

Module Guide

for

**Credit-Bearing Language
Courses**

offered by the

**Centre for Internationalisation
and Languages (CIL)**

September 2025

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About our language courses

Background

With the enactment of the Strategic Development Plan 2017, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences made a collective decision to embed foreign language courses in the curricula of its degree programmes. In the years since, numerous degree programmes have undergone reaccreditation processes and implemented this strategic decision for their students, giving many students of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences the opportunity to complete a qualifying language course and earn credits for their achievement.

Eligibility

It is important to note that students are only eligible to earn credits for a language course if their degree programme or Examination Board (*Prüfungsausschuss*) permits. Thus, students must first refer to their examination regulations, in particular the curricular overview in the annex, to discern whether they are eligible for credits. Here it will be plainly stated whether language courses are included in the programme's elective catalogue or not, and how many credits can be obtained for them (usually 5). The latest versions of examination regulations are found here:

- [Faculty of Technology and Bionics](#)
- [Faculty of Life Sciences](#)
- [Faculty of Society and Economics](#)
- [Faculty of Communication and Environment](#)

Students do not need to register for a language course in HIS, but they must register [in Moodle](#). Furthermore, students must make a binding decision as to whether they are taking the course for credits, at the latest during the final examination, and usually inform their instructor at the start of the course.

Obtaining credits in HIS

Students taking a language course for credits must complete all mandatory requirements for their course (see below for details). After the language course concludes, the Languages Department will receive all documentation from the instructor and verify that credit-seeking students have completed all mandatory requirements. A list of these students will then be sent to Examination Services, which is responsible for final verification of eligibility and entering the results into HIS.

Grading for language courses

We use the following grading scale for all language courses. A “4” or better is passing.

Percentage	Grade	Assessment
100-91	1	Very good
90-81	2	Good
80-71	3	Satisfactory
70-60	4	Sufficient
59-0	5	Fail

Please refer to your [examination regulations](#) to determine whether the grade from your language course will count towards your GPA, denoted by the signifier “P”, for *Prüfung*. If this is not the case, the course will be treated as an ungraded pass/fail, denoted by “T”, for *Testat*.

Requesting a certificate

After completing a language course, you can request a certificate at any time using our [online form](#).

Continuing your learning progression (non-credit seeking students)

It takes many language courses to reach conversational proficiency, which is why non-credit seeking students are also welcome in our courses.

Questions?

For general enquiries, please contact languages@hochschule-rhein-waal.de.

For credit-related enquiries, please contact Examination Services at pruefungsservice@hochschule-rhein-waal.de.

German as a Foreign Language (“DaF”)

Module	German A1.1 to A2.2
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	For A1.1: None For A1.2-A2.2: Students must have successfully completed the previous level at HSRW, have a language certificate less than 6 months old from another provider, or do an approved placement test in Moodle.
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 CH of classroom instruction - Approx. 100 h of: successful completion of mandatory exercises in Moodle, homework and examination preparation
Credits (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Language course, 4 CH per week
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills A1.1 – A2.1	<p>A1.1: The main objective of this module is to develop students' verbal communication skills in German as well as to impart to them effective general learning and communication strategies. Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to navigate common everyday situations using simple linguistic means of communication.</p> <p>A1.2: The main objective of this module is the continued development of students' verbal communication skills by expanding their passive and active vocabularies and solidifying their grasp on underlying grammatical structures. Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to navigate common everyday situations using simple linguistic means of communication.</p> <p>A2.1: The main objective of this module is to continue developing students' communicative skills by expanding and solidifying passive and active vocabularies and strengthening both their understanding and command of grammatical structures appropriate to this level. Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to navigate many everyday situations using limited means of communication, as well as produce and understand commonly used terms and phrases in German. Continued practice of learning strategies is also a central component of this module.</p>

Learning objectives and skills A1.1 – A2.1 (cont.)	A2.2: The main objective of this module is to continue developing students' communicative skills by expanding and solidifying passive and active vocabularies and strengthening both their understanding and command of grammatical structures appropriate to this level. Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to navigate many everyday situations using limited means of communication, as well as produce and understand commonly used terms and phrases in German. Continued practice of learning strategies is also a central component of this module.
Contents	Module contents are based on the “can-do” descriptions of the CEFR for the levels A1.1, A1.2, A2.1 and A2.2. Students' four main competency areas (listening, speaking, reading, writing) are expanded and improved through continuous practical repetition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogues and roleplaying - Phonetic exercises - Reading and discussing short texts - Composing short messages
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written examination (reading, listening, writing) - Oral examination (generally in pairs)
Grading	The grade for the module is derived from the overall final grade of the examination.
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular course attendance (min. 11 of 13 sessions, ~80%). - Complete the extended Moodle exercises for the course level before the deadline. This is an entry requirement for the exam. - Pass the final examination (min. grade of “4”)
Literature and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Studio [21] Das Deutschbuch A1, Deutschbuch A2 (Gesamtband)</i> - (Additional practice: <i>Studio [21] Intensivtraining A1, Intensivtraining A2</i>) - Moodle exercises A1.1/A1.2/A2.1/A2.2 - Reflection and Learning Portfolio forms available in Moodle

Module	German B1.1 & B1.2
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have successfully completed German A2.2 (for German B1.1) or B1.1 (for German B1.2), verified by a certificate from CIL, a certificate from an external provider less than 6 months old, or an approved placement test
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 CH of classroom instruction - Approx. 50 h obligatory language practice in Moodle - Approx. 50 h of project preparation and presentation
Credits (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Language course, 4 CH per week
Language of instruction	German
Participants (max.)	20
Learning objectives and competences	<p>B1.1: The main objective of this module is the development of applied language skills so that students can communicate and converse effectively in German in both academic and non-academic contexts. The development of effective writing skills receives more attention at the B1 level as well. Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to give short presentations on specific (intercultural) topics and field questions in German from the audience.</p> <p>B1.2: The main objective of this module is providing continuous practice opportunities for students' productive and receptive language skills, with greater focus on fostering autonomous learning skills for future utility. Upon successful completion of this module, students are able to hold presentations in German on a prepared topic and lead an in-depth discussion afterwards.</p>
Contents	Module contents are based on the „can-do“ descriptions of the CEFR for the levels B1.1 and B1.2.
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written examination with sections for reading, listening and writing (120-150 minutes) - Additional oral examination (~15 minutes)
Grading	The final grade for this module is based on the examination and graded project work (for credit-seeking students).

German B1.1 & B1.2 cont.

Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular course attendance (min. 11 of 13 sessions, ~80%) - Complete the extended Moodle exercises for the course level before the deadline. This is an entry requirement for the exam. - Pass the final examination (min. grade of “4”). <p>In addition, credit-seeking students must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully complete a graded project (min. grade “4”).
Literature and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Studio [21] Das Deutschbuch B1 (Gesamtband), Das Deutschbuch B2 (Gesamtband)</i> as well as the CDs / audio tracks from the publisher; Moodle exercises - Reflection and Learning Portfolio forms available in Moodle

Module	German for International Students: Level B1+ (Bridge B1→B2)
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Bridge course (not a qualifying elective module)
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have successfully completed German B1.2 at HSRW or an official placement test offered by HSRW with an equivalent result (see Moodle for more information).
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 h of classroom instruction - Regular homework - 1 oral presentation - Course preparation (studying, homework, exam preparation)
Credit points (ECTS)	Not applicable
Type of course	Language course, 4 h per week
Language of instruction	Deutsch
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>This course serves as a practice-oriented bridge between the general proficiency levels of B1 and B2 (CEFR). The target audience is upper-intermediate learners of German who do not (yet) fulfil the prerequisites for a B2-level course and/or require additional practice in the areas of speaking, writing and grammar. Furthermore, the course is designed to expand upon a B1-level foundation with topics and skills that are relevant for internships and professional/work contexts.</p> <p>The focus of this B1+ course is on the practical application of learners' knowledge of German, particularly for speaking and writing tasks.</p> <p>A wide range of topics are covered, including topics designed to prepare students for work in a German-speaking environment. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing CVs (<i>Lebensläufe</i>) and cover letters - Preparing for job interviews (simulated conversations) - Everyday language in the workplace (work-relevant vocabulary) - Formulating formal letters - Writing simple reports/minutes/notes - Writing formal emails in workplace contexts
Contents	Module contents are based on the "can-do statements" of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for the levels B1/B2.
Examination	Final examination (pass/fail certificate), with sections for reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing and speaking

German B1.2+ cont.

Grading	(Pass/fail) certificate
Requirements for the recognition of credit points (ECTS)	<p>This bridge course is not eligible for credits. Requirements to pass this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (11 of 13 sessions, or 84%) - Completing homework/assignments - 1 oral presentation in front of the group - <u>Passing the final examination (pass/fail certificate)</u>
Literature and materials	<p><i>Fokus Deutsch – Erfolgreich in Alltag und Beruf B1+</i> (Cornelsen); additional chapter “Beruf” from the textbook <i>Weitblick B2.1</i> (Cornelsen), additional materials provided as needed</p>

Module	German for International Students: Level B2.1
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have completed a B2 placement test or the B1+ Bridge Course offered by HSRW.
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 h of classroom instruction - Approx. 100 h consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successful completion of Moodle grammar course with self-reflection reports and a mandatory final examination in Moodle; • Three essays in German on topics from the topic areas discussed in the course; • One oral presentation (with accompanying written report) (for credit-seeking students only) • Course preparation (studying, other homework, exam preparation)
Credit points (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Language course, 4 h per week
Language of instruction	Deutsch
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>The focus areas of this course include (1.) the continued development of communication skills allowing participants, in particular, to explain complex topics in a clear and detailed manner, to present arguments and to engage with counter-arguments;</p> <p>(2.) the continued expansion and deepening of students' vocabularies and understanding of grammar, particularly with the goal of increasing confidence and accuracy in the use of both knowledge from previous language levels and more complex grammatical structures; and</p> <p>(3.) improving students' overall intercultural competence.</p>
Contents	Module contents are based on the "can-do statements" of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for the level B2.1.
Examination	Written examination (reading, listening, writing) (130 min.) with subsequent oral examination with a partner (30 min.)

German B2.1 cont.

Grading	The final grade for the course consists of the final examination, the graded essays and the presentation (note: presentation is only for credit-seeking students).
Requirements for passing this course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (11 of 13 sessions, or 84%) (all students) - Successful completion of Moodle grammar course with self-reflection reports and a mandatory final examination in Moodle (all students) - Three graded essays (all students) - Graded oral examination + written report (credit-seeking students only) - Passing the final examination (min. grade of 4 or better) (all students)
Literature and materials	<p><i>Weitblick B2.1, Deutsch als Fremdsprache, Kurs- und Übungsbuch</i> (Cornelsen Verlag)</p> <p>Additional materials: <i>Grammatik aktiv B2/C1</i> (Cornelsen), <i>Übungen zum Wortschat der deutschen Schriftsprache, Niveau A2-C1*</i> (Verlag Liebaug-Dartmann), various OER / online resources</p>

English as a Foreign Language (EFL)

Module	English Compact C1
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Minimum proficiency of B2
Workload	The workload is between 2-4 hours per week. Students work at their own pace, but there are weekly deadlines to adhere to.
Credits (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Asynchronous English course in Moodle
Language of instruction	English
Participants (max.)	30
Learning objectives and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grammar review - Vocabulary building - Improve writing skills - Improve reading skills - Improve listening skills - Become an “autonomous learner”
Contents	<p>Module contents are based on the „can-do“ descriptions of the CEFR for the levels B2-C1. This course consists of 13 lessons and assignments on various topics that are relevant for your studies/future careers, or chosen for their general importance.</p> <p>Furthermore, this course consists of 13 lessons and assignments for different topics and 3 short meetings at the beginning, middle, and end of the course (dates will be announced in the first week of the course).</p>
Examinations and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 graded essays (at least 30 of 50 points per essay) - Completion of the English Grammar Review section in Moodle - Final grammar test (approx. 20 minutes) - Final written examination
Grading	Average of all awarded grades (see above)
Completion requirements	Completion of all assigned work (pass/fail) and final examination with a minimum grade of 4.
Literature and materials	Different weekly topics and materials provided in Moodle.

Module	English Speaking Practice
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Minimum proficiency of B2
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 sessions/week (90 minutes each) for 13 weeks = 52 hours - Weekly preparation: ~26 hours - Weekly protocols: ~26 hours - Presentation preparation: ~30 hours - Final written report: ~16 hours <li style="text-align: right;">Total: 150 hours
Credits (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Synchronous language course, 4 SWS per week
Language of instruction	English
Participants (max.)	20
Learning objectives and skills	This English course focuses primarily on speaking practice, vocabulary building, improving fluency and rhetorical skills. The course is based on group discussions on contemporary topics to convey and practice grammar and vocabulary (as needed by the participants), as well as on skills for giving presentations in public.
Contents	The contents and complexity of this module were developed based on the „can-do“ descriptions of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for the level B2. Students are also encourage to suggest different weekly topics of interest (based on Speak Out).
Examinations and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocols (pass/fail) - Presentation: 70 % - Final written report: 30 %
Grading	Average of all grades awarded (protocols, presentation and final written report)
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (min. 11 of 13 sessions) - Active participation - Hand in all protocols - Presentation + final written report
Literature and materials	Provided by instructor

Module	Business English
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Minimum proficiency of B2
Workload	The workload is between 2-4 hours per week. Students work at their own pace, but there are weekly deadlines to observe.
Credits (ECTS)	5
Type of course	Asynchronous English course in Moodle
Language of instruction	English
Participants (max.)	Varies
Learning objectives and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grammar review - Vocabulary building - Improve writing, reading and listening skills - Improve autonomous learning skills
Contents	<p>This course consists of 13 lessons and assignments for different business topics (e.g. business ethics, corporate culture, intercultural communication, entrepreneurship, applications). There will also be 3 online meetings at the beginning, middle, and end of the course (dates will be announced in the first week of the course).</p> <p>Course contents are based on the „can-do“ descriptions of the CEFR for the levels B2-C1. In each lesson, you will be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - process different materials - do a few smaller (interactive) tasks - submit a written assignment of about 500-750 words. <p>Further, you should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participate in the discussion section - answer the warm-up questions, and - give feedback on your learning experiences (debriefing).
Examinations and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 graded essays (at least 30 of 50 points per essay) - Completion of the English Grammar Review section in Moodle - Final grammar test (approx. 20 minutes) - Final written examination (for credit-seeking students)

Business English cont.

Grading	Average of all grades awarded (protocols, presentation and final written report)
Completion requirements	<p>Credit-seeking students: completion of all assigned work (pass/fail) + final examination with a minimum grade of 4.</p> <p>Non-credit-seeking students: completion of all assigned work (pass/fail), no final examination.</p>

Spanish

Module	Spanish A1
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective module, additional examination (Section 31 RPO)
Offered	Every semester (from WS 22/23)
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	No prior proficiency required
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 CH of classroom instruction - Approx. 100 h for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory exercises in Moodle • Course preparation (studying, additional homework, exam preparation)
Credits (ECTS)	5 CP
Type of course	Seminar-style course with 4 CH of instruction per week
Language of instruction	Spanish and German
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>The primary aim of this course is to develop students' Spanish language skills by expanding their active and passive vocabularies and strengthening their understanding and command of grammatical structures appropriate to the A1 level (refer to the "can-do" descriptions of the CEFR). In addition, the practice and internalising of effective learning strategies is also a central goal and regular focus of this course.</p> <p>Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate some everyday situations using basic phrases and vocabulary (refer to CEFR for details).</p>
Examination	Written examination with sections for Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking
Grade composition	See grading scale above
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (at least 11 of 13 courses, ~80%) - Complete all mandatory Moodle exercises before the deadline. - Pass the final examination (grade "4" or better).
Literature and materials	<i>Universo.ele A1 (Hueber)</i> , Moodle

Module	Spanish A2
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective module, additional examination (Sec. 31 RPO)
Offered	Every semester
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have completed Spanish A1 at HSRW or a placement test administered by HSRW.
Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 CH of classroom instruction - Approx. 100 h for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory exercises in Moodle • Course preparation (studying, additional homework, exam preparation)
Credits (ECTS)	2 CP for Spanish A2.1 3 CP for Spanish A2.2 In order to earn 5 CP total, students must successfully complete a combination of a 2 CP-course and a 3 CP-course. Partial recognition is not possible.
Type of course	Seminar-style course with 4 CH of instruction per week
Language of instruction	Spanish and German
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>The primary aim of this course is to develop students' communication skills in the language by continuing to expand their A1-level active and passive vocabularies and strengthening their understanding and command of grammatical structures through the A2 level (refer to the "can-do" descriptions of the CEFR). In addition, the practice and internalising of effective learning strategies remains a central goal and regular focus of this course.</p> <p>Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate an increasing number of everyday situations with immediate relevance involving the simple and direct exchange of information (refer to CEFR for details).</p>
Examination	Written examination with sections for Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking
Grade composition	See grading scale above
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (at least 11 of 13 courses, ~80%) - Completion of the mandatory exercises in Moodle before the deadline. - Pass the final examination (grade "4" or better)
Literature and materials	Universo.ele A2 (Hueber), Moodle

Japanese

Module	Japanese A1.1 & A1.2
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective module, additional examination (§ 31 RPO)
Offered	Every semester (from SoSe 23)
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have completed the previous level (for A1.2 or higher), verified by a certificate issued by the Languages Department or an approved placement test
Workload	<p>Japanese A1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction - Approx. 30 h for additional exercises in Moodle <p>Japanese A1.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction <p>Approx. 60 h for obligatory exercises in Moodle and course preparation (including coursework, homework and exam preparation)</p>
Credits (ECTS)	<p>2 CP for Japanese A1.1</p> <p>3 CP for Japanese A1.2</p> <p>* In order to earn 5 CP total, students must successfully complete a combination of a 2 CP-course and a 3 CP-course. Partial recognition is not possible.</p>
Type of course	Language course with 2 CH of instruction per week
Language of instruction	Japanese, English, German
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>Students will memorise and practice the <i>hiragana</i> and <i>katakana</i> alphabets, while also learning fundamental lexical and grammatical knowledge.</p> <p>Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate linguistic situations at difficulties corresponding to their current proficiency level (refer to the “can-do” descriptions of the CEFR.)</p>
Examination	Written examination with sections for Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking
Grade composition	See grading scale above
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (at least 11 of 13 courses, ~80%). - Completion of the mandatory exercises in Moodle before the deadline. - Pass the final examination (grade “4” or better).
Literature and materials	Provided in class and Moodle

Module	Japanese A2.1 & A2.2
Code	See faculty module guide / examination regulations
Coordinator	CIL/Languages Department
Type of module	Elective module, additional examination (§ 31 RPO)
Offered	Every semester (WiSe 24-25)
Duration	One semester
Prerequisites	Students must have completed the previous level (A1.2 for A2.1; A2.1 for A2.2), verified by a certificate issued by the Languages Department or an approved placement test
Workload	<p>Japanese A2.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction - Approx. 30 h for additional exercises in Moodle <p>Japanese A2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction <p>Approx. 60 h for obligatory exercises in Moodle and course preparation (including coursework, homework and exam preparation)</p>
Credits (ECTS)	<p>2 CP for Japanese A2.1</p> <p>3 CP for Japanese A2.2</p> <p>* In order to earn 5 CP total, students must successfully complete a combination of a 2 CP-course and a 3 CP-course. Partial recognition is not possible.</p>
Type of course	Language course with 2 CH of instruction per week
Language of instruction	Japanese, English, German
Participants (max.)	22
Learning objectives and skills	<p>These courses build on skills and knowledge from A1. Communicative competence in everyday situations is extended. Active language use and the expansion of basic vocabulary as well as basic grammatical knowledge are still central learning objectives.</p> <p>Additional <i>kanji</i> and <i>kanji compounds</i> are practiced for writing and reading skills.</p> <p>Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate linguistic situations at difficulties corresponding to their current proficiency level (refer to the “can-do” descriptions of the CEFR.)</p>
Examination	Written examination with sections for Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking
Grade composition	See grading scale above
Completion requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular attendance (at least 11 of 13 courses, ~80%). - Completion of the mandatory exercises in Moodle before the final deadline. - Pass the final examination (grade “4” or better).
Literature and materials	Provided in class and Moodle