

Learning German – Information for International Students

In most study programs at German higher education institutions, the language of instruction is German. Therefore, sufficient language skills are usually a prerequisite for studying in Germany. Even if you apply for a study program that is taught in English, it will be helpful to learn German – at least for daily life situations. Also, German language skills can have a positive effect on how comfortable you feel in Germany since it will be easier for you to find your way around and make new friends.

Language requirements at HSHL¹

HSHL requires a high level of German language proficiency from all students who apply for a study program taught in German. Currently, only two study programs at HSHL are taught entirely in English and therefore do not require German language knowledge:

- B.Eng. Electronic Engineering
- M.Sc. Intercultural Business Psychology.

In order to enrol in any study program at HSHL that is taught in German, you need to have obtained one of the following German language certificates:

- ✓ DSH level 2 or 3 (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang)
 - ✓ TestDaF with a minimum of 4 points in all parts (Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache)
 - ✓ Telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule
 - ✓ Deutsches Sprachdiplom Level 2 der KMK
 - ✓ Feststellungsprüfung (University Entrance Examination of a Studienkolleg)
 - ✓ Goethe Institute GDS (Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom)
- ☞ Please note: HSHL does not offer any German preparation courses.

Where can I learn German in my home country?

- Goethe Institutes are a good option and available in many countries: www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/kur/wwt.html
- Ask for German language classes in your current school or university.
- Check out private language schools and private tutors in your town.

Online Classes

- Deutsche Welle free online classes: www.dw.com/en/learn-german/german-courses/s-2547
- BBC free online classes: www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german
- Deutsch Uni Online classes: www.deutsch-uni.com – free licenses available for students who are already enrolled at HSHL. Please ask at the [Language Service](#).
- Rosetta Stone online classes: www.rosettastone.de/deutsch-lernen
- Babbel online classes: www.babbel.com/learn-german-online

¹ [Einschreibungsordnung](#) / Regulations for enrollment at Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Sciences of 29 March 2011, version dated 20 November 2017 (only available in German).

Free Language Apps

- DW Learn German
- Goethe Institut - Lern Deutsch - Stadt der Wörter
- Babbel
- Other Language Learning Apps: e.g. Duolingo, Quizlet, Memrise or HelloTalk

I have been accepted at HSHL.

Where can I continue to learn German in Germany²?

- HSHL offers free German language courses at different levels for its students during the semester: www.hshl.de/zfw-language-service
- You can also get support in writing German texts by the “[Schreibpatenprogramm](#)” of HSHL Language Service.
- Adult education centers, so called “Volkshochschulen” (VHS) offer language classes for fair prices.
 - Hamm: www.hamm.de/vhs > Sprachen > Deutsch als Fremdsprache > Deutschkurse (A1-C1)
 - Lippstadt: <https://vhs.stadt-lippstadt.de/> > Programm & Anmeldung > Kurse nach Sachgebiet > Sprachen > Deutsch als Zweitsprache
- ☞ If you cannot find a suitable class in Hamm or Lippstadt, also check the classes of VHS in Soest and Paderborn. Your semester ticket enables you to travel to these cities for free.
- Another option is the Lernstudio Barbarossa in Hamm and Lippstadt: www.lernstudio-barbarossa.de/hamm-mitte/en/learn-german.

What else can I do to practice and improve my German language knowledge?

- Participate in cultural events organized by the [AStA](#) and the International Office and use the [sports programs](#) offered at HSHL to get in touch with other German students.
- Visit the free VHS Sprachcafé in Lippstadt to meet other people and practice your German: <https://vhs.stadt-lippstadt.de/> > Programm & Anmeldung > Kurse nach Sachgebiet > Sprachen > Deutsch als Zweitsprache.
- Listen to German music, podcasts and watch TV or movies in German with subtitles.
- You can choose to live in a shared apartment with other German students.
- Participate in other cultural events or join clubs outside the university.
- Try to find a language tandem partner. Tandem means that two native speakers of different languages help each other to learn their respective languages.
- ☞ Post your search ad on the notice board in Hamm (building H1.1-E00 and in the canteen) or you can look for a tandem partner on social media channels and by using mediation services like the website: www.tandempartners.org/en.

² For further useful advice visit: <https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/first-steps-germany/improving-your-german/>