

FAQ - frequently asked questions to prove the German language skills

When must proof of German language skills be submitted?

At the start of courses in October, you need a recognized proof of German language skills, depending on the chosen course of study.

Which language certificates are required to study at the University of the Arts?

Zertifikat B 1 or TestDaF 3, depending on the chosen course of study from the following institutes: Goethe-Institute or Volkshochschule or telc

The HfK especially requires these language certificates in order to ensure a uniform language level among the new students and to give the possibility to acquire the necessary language skills in the native country already.

Higher quality language tests are also accepted, certificates from private language schools not.

Which proof of German language knowledge must be submitted for which course of study?

Depending on the course of study, different proofs of German language skills are required:

In department Art and Design:

Integrated Design Bachelor:

TestDaF 3 or B2 from Goethe-Institute or Volkshochschule or telc

Digital Media Bachelor:

TestDaF 3 or B2 from Goethe-Institute or Volkshochschule or telc

Fine Arts diploma:

Zertifikat B 1 from Goethe-Institute or Volkshochschule or telc

Integrated Design Master:

Zertifikat B 1 from Goethe-Instituts or Volkshochschule or telc

Digital Media Master (Application for first-year students or 1st semester students via the University of Bremen <https://digitalmedia-bremen.de>):

Information on the language certificate in English at:

<https://digitalmedia-bremen.de/profile/master/application-and-requirements>

In department Music:

Bachelor of Music Performance Training, Bachelor of Music Performance Training Early Music, Master of Music Performance Training, Master of Music Performance Training Early Music, Concert Exam:
Zertifikat B 1 from Goethe-Institute or Volkshochschule or telc

Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Performance, Master of Music in Music Education and Performance, Arp-Schnitger-Master for Historical Church Music:
TestDaF 3 or B2 from Goethe-Institut or Volkshochschule or telc

What other language certificates is recognized?

The following qualifications are also accepted as proof of the language test, i.e. DSH-1 test, TestDaf 4 or TestDaF 5, KDS, GDS and ZOP of the Goethe Institute, DSD II, and also `Goethe-Zertifikat B1` as equivalent for Zertifikat Deutsch and `Goethe-Institut B2` as equivalent for TestDaF 3, telc Deutsch B1 and telc Deutsch B2

When do I not have to submit a language certificate?

Applicants from German-speaking Switzerland, Austria and Luxembourg are exempt from proof of language proficiency.

How can I get rid of the proof of German language skills for the time being?

Applicants for the course of study Fine Arts, Digital Media Bachelor and Integrated Design Bachelor / Master have the possibility to apply for a waiver of the necessary proof of German language skill for the maximum of two semesters (until 30.09.). For this, a signature from the lecturer is required on this request. The responsible lecturer / lecturer confirms with his signature that the applicant has sufficient German language skills to follow all courses of the semester. This request must be sent to office of student affairs (Dezernat 1) by 15.10. At the end of the second semester the applicant has to prove the necessary language certificate, otherwise he/ she will be deregistered.

The application for exemption will be sent with the admission to study or may be requested from Dezernat 1.

Applicants of the courses of study in music have the possibility to apply for a waiver of the necessary proof of German language skill until 15 February (at the beginning of studies for winter semester) or until 15 August (at the beginning of studies for summer semester – only for transfer students / advanced specialist semester / application higher semester). This request must be sent to office of student affairs (Dezernat 1) by 15.10. For this, a signature of the major subject teacher is required

on this request. The major subject teacher is assigned by the department of Music. The responsible major subject teacher confirms with his signature that the applicant has sufficient German language skills to follow all courses of the semester. If the proof of German language skills is not provided by 15 February, he/she will be deregistered.

The application for exemption will be sent with the admission to study or may be requested from Dezernat 1.

When do you need to have German language skills?

We strongly recommend that you have a good basic level of A2 level at the time of application in order to pass the entrance exam.

You can test yourself in this respect under www.goethe.de/bremen (classification test: <http://www.goethe.de/cgi-bin/einstufungstest/einstufungstest.pl>).

You will receive a detailed test if you send an email to bremen@goethe.de.

Where can I take the exam or learn German?

The Goethe-Institute in Bremen offers examinations as well as preparatory courses.

Basically, you can take the Goethe-Zertifikat B 1 exam at all Goethe-Instituts in Germany and abroad (www.goethe.de), at the Volkshochschulen in Germany (www.vhs.de) as well as in all authorized examination centres. The examination center will give you information about the examination dates, in which you would like to take the exam. Please note that exams may only be taken after previous course assignments.

There is also the option of learning German in online distance learning at the Goethe-Institute. Information can be found at: www.goethe.de/fernunterricht.

What is the examination fee?

The fee is determined by the examining institution. Please contact the Goethe Institute www.goethe.de/bremen.

When do the exams take place?

The exam is usually offered on a uniform basis. Please contact the Goethe-Institut directly: www.goethe.de/bremen

What does Goethe-Zertifikat B 1 mean?

Goethe Zertifikat B 1 presumes as a rule approx. 350–600 lessons.

The level corresponds with the classification B1.2 = independent use of language in the table. The test is broken down into the fields of listening and reading comprehension, oral and written expression. The level B1.2 must be achieved in each subarea.

What does TestDaF mean?

TestDaF is a language test at an advanced level, TDN 5 is the highest level. The level TDN 3 corresponds with the classification B2.1–B2.2 in the table. The four skills reading comprehension, listening comprehension, written expression and oral expression are tested separately in the test. Each subarea must be completed with level TDN 3. The test can be repeated any number of times. There are now test centres in 90 countries, therefore you can already acquire the necessary German skills in your native country. Please also visit www.testdaf.de for information.

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“	C2 „Mastery“
		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 wellknown issues.

B1 independent use of language: Can understand the main points if 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.