

Semester Courses at the International Study Centre – “*Studienbegleitende Kurse*”

Winter Semester 2025/26

Information for:

- ERASMUS students
- Exchange students participating in bilateral exchange programs
- Master's degree students at the University of Heidelberg

Important Dates:

- Online Placement test for all participants (except beginners):
 - For Erasmus and Exchange students: Thursday, 02 October 2025 at 09:00 am OR at 05.00 pm
 - For Master's Degree students: Tuesday, 07 October 2025 at 10:00 am
- Link to our online placement test will be provided on the website of the International Study Center: www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de
- Registration: Exchange students with your coordinator at International Relations Office.
Master's students via e-mail from 01st October 2025: koordination@isz.uni-heidelberg.de
- First day of courses: see table
- Last day of courses: Friday, 6 February 2026

Please note: We cannot guarantee to fulfill all requests regarding course, teaching time and language level.

General Language Courses	Teaching Time from 22 April 2025	Hours per week	Credits ECTS	Fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 (A1.1, A1.2) • A2 (A2.1, A2.2) • B1 (B1.1, B1.2) 	Mon + Wed 4.30 - 6:00 pm or	4	6	200 €
	Mon + Wed 6.15 – 7.45 pm or	4	6	200 €
	Mon + Wed 4.30 - 7.45 pm	8	12	375 €
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B2 (B2.1, B2.2) • C1 	Mon + Wed 4.30 - 6:00 pm or	4	6	200 €
	Mon + Wed 6.15 – 7.45 pm	4	6	200 €
• C2	Mon + Wed 4.30 – 6.00 pm	4	6	200 €
• C1 Intensive course (with preparation for DSH)	Mon + Wed 4.30 – 7.45 pm	8	12	375 €
Fachsprachenkurse Subject-related Courses				
Literaturkurs (C1/B2) <i>German Literature</i>	Tue / Thu 6:15 – 7:45 pm	4	8	200 €
Deutsch für Jura-Studierende (B2) <i>German for Law Students</i>	Tue / Thu 6:15 – 7:45 pm	4	8	200 €
Das politische System Deutschlands (B2) <i>The political system of Germany</i> Course ends on 18.12.25	Tue / Thu 1:00 – 3:00 pm & one excursion	4	8	200 €
Einführung Philosophie (B1) <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Tue / Thu 2:00 – 3:30 pm	4	8	200 €
Kreatives Schreiben 1 (B1) <i>Creative Writing 1</i>	Mon 9:00 – 12:30 am	4	8	200 €
Kreatives Schreiben 2 (B2) <i>Creative Writing 2</i>	Mon 1:15 – 4:30 pm	4	8	200 €
Fachsprache Wirtschaft (C1/B2) <i>German for Business</i>	Tue / Thu 3:30 – 5:00 pm	4	8	200 €

Projektseminar: Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg (C1/B2) <i>Project seminar: International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg</i>	Thu 1:45 – 5:00 pm	4	8	200 €
Einführung in die Europäische Kunstgeschichte (B1) <i>Introduction to European Art History</i>	Fri 1:30 – 4:00 pm & two excursions	4	8	200 €
Fachsprache Medizin/Biologie (B2) <i>German for Medicine and Biology</i>	Thu 2:00 – 3:30 pm	2	4	125 €
Deutsche Geschichte erleben 1 (B1/A2) <i>Experience German History 1</i>	Thu 3:30 – 5:00 pm	2	4	125 €
Deutsche Geschichte erleben 2 (C1/B2) <i>Experience German History 2</i>	Tue 3:30 – 5:00 pm	2	4	125 €
Deutsche Geschichte: Streifzüge (B2) <i>A tour across German History</i>	Tue six sessions of 4 units 4:00 – 7:15 pm	2	4	125 €
Pre-vocational German courses in cooperation with heiROUTES				
Deutsch für den Beruf (B1) <i>German for the job</i>	Mon / Wed 6:15 – 7:45 pm	4	8	free of charge
Deutsch für den Praktikums- und Berufseinstieg (B2) <i>German for internships and starting a career</i> Compact course	Fr., 21.11., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 22.11., 10.00 – 13.30	in total 8	1	free of charge
Please note that we offer two dates for each of the following compact courses. The course content is identical on both dates. You can register for either date 1 <u>or</u> date 2.				
Professionell Auftreten – Training für überzeugendes Vortragen und Präsentieren (B1) <i>Appearing professional – Training for convincing speaking and presenting</i> Compact course	<u>Date 1:</u> Fr., 05.12., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 06.12., 10.00 – 13.30 <u>Date 2:</u> Fr., 12.12., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 13.12., 10.00 – 13.30	in total 8	1	free of charge
Deutsch für die Kommunikation am Arbeitsplatz (B1) <i>German for communication in the workplace</i> Compact course	<u>Date 1:</u> Fr., 07.11., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 08.11., 10.00 – 13.30 <u>Date 2:</u> Fr., 14.11., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 15.11., 10.00 – 13.30	in total 8	1	free of charge
Deutsch für die Kommunikation im Team (B1) <i>German for communication in the team</i> Compact course	<u>Date 1:</u> Fr., 05.12., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 06.12., 10.00 – 13.30 <u>Date 2:</u> Fr., 12.12., 14.00 – 17.30 Sa., 13.12., 10.00 – 13.30	in total 8	1	free of charge

Overview of German language courses offered at the International Study Center

The courses take place at the Max-Weber-Haus, Ziegelhäuser Landstraße 17,
or at the Studienkolleg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 684

“*Studienbegleitende Deutschkurse*” - General Language Courses

Prerequisite: **mandatory** placement test at the beginning of the semester

NO placement test for

- absolute beginners (A1) and
- students who have already attended advanced courses (Oberstufe C1) at the ISZ
- participants in the Pre-Semester Language Courses (March/September)

Date and Time:

- levels A1 – B1: Mo. / We. 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. and/or 6:15 – 7:45 p.m. (4 or 8 hours per week)
- Levels B2 – C1: Mo. / We. 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. or 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.
- Level C2: Mo. / We. 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- C1 Intensive course (with preparation for DSH): Mo. / We. 4:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Location: Max-Weber-Haus, Ziegelhäuser Landstraße 17 or Studienkolleg, (INF 684)

Students can choose whether to receive an ungraded or graded certificate of attendance.

Requirements for credit: **regular** attendance and active participation, written exam(s) - (6 or 12 ECTS).

The Department for German Language and Culture (Max-Weber-Haus) at the International Study Center offers language courses in the basic (beginners, A1/A2), intermediate (good basic knowledge of German, B1/B2), upper (advanced knowledge of German, C1) and very advanced levels (C2, post DSH/Testdaf).

All courses contain exercises dealing with German grammar, conversation, reading and writing, listening comprehension, lexis, phonetics, regional and cultural studies and information about studying in Heidelberg.

Before the beginning of the courses students take a placement test in order to determine which course level they will be placed in.

Information on respective text books and other course material will be available at the beginning of each course. Advanced level students (C1) have the opportunity to take the DSH at the end of the semester (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang = German language exam for University admission).

„*Studienbegleitende Fachsprachenkurse*“ - Subject-related Courses

The following courses are for students with **advanced knowledge** in the German language only. The language requirement for each course is mentioned in the overview under the heading “**prerequisite**”.

Literature Course „*Literaturkurs*“

Rainer Christ

Prerequisite: Language Level – *Intermediate 2 (B2) or Advanced (C1)*

Date and time: Tuesday / Thursday 06:15 – 07:45 p.m. (4 SWS)

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation: 4 ECTS, special proof of performance (presentation/term paper): graded certificate, 8 ECTS.

This four-hour literature course offers foreign students of all majors the opportunity to get to know important German literary texts. In each class students will deal with short passages from the novel chosen for the semester. The students will first discuss the grammar and vocabulary to ensure a fair understanding of the text in order to prepare a discussion of its context and themes. Analyzing the short passages will allow students to understand and interpret the text as a whole from a literary perspective. They will also deal with the historical context and setting in order to practice a methodical analysis of the text.

German for Law Students „Deutsch für Jura-Studierende“ Stefan Bornecke & Imran Gürel

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)*
Date and time: Tuesday / Thursday 06:15 – 07:45 p.m. (4 SWS)
Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (8 ECTS).

In this course students will improve their German language while focusing on legal terminology.

The course is based around the subject matter dealt with in the final examinations for international law students (ERASMUS, LL.M. or doctorate) such as the basics in German private, public and economic law as well as European law. The course will also provide an introduction to legal methodology and exam writing techniques.

The Political System of Germany “Das Politische System Deutschlands”

Dr. Martin Kley

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)*
Date and time: Tuesday / Thursday 01:00 – 03:00 p.m. (4 SWS) and one excursion
Course ends on 18.12.2025
Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (8 ECTS).

This course introduces students to the basic tenets of Germany's political system and is intended for students wishing to expand their knowledge in the discipline and language of political science. Areas of emphasis will be vocabulary work as well as discussions and role-playing about specific issues. In terms of content, we will be addressing the fundamentals of the German constitution (parliamentary democracy, rule of law, federalism, social welfare), the interaction of political institutions and actors (e.g. political parties) and select policy fields (e.g. environmental policy). We will also address current events, such as upcoming elections.

Introduction to Philosophy „Einführung Philosophie“

Karlheinz Hinfurter

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*
Date and time: Tuesday / Thursday 02:00 – 03:30 p.m. (4 SWS)
Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, term paper (8 ECTS).

This four-hours course reaches out to students of all majors who would like to read the most important texts of German Philosophy in their original language. The course intends to provide students with the necessary methodological skills.

Given the difficulty of German philosophical texts, regarding both the contents as well as the language used, each class-meeting will focus on a short paragraph of text only. Students will first discuss the linguistic difficulties, and then analyze the meaning of the provided text. Grasping all aspects of a text will also enable the course participants to express their insights both orally and in writing.

The texts which are read during the course will be set in a historical context and students will try to trace some samples in German Literature or Jurisprudence.

Creative Writing 1 „Kreatives Schreiben 1“

Martin Grzimek

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*
Date and time: Monday 09:00 – 12:30 a.m. (4 SWS)
Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (8 ECTS).

In the course "Creative Writing 1" we will **read** simple texts - for example short stories, poems about nature, texts with pictures. But the focus is on **producing** our own texts: The description of an object, a situation, an action, an experience, a beautiful memory. We want to **play** with words and learn to describe our own **feelings**. If the right word for a thing or feeling is missing, we will look for it **together**. In the course, all "creative" texts are also **read out** and **discussed**. The course "Creative Writing 1" is not about assessment for "correct" German - it is about the **commitment** of the participants.

There are three rules for **successful participation** in the course:

1. continuous attendance;
2. participation in the course lessons;

3. send all assignments in writing by e-mail to the course instructor.

The two **main objectives** of the course are:

1. learning and writing - not because you have to, but because you enjoy it;
2. to lose the fear of the foreign language!

Creative Writing 2 „Kreatives Schreiben 2“

Martin Grzimek

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)* or *Advanced (C1)*

Date and time: Monday 01:15 – 04:30 p.m. (4 SWS)

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (8 ECTS).

“Creativity and discipline” go together like “fun and work” or “fantasy and logic”.

You cannot have one without the other. This is why students should not only learn to *use* language, but also learn to play with words and shape and mold them into unique expressions. Narration, writing poetry and reporting – these different forms of expression not only have a long tradition, they are also tools to experience and comprehend the world. In the center stands the individual who is able to express his feelings, emotions, sensual impressions, dreams, fantasies and ideas in a foreign language. The goal of the course “Creative Writing” is to practice these abilities. Students will develop greater self-confidence and sensibility towards those around them as well as their surroundings, including the creative potential of language.

German for Business „Fachsprache Wirtschaft“

Rainer Ruhm

Prerequisite: Language Level – *Advanced (C1, B2 upon consultation with instructor)*

Date and time: Tuesday / Thursday 03:30 – 05:00 p.m. (4 SWS)

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (8 ECTS).

This course is intended for foreign students who wish to gain knowledge of economic terminology. Through the use of economic-related texts and articles from newspapers and magazines students will learn basic economic terminology, work with theoretical concepts and discuss current economic problems. Students will improve their linguistic abilities relevant to economic terminology as well as practise skills such as text analysis, listening comprehension, verbalisation of graphs/diagrams etc. while dealing with themes such as globalization, the environment and social market economics (among others).

Project seminar:

Joachim Bürkert

International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg

Attending the **International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg** from 06 to 16 November 2025 (www.iffmh.de) as well as preparation and follow-up work in the course

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)* or *Advanced (C1)*

Date and time: Thursday 1:45 – 5:00 p.m. (4 SWS) – and further dates at the film festival

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, after written report and written exam at the end of the semester with grade (8 ECTS).

The 74th "International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg" will take place from 06 - 16 November 2025. Founded in 1952, it is the most traditional film festival in Germany after the "Berlinale". It is considered a platform for newcomers and gives young filmmakers from all over the world the opportunity to present their works. Many directors who only later became famous have shown their films here, often also their first works, among them we find François Truffaut, Wim Wenders, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Mike Leigh, Lars von Trier, Jim Jarmusch or Krzysztof Kieślowski.

- We will visit the festival together, watch new films, take part in film discussions, go to fringe events and get a taste of the festival atmosphere.
- We will talk to the festival director Dr. Sascha Keilholz about how to organise and run a film festival.
- You will summarize your experiences in a written report after your visit to the film festival.

Important: Those who want to take part in the course must be in Heidelberg for the entire duration of the film festival from Thursday, 06 November, up to and including Sunday, 16 November 2025.

Introduction to European Art History „*Einführung in die Europäische Kunstgeschichte*“

Dr. Annette Frattini

- Focus: European painting, sculpture and architecture from antiquity to the 20th century
- Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1* (B1)
- Date and time: Friday 01:30 – 04:00 p.m. (4 SWS) and two excursions
- Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, certificate after written final exam (8 ECTS).

The four-hour course, which includes two excursions, is aimed at foreign students from all faculties who wish to explore the various European forms of visual art and their historical development.

In the sessions, we will discuss different art periods with their specific artistic characteristics and developments and try to understand them in the context of their historical and cultural background. Building on earlier art forms, we will focus in particular on works from the 19th and 20th centuries, whose groundbreaking changes in the history of art continue to have an impact today.

The course focuses on working with visual materials and practicing the basic vocabulary needed to describe works of art. Students learn to apply their newly acquired knowledge through numerous oral and written exercises.

If necessary, we also use short texts to help explain certain developments in art.

Mandatory excursions:

1. Saturday, 15 November 2025: Kunsthalle Mannheim: Special exhibition “Kirchner, Lehmbruck, Nolde. The History of Expressionism in Mannheim”
2. Saturday, 6 December 2025: Frankfurt, Städelsches Kunstmuseum, permanent collection

German for Medicine and Biology „*Fachspracher Medizin / Biologie*“

Bettina Bosler

- Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2* (B2)
- Date and time: Thursday 02:00 – 03:30 p.m. (2 SWS)
- Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written exam(s) (4 ECTS).

In this course, we will use texts and images to learn vocabulary, grammar, and typical phrases used in German scientific language. Topics include scientific presentations, medical histories, doctor's letters, biological structures, molecular biology, and, depending on the schedule, a visit to the German Pharmacy Museum. The course also covers various situations of technical communication.

The course program is supplemented by short film and audio clips. In addition to the technical content, the focus is on oral and written communication in technical language. Discussions on scientific topics are encouraged.

Participants will also have the opportunity to practice oral text presentation in the form of short speeches on scientific topics (biographies of scientists, clinical pictures, research topics, etc.).

Experience German history 1 – with city excursions (B1/A2) „*Deutsche Geschichte erleben 1*“

Verena Zimmer

- Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1* (B1) or *Pre-intermediate* (A2)
- Date and time: Thursday 03:30 – 05:00 p.m. (2 SWS)
- Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (4 ECTS).

This course is aimed at students with a basic knowledge of German. Especially for those who still have difficulties speaking German actively and understanding spoken German well.

We will deal with central topics of German history. In class, we will speak slowly and clearly with each other, analyze pictures and read short texts together. We also want to play games, have informal conversations with each other and go on tours of Heidelberg to visit special historical places. In this way, we will learn about the significance and background of important events.

Each participant in the course will give a presentation on a historical topic that interests them. The lecturer is open to suggestions and requests from students.

Experience German history 2 – with city excursions (C1/B2) „Deutsche Geschichte erleben 2“

Verena Zimmer

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Advanced (C1)* or *Intermediate 2 (B2)*

Date and time: Tuesday 03:30 – 05:00 p.m. (2 SWS)

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (4 ECTS).

Alemania, Niemcy, Tyskland, Germany - many names for one country. The history of Germany is a grand narrative of diversity and change. For centuries, the question has been asked again and again: Where is Germany? What is Germany?

So let's go on an exciting journey from antiquity to the present and try to find suitable answers! In doing so, we will experience Germany in its contrasts: the land of a thousand castles, of poets and thinkers, of reformers and ingenious inventors - but also of the greatest horror in human history.

But we don't just talk about emperors, war and the church. German traditions and everyday history also have their place in this course. In addition, we will be "on the road" a few times and trace German history live during walks through the old town of Heidelberg.

The course is aimed at students with an advanced knowledge of German. Active participation is a prerequisite. The lecturer is open to suggestions and requests from students.

A tour across German History „Streifzüge durch die deutsche Geschichte“

Kristian Willenbacher

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)*

Date and time: Tuesday 04:00 – 07:15 p.m. (2 SWS) - *six sessions of 4 teaching units each*

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (4 ECTS).

Germans are said to be orderly and punctual. Is that really true, and, if so, why? And, besides, what is German history? When does it start? 2,000 years ago, in clashes with the Romans? Or 1,200 years ago with Charlemagne? Or perhaps 500 years ago with Martin Luther? Or maybe even as late as in 1871, when the German Empire was founded by Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck. And what was the impact that the two World Wars and Adolf Hitler had on this country in the middle of Europe? So many questions. And we will be striving to answer them as well as possible.

This seminar is to be rounded off with a visit at the Friedrich Ebert Memorial. After all, in 1871 the first President of the Weimar Republic, in office from 1919 to 1925, was born right there, in Heidelberg's Old Town.

Classes will take place on the following days:

1. Tuesday, 21 October 2025
2. Tuesday, 28 October 2025
3. Tuesday, 18 November 2025
4. Tuesday, 02 December 2025
5. Tuesday, 09 December 2025
6. Tuesday, 16 December 2025

„Berufsvorbereitende Deutschkurse“ - Pre-vocational German courses

German for the job „Deutsch für den Beruf“

Angelika Karagiozidou

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*

Date and time: Monday / Wednesday 06:15 – 07:45 p.m. (4 SWS)

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam (8 ECTS).

This semester course teaches work-related language skills and is aimed at international students who want to prepare for a career in a German-speaking country or who would like to complete an internship in Germany during their studies.

Both written and oral job-related communication is trained by dealing with relevant genres types such as e-mails, letters of application and CVs as well as specific types of conversations (e.g. making appointments, job interviews, salary negotiations, etc). The language content is always taught with a look at the German labour market and working culture.

German for internships and starting a career

„Deutsch für den Praktikums- und Berufseinstieg“

Odilia Houtermans /

Joachim Bürkert / Nicole Dorn

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 2 (B2)*

Date and time: Compact course with a total of 8 hours

Friday, 21 November, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. and Saturday, 22 November, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (1 ECTS).

The aim of this compact course is to prepare international students linguistically for an internship at a German company or institution in Germany. Both written and oral language skills that are useful for successfully completing an internship will be trained: relevant text genres such as cover letters, CVs, professional e-mail correspondence as well as phrases for conversations in business and professional contexts.

The language skills acquired in the first part of the course are practised in the second part of the course in realistic scenarios and role-plays for job interviews.

The course content not only prepares you for the linguistic challenges of an internship but is also valuable for a later entry into professional life and is therefore directly relevant for your integration into the German labour market.

The compact course “Deutsch für den Praktikums- und Berufseinstieg” is also a preparatory language course for the [“Frame Your Career” programme at Heidelberg University](#).

Appearing professional – Training for convincing speaking and presenting

“Professionell Auftreten – Training für überzeugendes Vortragen und Präsentieren“

Joachim Bürkert / Nicole Dorn / Gabriela Köhler

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*

Date and time: Compact course with a total of 8 hours

Date 1: Fr, 05 December 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 06 December 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

Date 2: Fr, 12 December 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 13 December 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

The course content is identical on both dates.

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (1 ECTS).

Presentations, speeches, and public appearances are part of everyday working life for academics. You can learn how to do them successfully in this presentation training course, which is tailored to the needs of international students.

In every speech and lecture situation, the goal is to establish a connection with our audience, to present ourselves and our subject matter skillfully, but also to be attentive to the other side and ultimately to make the exchange beneficial for everyone involved.

The training includes exercises on body awareness and body language, training in breathing, voice, articulation, and intonation, working with texts to train speech expression, exercises in speaking in front of a group, and related discussion and experimentation with various presentation techniques and dealing with stage fright and nervousness.

The training will not only benefit you in your studies, but also in your future professional life. After all, a confident personal appearance and communication skills are more in demand today than ever before.

German for communication in the workplace

„Deutsch für die Kommunikation am Arbeitsplatz“

Marlen Buß

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*

Date and time: Compact course with a total of 8 hours

Date 1: Fr, 07 November 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 08 November 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

Date 2: Fr, 14 November 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 15 November 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

The course content is identical on both dates.

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (1 ECTS).

German for communication in the team

„Deutsch für die Kommunikation im Team“

Marlen Buß

Prerequisite: Language Level - *Intermediate 1 (B1)*

Date and time: Compact course with a total of 8 hours

Date 1: Fr, 05 December 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 06 December 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

Date 2: Fr, 12 December 2025, 2.00 - 5.30 p.m. & Sa, 13 December 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 01.30 p.m.

The course content is identical on both dates.

Requirements: Regular attendance and active participation (1 ECTS).