FAQ - Frequently asked Questions about the German Language Skills

Who is required to submit a German language certificate?

Applicants who did not obtain their school-leaving qualification at a German-speaking institution must submit a language certificate.

When must the language certificate be submitted?

The language certificate must be uploaded as part of the application.

What if I do not have the language certificate yet?

Art and Design: If you do not have the required language certificate yet, you can request a later submission of the language certificate.

Music: You can apply with a lower-level language certificate and submit the required level at a later date (see table below).

Which language certificates are accepted for an application to the University of the Arts Bremen?

B1 or B2 certificate, depending on the chosen degree programme, from the following institutions: Goethe-Institut, telc, DSH, TestDaF, DSD or the 'German' section of the placement test at Studienkollegs.

All certificates must not be more than three years old.

The HfK specifically requires these language certificates to ensure a consistent level of language proficiency amongst first-year students and to give them the opportunity to acquire the necessary language skills whilst still in their home country. Higher-level language examinations are also recognised; however, certificates from private language schools are not.

Which language certificate must be submitted for which degree programme?

Depending on the study programme chosen, different certificates of German language proficiency are required:

Faculty Art and Design		
Study programme	**Required language certificate for study**	**Applying if you do not have a language certificate yet**
Diploma Fine Arts	B1	Submit a request for a later submission
Bachelor of Arts Integrated Design	B2	Submit a request for a later submission
Master of Arts Integrated Design	B1	Submit a request for a later submission
Bachelor of Arts Digital Media	B2	Submit a request for a later submission
Master of Arts Digital Media	English C1 (No knowledge of German required)	Possible

Faculty Music		
Study programme	**Required language certificate for study**	**To be submitted as a minimum when applying**
Bachelor and Master of Music Performance All major subjects except: ▪ Composition ▪ Electroacoustic Composition ▪ Vocal ▪ Vocal Early Music	B1	A2
Bachelor and Master of Music Performance Major subjects: ▪ Composition ▪ Electroacoustic Composition ▪ Vocal ▪ Vocal Early Music	B2	B1
Bachelor and Master of Music Music Education	B2	B1
Master of Music Arp-Schnitger-Master for Historical Church Music	B2	B1
Concert Exam Subject: all instruments	B1	No lower entry level
Concert Exam Subject: ▪ Composition ▪ Electroacoustic Composition ▪ Vocal ▪ Vocal Early Music ▪ Opera Studio Vocal	B2	No lower entry level

When must the German language certificates be submitted?
If you have not yet submitted the required language certificate as part of your application, the following deadlines apply:
Art and Design: If you are admitted for the winter semester, the certificate must be submitted by 15 July of the following year at the latest.
If you are admitted for the summer semester, the certificate must be submitted by 15 February of the following year at the latest.
Music: If you are admitted for the winter semester, the certificate must be submitted by 15 February of the following year at the latest.
If you are admitted for the summer semester, the certificate must be submitted by 15 July of the same year at the latest.
If the language certificate is not submitted by the deadline, you will be de-registered.

Where can I sit the exam or learn German?
The Goethe-Institute in Bremen offers exams and preparatory courses.
In principle, you can take the exam at any Goethe-Institute in Germany or abroad https://www.goethe.de/en/index.html, at Volkshochschule in Germany https://www.volkshochschule.de/ and at any authorised examination centre. You can obtain information about exam dates directly from the exam centre where you wish to take the language exam.

You also have the option of learning German through the Goethe-Institut's online distance learning programme: Learn German online | Goethe-Institut. The Language Centre at the University of Bremen also offers courses:https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/language-centre-of-the-universities-in-the-land-of-bremen/language-centre-szhb

What do the individual levels mean?

European Reference Framework

A „Basic User"		**B** „Independent User"				**C** „Proficient User"		
A1 „Breakthrough"	**A2** „Waystage"	**B1** „Threshold"		**B2** „Vantage"		**C1** „Effective Proficiency"		**C 2** „Mastey"
		B1.1	**B1.2**	**B2.1**	**B2.2**	**C1.1**	**C1.2**	

Short description of the individual levels
A2 elementary language use: Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions (e.g. personal details and information about the family, shopping, work, home, leisure, near vicinity) and independently use these. Can speak in and understand situations, in which the subjects of the discussion are simple and well-known issues.

B1 independent use of language: Can understand the main pointsif standard language is used and if it concerns familiar matters from work, school, leisure, etc. Can express himself or herself simply and coherently about familiar subjects and personal interests. Can report about experiences and events, describe dreams, hopes and aims and give short reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

B2 independent use of language: Can understand the main contents of complex texts concerning concrete and abstract subjects, also understands specialist discussions in own specialist field. Can talk spontaneously and fluently so that a normal discussion with native speakers is possible without too much effort on both sides. Can express himself or herself clearly and in detail on a broad range of subjects, explain an opinion about a current issue and name the benefits and disadvantages of various possibilities.