

About the ISZ Saar

Who are we and what are our missions?

The **International Study Centre Saar** (Internationales Studienzentrum Saar | ISZ Saar) is situated directly at the centre of the Saarland University campus. It has the task of ensuring that international students are able to begin their studies successfully and to support them during their studies in a variety of ways.

In order to prepare international applicants for the language and subject requirements of a degree programme, we offer extensive **preparatory German and academic skills courses**. This enables applicants from all over the world to start a degree programme in Germany - regardless of whether their home country's school-leaving certificate is equivalent to the German one or not.

The ISZ Saar is the only institution of its kind in Germany that offers **German language courses at all proficiency levels free of charge**, including courses for applicants without knowledge of German.

Furthermore, we also offer a wide range of **in-sessional German language courses** which teach skills relevant to higher education and support a successful period of study. This also includes specially designed **workshops and seminars**, individual counselling services, various offers from the **Writing Center** (Schreibzentrum) and a **tandem programme**.



Wide range of courses

Preparatory German and foundation courses

at all CEFR levels A0 to C1 to **prepare applicants for the German language examination for university entrance (DSH examination)**, supplemented by optional propaedeutic modules as compulsory electives.

International foundation programme (VSI)

with the programme options **MINT** (equivalent to 'STEM'), **Humanities and Business Science and Economics**. An intermediate examination enables the transition to the trial study programme at Saarland University.

In-sessional German language courses

during the main teaching period (Semester courses) at all CEFR levels to B2/C1 (including German courses for beginners) **and as Short Intensive courses** for international students, doctoral candidates and guest researchers. If places are available, guests/externals may also take part.

Staff courses

Online language courses specially tailored in format and content **to the needs of university employees** to learn German and further develop existing basic language skills.

Tandem programme

matches **two people with different native languages** to help each other **learn the language of the tandem partner** in a language tandem. We provide the tandem partners with helpful tips and additional materials for learning together (including Moodle access).

Workshops and individual coaching

for international Bachelor's/Master's students and doctoral candidates from all faculties at Saarland University to make it easier for them to **start their studies** and to promote their **academic success**.

Writing Center (Schreibzentrum)

provides support for academic writing through workshops and courses, writing advice and coaching, events, tips and tools or subject-specific handouts.



Contact

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International Study Centre Saar

Preparatory and in-sessional German and foundation courses, staff courses, workshops and individual coaching, language learning in tandem



**Various support programmes
for international students,
doctoral candidates and employees**

Department 1: Preparatory courses

German and foundation courses for DSH and International foundation programme (VSI)

In order to study in Germany, you need a recognised **university entrance qualification**. Depending on your country of origin, a **language certificate (DSH)** is sufficient or a supplementary course is required - in Saarland the **International foundation programme (VSI)**. You can acquire both qualifications at the ISZ Saar and thus prepare for a degree programme at the Saarland University.

To take part in our courses, you must have applied for a place in your chosen subject and for the preparatory German course by the deadline and have been accepted, or you must be studying as part of an exchange or cooperation programme.

The **cost-free** preparatory courses are available **at all CEFR levels** up to C1. A fee is charged for the DSH exam.

Courses offered

> **Preparatory German courses** at levels A0 (absolute beginners) to C1 **to prepare for the DSH** (German language examination for university entrance).

Contact hours: approximately 20 hours per week.

> To supplement the German programme: optional propaedeutic modules as **compulsory electives**.

> **International foundation programme (VSI)** with the programme options MINT (equivalent to 'STEM'), Humanities and Business Science and Economics.

Contact hours: 30 to 33 hours per week.

Further information:

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/institution/isz-saar/preparatory-courses>

Department 2: In-sessional courses

German courses during the semester, short intensive courses, staff courses and tandem learning

You are already an **international student (Bachelor, Master, Erasmus or partner programmes)** studying at Saarland University, UKS Homburg or other Saarland universities, an international **doctoral candidate, postdoc** or working as a **visiting researcher or employee** at UdS and have no prior knowledge of German or would like to improve your existing German language skills? You will certainly find suitable German courses in the wide range of courses offered by the in-sessional department.

Courses offered

> **Semester courses over the entire duration of a lecture period** at **CEFR levels A0** (absolute beginners) **to B2/C1** teach general and specialised language skills. You can apply for a wide range of beginner courses, general language courses and special skills courses (e.g. Grammar, conversation, phonetics, subject-specific language).

Scope: once or twice a week for two or three semester hours per week (1 SWS = 45 minutes), depending on the course.

Target group: exchange students (e.g. Erasmus+, partner programmes), international students from all faculties, doctoral students from UdS and UKS Homburg as well as visiting researchers and their family members.

The courses are free of charge for particular target groups.
Other participants pay fees per course admission.

As proof of achievement, a **graded certificate with ECTS points** can be acquired.



> Special four-week **Short Intensive courses** (twice a year) provide optimal preparation for the study visit to Saarland University before the start of the semester. They are **specially designed to meet the needs of exchange students**. Previous knowledge of German is mandatory (CEFR language level A2).

Scope: 80 teaching units (1 teaching unit = 45 minutes teaching time).

A placement test must be passed online before admission.

If you attend the Short Intensive course regularly and pass the final exams, you can get a **graded certificate with ECTS points**.

Programme students pay reduced **course fees**.

> **Internationally doctoral students** can improve their German language skills in special doctoral courses and practice specific everyday situations of German academic life, in addition to general language skills.

> University employees are given the opportunity to learn German from beginner level upwards in **German courses for staff in online format** or to further develop their existing basic knowledge of German in course formats specially tailored to their needs.

> Learn languages in **tandem** (not just German!)
All members of the UdS, UKS Homburg and, if places are available, externals can apply to become language tandem partners if they have CEFR level A2 in the target language.
In a language tandem, you teach others your **own native language** and learn a **foreign language of your choice** at the same time.

Further information and registration:

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/german-courses>

Department 3: International academic culture

In-sessional workshops and individual consultation / coaching

We provide support in developing **relevant cross-disciplinary and transferable skills** that will make it easier for you to start your studies, support your **academic success** and promote your successful **integration** at Saarland University.

The programme is primarily aimed at **international Bachelor's and Master's students as well as doctoral candidates** from all faculties at UdS and is **free of charge**. If places are available, students with native German language skills may also take part.

Offers in German and English

> **Academic work and writing**, e.g.:

- Writing consultations
- Academic style and grammatical structures
- Responsible use of AI
- Reading techniques / academic reading
- Note-taking and minutes

> **Communication in academic settings:**
e-Mail/chat and discussions, presentations, small talk

> **Office applications:**
Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel

> **Intercultural skills:**
Navigating cultural differences in academic and everyday contexts

The workshops are part of the "Core skills programme" at Saarland University's Teaching and Learning Centre (ZeLL).

The free **services** offered **by the Writing Center (Schreibzentrum)** and its **cooperation partners** support students, doctoral candidates and academic staff **in all aspects of academic writing**.

Further information and registration:

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/institution/isz-saar/international-academic-culture>

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/institution/zell/core-skills-programme-at-saarland-university>