

# **German as a Foreign Language**

## **Programme offered at the Centre of Business Languages and Intercultural Communication at Johannes Kepler University, Linz, AUSTRIA**

### **German as a Foreign Language - Basic Course I, A1 (Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Grundstufe I, A1) 6 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

#### **General objective:**

Learning survival German, basic language structures in all four skills (reading, listening, speaking, writing)

#### **Communicative objectives/ content:**

- understanding familiar everyday expressions
- using basic phrases to express needs of a concrete type
- introducing oneself and others
- understanding and asking questions about personal details, things one has and does
- simple phrases to describe where one lives
- writing simple messages, holiday greetings, filling in forms with personal details
- basic interaction

#### **Grammatical items:**

Simple sentence structure and word order in main clauses, forming questions and statements; local and temporal prepositions; personal and possessive pronouns; position of adverbs, predicative adjectives; modal verbs; present and past of selected verbs; w-questions; ordinal numbers; plural forms of nouns, declination of nouns, simple connectors.

Chunks and phrases

#### **Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exam

### **German as a Foreign Language - Basic Course II, A1/A2 (Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Grundstufe II, A1/A2) 6 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

#### **General objective:**

Basics for simple guided conversation and short written messages, further development of listening and reading comprehension, including distractors

#### **Communicative objectives / content:**

- understanding high-frequent vocabulary of personal relevance (basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment, announcements...)
- finding simple and predictable information in everyday material (prospectuses, menus, time tables, personal letters)
- communicating in simple and routine tasks
- handling short social exchange
- phrases to describe family and other people, living conditions, educational background, present job and/or study situation in simple terms
- writing simple personal letters and emails using text patterns, thanking someone for something, asking for basic information about common everyday matters
- Chunks and phrases

**Grammatical items**

Simple dependent clauses; participle 2; perfect tenses; subjunctive 2 to express degrees of politeness; valence of verbs; nominative – dative – accusative; attributive use of adjectives; comparative and superlative forms, demonstrative articles; interrogative pronouns; possessive and indefinite pronouns; relative clauses; prepositions; connectors and subjunctions;  
Chunks and phrases

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exam

**German as a Foreign Language - Intermediate I, A2**

**(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Mittelstufe I, A2)**

**6 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

**German - Text Production Intermediate I, A2**

**(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Schriftliche Produktionen I, A2)**

**2 hours, 2 ECTS credits**

**General objective**

Transition from basic to more independent use of German, from personal topics to topics of a more general type

**Communicative objectives:**

- reporting / informing about spare time, school, work in fairly familiar contexts
- describing hopes, experiences, goals
- explaining reasons and giving explanations for opinions and plans
- dealing with situations likely to arise while travelling in a German speaking country
- reading and listening to high frequency job-related texts, both listening and reading comprehension
- talking about films and books one has watched/ read, expressing opinions, likes and preferences
- entering unprepared into conversations on everyday life, family matters, personal interests
- writing simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest, describing experiences and impressions in short written texts

**Grammatical items:**

verbs with different objects, word order; various forms of the predicate; dependent clauses; reported speech; different forms of comparative sentences; past and past perfect; infinitive; modal verbs to report about rumours and hearsay; genitive; indefinite and demonstrative articles; temporal and local prepositions; connectors and subjunctions;  
chunks and phrases

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exam

**German as a Foreign Language - Intermediate II, B1  
(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Mittelstufe II, B1)**

**6 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

**German - Text Production Intermediate II, B1**

**(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Schriftliche Produktionen II B1)**

**2 hours, 2 ECTS credits**

**General objective:**

Transition from simple to more complex language, varieties of language, standard and colloquial German, complex topics, more and more independent and group activities

**Communicative objectives:**

- comprehension of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics
- discussion of one's field of specialization
- training fluency and spontaneous use of language
- producing clear and detailed texts on a wide range of subjects
- giving advantages and disadvantages of various opinions
- understanding samples contemporary literary prose
- presenting topical issues and discussing different viewpoints
- writing essays and reports, passing on information, supporting or opposing particular points of view
- writing texts highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences

**Grammatical items:**

Infinitive constructions; word order in main and dependent clauses; connectors; special cases of negation; subjunctive I; indefinite pronouns; special cases of negation; prepositional objects; adjectives and verbs with prepositions; word formation: suffixes; prefixed verbs;

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exam, mini-presentations

**German as a Foreign Language - Advanced I, B2  
(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Fortgeschrittene I, B2)**

**4 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

**General objective**

Transition to extended speech and articles, increasing complexity, fluency and spontaneity

**Communicative objectives**

- introduction to project orientated activities, team- and group work
- presentations
- individual papers, projects, studies
- finding subjects of common interest or need in groups
- developing and following individual study plans
- working on different text types, styles
- specific language, business items

**Grammar items:**

Text grammar and style, depending on the students' needs; syntax; reports, discussions, protocols; journalistic articles and presentations; summaries;

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, written and oral exam, group presentations

**German as a Foreign Language - Advanced II, C1  
(Deutsch als Fremdsprache - Fortgeschrittene II, C1)  
4 hours, 6 ECTS credits**

**General objective:**

Improving fluency, accuracy and coherence, expanding flexibility, increasing range of topics, special language (GSP)

**Communicative objective**

- discussing, presenting and arguing about socially and politically relevant topics
- increasing fluency and speed
- raising awareness for intercultural / international language use
- comparing use and conventions across languages
- focussing on group and team activities
- teams finding their own topics
- working on projects, including long and complex texts

**Grammar items:**

Depending on group needs: different styles and conventions, language layers; selective repetition.

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, written homework, written and oral exam, group presentations

**German as a Foreign Language - Grammar in Situations I and II,  
B1 and B2  
(Deutsch - Grammatik in Situationen I und II, B1 and B2)  
2 hours, 2 ECTS credits**

**General objective:**

Repeating and specifying selected chapters of German grammar, depending on students' needs

**Topics:**

Will be selected by trainer and students individually each semester

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, mid-term and final exam

**German - Phonetics (Phonetik), 1 hour, 1 ECTS credit**

**General objective**

Training and improvement of special cases of German pronunciation, small groups, individual training

**Topics:**

Selected by trainer and students at the beginning of each course, depending on the specific needs of the students

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, homework

**Certificate Preparation Course German, B1 – C2**  
**(Zertifikatskurs, B1 – C2)**  
**2 hours, 3 ECTS credits**

**General objective:**

preparation of candidates to the different standardised German tests / diplomas (ÖSD – Österreichisches Sprachdiplom) of B1 – C2 levels, finding one's adequate level, getting used to the test situation.  
(examination fees!)

**Topics**

Students train exams in „real“ situations, learn about topics, test types and standards. Mock tests of various kinds.

**Introduction to language and culture: German as a foreign language**  
**(Einführung in Sprache und Kultur: Deutsch als Fremdsprache)**  
**Fall term 3.00 hours, 3.00 ECTS credits**  
**Spring term 2.00 hours, 2.00 ECTS credits**

**General objective:**

„Find your level“. Students are to be prepared for and placed into „their“ levels before semester starts. Level descriptions see above

**Cultural Sensitivity Training - Incoming Students**  
**1.00 hour, 2.00 ECTS credits**

**Goal:**

Getting to know and using tools and methods of intercultural communication

**Content:**

Activities (theoretical and practical) to approach a foreign culture by the example of Austria/Linz. Understanding vocabulary as intercultural phenomenon, identifying and understanding cultural coordinates through observation tasks, research activities and personal contact to people of Linz. Asking (culturally relevant) questions, learning about and testing out methods of getting relevant answers. Reflective papers after the blocked weekend course and at the end of the term.

**Method of assessment:**

Active participation, presentation, reflection paper and intercultural diary