

Language Info for Erasmus and other Cooperation Students

In general, we recommend that students coming to Bielefeld University and planning to take German subject courses in the frame of the Erasmus or another cooperation programme have a German language level of at least B1 of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) when they begin their study period in Bielefeld with the pre-semester orientation programme and intensive German course.

German Language Courses: Every semester we offer intensive German language courses of three to four weeks. These courses take place before the lecture period begins and are combined with an orientation programme. They are subsidized by means of Bielefeld University, however students have to pay a fee of 150 Euro. Participation in the intensive language and orientation course makes it possible that students reach the next CEFR level before the start of the lecture period and is generally very much recommended. During the lecture period German language courses on different levels are also offered, however, no beginners courses.

Attending German language courses students will be able to gain approx. 10 - 12 credits in their first semester (incl. intensive pre-semester course for which students receive 4 or 5 credits - depending on the level they are in - if they attend regularly), and 6 - 8 credits if they stay a second semester. Please note: these courses give students the possibility to get part of their credits by improving their German language skills, in addition to credits which they gain in the subject courses. A combination of language and subject courses is recommended for students with German knowledge below the C1 level. More information on content and credits of the German language courses for Erasmus and other cooperation students can be found here:

<http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/Universitaet/Studium/StudienbegleitendeAngebote/Punktum/>

If students wish to have a more intensive preparatory language training, this is also possible:

In August, 'Punktum', the German language centre at Bielefeld University, organizes an intensive German language summer course for four weeks. This course is open to everyone, it is not restricted to Erasmus and other cooperation students and therefore not subsidized. For more information see:

[http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/\(en\)/International/Sommerkurse/index.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/International/Sommerkurse/index.html)

It is possible to apply for a stipend at the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for this course. Application is usually in November for stipends to attend the summer course in the following year. For more information see: <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/>

If students would like to attend an intensive German language course at another time of year, we can recommend to check the courses offered by the Bielefeld language school 'Bibis' throughout the year. For more information see: <http://www.bibisnet.de/en/>

English taught subject courses: Please note that at Bielefeld University the main teaching language is German and there are in most subjects only very few English taught courses. However, all courses in British & American Studies, many courses in Linguistics and international track courses in Sociology, Politics, Educational Science, Informatics/Intelligent Systems are taught in English. Some of these courses may be of general interest to students of other subjects. A few courses in Psychology, Philosophy, History, Business Administration and Natural Sciences are also taught in English, mostly on an advanced level. Some Master programs are taught almost entirely in English: Behaviour - from neural mechanisms to evolution; Quantitative Economics; Inter-American Studies (offers also Spanish taught courses).

For information on course offerings see the electronic course schedule (ekVV):

https://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/kvv_publ/publ/Home.jsp

For English taught courses see:

http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/kvv_publ/publ/Englische.jsp

Students who intend to take only English taught subject courses (usually in combination with German language courses) need to have an English level of at least B1 or B2 (depending on study subject) when coming to Bielefeld. Generally recommended is level B2 of the CEFR or higher.

The electronic course schedule of each study course will be online approx. three months before classes begin, i.e. mid-June (for winter semester) and mid-January (for summer semester). For reference before these dates, please check courses of previous semesters.