

Website

www.uni-osnabrueck.de/sprachenzentrum

Contact persons

Head of German as a Foreign Language
Claudia Nathaus M.A.
Neuer Graben 7/9, room 52/121
49074 Osnabrück
+49 541 969 4977
claudia.nathaus@uni-osnabrueck.de

Administrative Office
Corinna Sonntag
Neuer Graben 7/9, room 52/113
49074 Osnabrück
+49 541 969 4886
corinna.sonntag@uni-osnabrueck.de

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German Courses for International Students

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German Courses for International Students

Language competence and academic success

Successful participation in university training programs places high demands on students' proficiency in the language of instruction. Their academic success requires highly developed and specialised communicative competence. Students must be able to

- analyze complex academic texts
- take notes during lectures
- participate actively in discussions on academic subjects
- give presentations on specialist topics
- write academic papers.

To help international students complete their studies successfully, the Language Center at Osnabrück University offers a broad range of tailor-made courses at basic, intermediate and advanced levels. The courses and outcomes are based on the levels stipulated in the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1). Basic courses provide students with the opportunity to develop their general competence in German. Subject-specific courses at intermediate and higher levels address the unique needs of students from a particular field of study and promote the acquisition of subject-specific language and language for academic purposes.

Placement test

All students wishing to enrol for one of the German courses offered by the Center are required to take a placement test. A demo version of the test is available from the following website: www.onset.de

The test is administered during the *Welcome Week* held at the beginning of the semester. Students do not have to register for the test. Information about the test date and venue can be obtained from the Language Center.

Fees

All German courses presented by the Language Center are free of charge.

Earning credits

The Center applies the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Credits are awarded to students who have successfully passed the exam and who have attended classes regularly (at least 80% attendance).

General courses

Niveau A1 / Level A1

Overall aim: The course is designed to develop students' basic competences in German by practising everyday forms of communication on a limited range of familiar topics, e.g. understanding schedules and timetables, conversing with others about family life, nationality, interests and hobbies, writing a friend a short note.

ECTS: 9

Contact hours per week: 8 x 45 min.

Niveau A2 / Level A2

Overall aim: The course aims to develop students' basic competences in German by practising everyday forms of communication on familiar topics, e.g. reading short extracts from simple articles and newspaper reports or listening to short radio interviews, participating in casual conversations about current affairs, writing simple instructions.

ECTS: 9

Contact hours per week: 8 x 45 min.

Niveau B1 / Level B1

Overall aim: The course is designed to develop and practise competences required in public and academic contexts, e.g. reading newspaper reports, listening to the news, participating in formal discussions on current affairs, writing summaries.

ECTS: 6

Contact hours per week: 4 x 45 min

General academic literacy courses

Niveau B2 / Level B2

Overall aim: The course aims to develop and practise competences required in academic contexts, e.g. reading introductory texts on subject-specific topics, writing handouts, listening to and giving presentations, participating in formal discussions on academic subjects.

ECTS: 6

Contact hours per week: 4 x 45 min.

Niveau C1 / Level C1

Overall aim: The course is designed to develop and practise competences required in academic contexts, e.g. analyzing academic/scientific texts, listening to academic/scientific presentations, participating in panel discussions on specialist topics.

ECTS: 6

Contact hours per week: 4 x 45 min.

Each of the courses above is presented on two separate levels (A1.1, A1.2; A2.1, A2.2; B1.1, B1.2; B2.1, B2.2; C1.1, C1.2) depending on the range in the competence levels of the course participants.

German for Academic Purposes

Various workshops (of approximately 90 minutes each) on topics like: Communicating effectively at university, exploring academic text types, participating in academic discussions, improving academic reading skills, or investigating the grammar of academic language in German.

Objective: Training and improvement of general academic language skills in German

Target group: international students of all subject areas (with a proficiency level in German of at least B1/B2)