

## 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 HSHL<sup>1</sup>

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 2 or DSH 3](#) (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang)
- ✓ [TestDaF](#) with at least 4 points in all sections (Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache)
- ✓ [Telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule](#)
- ✓ Deutsches Sprachdiplom Level 2 of KMK
- ✓ Feststellungsprüfung 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](http://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.

### (Free) Online Classes

- Deutsche Welle free online classes: [www.dw.com/en/learn-german/german-courses/s-2547](http://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/german-courses/s-2547)
- VHS free online classes: [deutsch.vhs-lernportal.de](http://deutsch.vhs-lernportal.de)
- BBC free online classes: [www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german)
- Rosetta Stone online classes: [www.rosettastone.de/deutsch-lernen](http://www.rosettastone.de/deutsch-lernen)
- Babbel online classes: [www.babbel.com/learn-german-online](http://www.babbel.com/learn-german-online)

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<sup>1</sup> [Einschreibungsordnung](#) / Regulations for enrollment at Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Sciences of 29 March 2011, version dated 20 June 2016 (only available in German).

## Free Language Apps

- DW Learn German
- Deutschtrainer A1 - Goethe Institut
- 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 Germany<sup>2</sup>?

- HSHL offers free German language courses at different levels for its students during the semester: [www.hshl.de/en-language-center/](http://www.hshl.de/en-language-center/)
- Adult education centers, so called “Volkshochschulen” (VHS) offer language classes for fair prices.
  - Hamm: [www.hamm.de/vhs](http://www.hamm.de/vhs) > Sprachen > Deutsch als Zweitsprache
  - Lippstadt: [vhs.stadt-lippstadt.de/](http://vhs.stadt-lippstadt.de/) > 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](http://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.
- You can also practice and improve your German language skills over a free cup of coffee by visiting the “International Café” at HSHL Campus Lippstadt on a regular basis. Dates can be found in the HSHL Calendar of Events: [www.hshl.de/en/calendar-of-events/](http://www.hshl.de/en/calendar-of-events/)
- 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 tandem search ad on the notice board in Hamm (building H1.1-E00 and in the canteen) or Lippstadt (building L2.1-E00), on social media channels and on mediation services like [www.vhs-tandem.de/en/](http://www.vhs-tandem.de/en/).

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<sup>2</sup> For further useful advice visit: [www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/first-steps-germany/improving-your-german/](http://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/first-steps-germany/improving-your-german/)