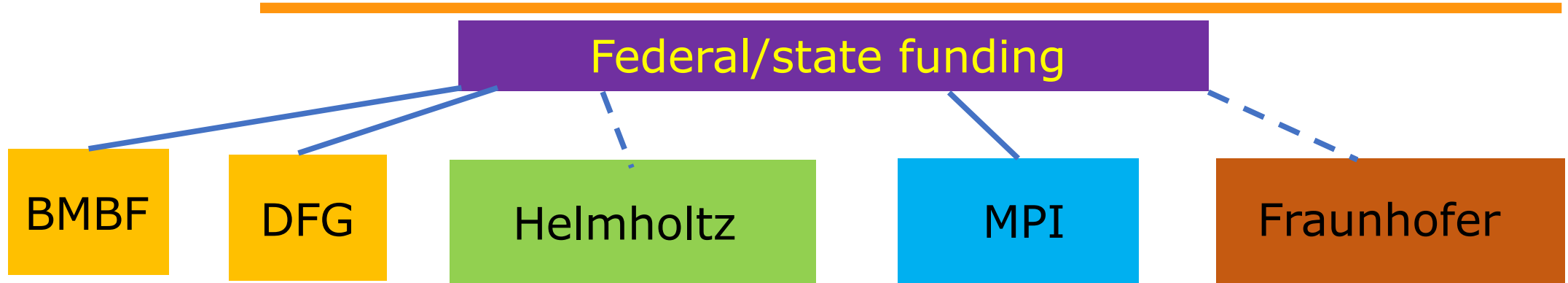
- Large scale institutions each with an individual **research programme defined by the head of the institute** (who has been strategically hired by the MP Society).
- Continuous funding support during active time of the director.
- Usually each institute specialized on specific research
 - E.g. MPI in Munich for particle physics research
 - Usually large labs for R&D

Fraunhofer



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 - 74 institutes and research institutions
 - Focused on **applied science** (Max Planck: basic science)
 - About 30% federal/state funding; rest from contract (e.g. with industry)
 - Typically more generic R&D
 - e.g. developed MP3
 - Some of which used for our field

Other



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- Various foundations have research funding programmes (Robert Bosch, Volkswagen, etc)
 - A bit like Leverhulme

Summary

- R&D organisation/funding in Germany: complicated ;)
- Partially similar, partially different than UK
 - **Some more flexibility** due to extra (permanent) manpower each professor gets from university/public funds
 - Some part of overhead money of 3rd party funding goes back to university groups for free use
 - BMBF (STFC-equivalent); less flexible on projects but more continuity planning possible with "road maps"
 - DFG/Helmholtz: more opportunities for early career researchers
 - A bit like RS URF and ERF, but with funding for PhD students/postdocs
 - Funds infrastructure etc
 - Max Planck: pretty much full freedom for director to steer research
- German Universities: Less academics than in the UK
 - Each professor has much larger group usually than in UK
 - Has pros and cons! (e.g. pro: More continuity on projects per professor)