

Module Guide

for

Credit-Bearing Language Courses

offered by the

Centre for Internationalisation and Languages (ZIS)

July 2024

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About credit-bearing 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 allows it. Thus, the first step for students is to refer to their examination regulations, in particular the curricular overview in the annex. Here it will be plainly stated whether language courses are included in the elective catalogue or not, and how many credits can be obtained for them (usually 5). The latest versions of examination regulations can be found here:

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

In addition, students must also register for the elective module in HIS or, in some cases, obtain special permission from their faculty's Examination Board (*Prüfungsausschuss*). Please contact them for questions or more information.

Credit-bearing language courses

Only the language courses listed below are offered for credits, as they comply with specific ECTS workload requirements (1 credit = **25-30** hours of study, thus 5 CP = 150 hours). We also offer non-credit-bearing courses in other languages. The course timetables posted in Moodle will indicate whether a specific course is offered for credit.

Obtaining credits

The first step is registering for a course in Moodle during an official registration window. Our registration area is located [here](#). Please indicate to your instructor that you intend to earn credits for the course when asked.

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

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. In this case, the additional credit requirements are not mandatory, but students can choose to do them if they wish, as they will provide useful additional practice.

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.

Grading scale for language courses

| 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. If this is not the case, the course will be treated as an ungraded pass/fail.

German as a Foreign Language (“DaF”)

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| Module | German A1.1 – A2.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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.) | 20 |
| 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> |

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| <p>Learning objectives and skills A1.1 – A2.1 (cont.)</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Contents</p> | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogues and roleplaying - Phonetic exercises - Reading and discussing short texts - Composing short messages |
| <p>Examination</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written examination (reading, listening, writing) - Oral examination (generally in pairs) |
| <p>Grading</p> | <p>The grade for the module is derived from the overall final grade of the examination.</p> |
| <p>Completion requirements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular course attendance (min. 11 of 13 sessions, ~80%). - Complete all 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"> - Submit a Reflection Form to your instructor and attend at least one Learning Support appointment. - Submit a Learning Portfolio form to your instructor before the deadline. |
| <p>Literature and materials</p> | <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 |

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| Module | German B1.1 & B1.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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 ZIS, 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.

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| <p>Completion requirements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular course attendance (min. 11 of 13 sessions, ~80%) - Complete all 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”). - Submit a Reflection Form to your instructor and attend at least one Learning Support appointment afterwards. - Submit a Learning Portfolio form to your instructor before the deadline. |
| <p>Literature and materials</p> | <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 |

English as a Foreign Language (EFL)

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| Module | English Compact |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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. |

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| Module | English Conversation |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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 <p>Total: 150 hours</p> |
| 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 |

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| Module | Business English |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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.

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

Spanish

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| Module | Spanish A1.1 & Spanish A1.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/Languages Department |
| Type of module | Elective module, additional examination (Section 31 RPO) |
| Offered | Every semester (from WS 22/23) |
| Duration | One semester |
| Prerequisites | Students must have completed the previous level (for A1.2 or higher), verified by an approved placement test. |
| Workload | <p>Spanish A1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction - Approx. 30 h for additional exercises in Moodle <p>Spanish A1.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 30 CH of instruction - Approx. 60 h for obligatory exercises in Moodle and course preparation (including coursework, homework and exam preparation) |
| Credits (ECTS) | <p>2 CP for Spanish A1.1 3 CP for Spanish 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 | Spanish and German |
| Participants (max.) | 22 |
| Learning objectives and skills | The primary objective of these language modules is to develop students' foreign language communication skills by expanding their active and passive vocabularies as well as strengthening their understanding and command of grammatical structures appropriate to their current level. Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate linguistic situations of increasing difficulty and complexity appropriate for their level (refer to the "can-do" descriptions of the CEFR.) Practising and internalising effective learning strategies is also a core goal of these modules. |
| Examination | Written examination with sections for Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking |
| Grade composition | See grading scale above |

Spanish A1.1 & A1.2 cont.

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| 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 A1 (Hueber) |

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| Module | Spanish A2.1 & A2.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/Languages Department |
| Type of module | Elective module, additional examination (§ 31 RPO) |
| Offered | Every semester |
| 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 from the Languages Department, a placement test or in consultation with the Languages Department. |
| Workload | <p>Spanish A2.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 CH of instruction - Approx. 30 h for obligatory exercises in Moodle and course preparation (including coursework, homework and exam preparation) <p>Spanish A2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 CH of instruction Approx. 60 h for obligatory exercises in Moodle and course preparation (including coursework, homework and exam preparation) |
| Credits (ECTS) | <p>2 CP for Spanish A2.1 3 CP for Spanish 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 | Spanish and German |
| Participants (max.) | 22 |
| Learning objectives and skills | The primary objective of these language modules is to develop students' foreign language communication skills by expanding their active and passive vocabularies as well as strengthening their understanding and command of grammatical structures appropriate to their current level. Upon successful completion, students are able to navigate linguistic situations of increasing difficulty and complexity appropriate for their level (refer to the "can-do" descriptions of the CEFR.) Practising and internalising effective learning strategies is also a core goal of these modules. |

Spanish A2.1 & A2.2 cont.

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| 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) |

Japanese

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Module | Japanese A1.1 & A1.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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 3 CP for Japanese A1.2 * 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.</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 |

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| Module | Japanese A2.1 & A2.2 |
| Code | See faculty module guide / examination regulations |
| Coordinator | ZIS/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 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 |