

RWTH ONLINE WELCOME WEEKS
LEARNING LANGUAGES AT RWTH
11 SEPTEMBER 2020
QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED

The following basic questions about learning languages at Aachen are answered in the **presentation prepared by the RWTH Language Center** available on [our Latecomer page](#).

- What language courses does the Language Center offer and for which level?
- How do I take a placement test?
- How do I register for a place in a language course?
- How many do the courses cost and for how many hours a week?

Questions asked during Zoom Session:

- **How does the placement test decide what German language level will we have to take?**
You will need to take an online placement test if you want to participate in a German language course. The test is based on reading, writing and listening competences. Based on the result that will be accessible on your language center user account (TIM-ID required!), the portal will offer you courses on that level to apply for a spot.
Example: You have taken the placement test and been assessed to level A2.1. The Language Center portal will offer you to apply for a spot in A2.1 classes to reach an A2.2 level.
- **The enrollment deadline is October 30. Does the Language Center consider students for German language courses based on the date of enrollment or on a first come first serve basis?**
The Language Center has a registration period set between 16 and 25 October. If you are not fully enrolled before 16 October, you will not be able to take the online placement test, register a user account and apply for a spot in a course and therefore, you will not be able to register for a language course during the lecture period at all if you are not fully enrolled before October 16. If you are enrolled and manage to apply for a spot in a course. The Language Center system will try to provide each students with a spot in a course based on their wish list. Therefore, it does not matter when you applied for a spot in the course as long as you have done it during the registration period. Please note that the courses have limited places and there is no guarantee that you can get a spot in your course of choice.
- **Is there any scholarships for students to use the free classes of German Language course?**
No, the Language Center does not offer any Language Course scholarship. Some programs at RWTH offer a free German language course as part of the study course curriculum or exchange program. Degree students should contact their faculty advisor, exchange students should contact the Incoming Student Services to find out whether such an offer exist for them. Please note that if you have not heard of it, it probably means it is not the case for you.

Faculty Advisors: www.rwth-aachen.de/fachstudienberatung

Exchange Office: www.rwth-aachen.de/exchange-students

International Academy: <https://www.academy.rwth-aachen.de/de/>

Business School: <https://www.business-school.rwth-aachen.de/>

- **How much does the language course cost?**
The German language courses have a fee of 200€ per semester for 4 hours/week and 400€ per semester for 8 hours/week. Other language courses and courses from the writing center are free of charge.
- **Does all the different language courses give any ECTS?**
There is a possibility to get ECTS for your language course but you need to have them confirmed by your faculty advisors. Usually, the amount of ECTS corresponds to the amount of hours per week. For instance, a 4 hour course can provide 4 ECTS and so on. The points are calculated according to the German grading system and not GPA.

- Will the Language center offer online Language courses?**
Yes, the language courses and its exams will be fully online during winter term 2020/21.
- Can I take the placement test if I haven't enrolled?**
No, you cannot take the test as long as you have not received your credentials (RWTH TIM-ID and password). If you have completed enrollment but not received those credentials, you will not be able to take the placement test either. Therefore, we recommend you complete your enrollment at the latest 1,5 weeks before the placement test you would like to take.
- Is it possible to register for a certain level anytime of the semester?**
No, you can only register for the level you were assessed for during placement test and you can only register during the registration period at the Language Center.
- Can I complete one level of language per semester or only a half level?**
A language course only leads to the next level. It means that the A2.1 course will lead you to a A2.2 level and the A2.2 course will lead you to a B1.1 level. You cannot complete the full A2.1 and A2.2 level in one semester at once.
- Is there a class leading to a level above C1? (i.e. C2)**
Unfortunately, the Language Center does not offer classes leading to C2 level. Sometimes, they do offer classes leading to C1.2 level (i.e. Grammar)
- Where can one see the list of offered languages classes? Will all of them be offered this year?**
You can find the list of language classes offered at RWTH language center on their website www.sz.rwth-aachen.de. Arabic will not be offered this winter term, instead there will be a Norwegian course.
- Have the dates of the placement tests been fixed? Will there be only one test?**
There will be one test offered and the date will be fixed by the end of September.
- Are the courses taught in English?**
The German language courses are taught in German. At beginner level, English is sometimes used for better understanding. In other language classes (apart from English), the courses are taught in the foreign language and German is used as a support language for beginners.
- If I fail the final language test, will this affect my result for my degree?**
No, the language center is not linked to your faculty and therefore does not forward your results to your faculty advisors. If you fail a test, you can take it again if you need it for your course of studies.
- If one can only take two language courses per semester, can you apply to more than two in case you do not get accepted in any of the other?**
You can register for a max. of two language courses in a semester. However, you can include 12 classes in your wish list, from which the system will be able to allocate you up to two spots if available.
- Are the teachers of all language courses native speakers?**
90% of the teachers at the Language Center are native speakers. The other 10% have a degree in the language they are teaching.
- 8 hour classes are for how many weeks in a semester?**
The classes are planned for the whole lecture period (check semester dates on RWTH Website) but they usually start a little bit later than the regular courses.
- If I start with an 8 hours course and I can't manage it, can I change to a 4 hour course for the same level and language?**
Unfortunately, you cannot switch classes within a semester due to the limited amount of places in the individual course. However, there will be a mid-term exam in your language course, which you can take and which will confirm that you have done half of the course. After that, you can stop taking the class if it is too much with your studies.

- **Where can we find the class timings?**
You will find the individual class dates and timings in the wish list when applying for a sport in a language course.
- **Does the Language Center provide students' spouses with courses too?**
As you need to be an enrolled RWTH student to participate in a language course, RWTH Language Center cannot offer courses for students' spouses.
- **If you already have a document from your home university that says the German level you have, is it also compulsory to take the placement test?**
Yes it is, no matter which kind of certificate of German or other level you already have.
- **Do I need to take the placement test this semester or can I take it later if I want to register for a class in summer term?**
Since your placement tests results stay in your Language Center user account, you can either take the test this winter term and use the placement test level for summer term registration or take the test for the summer term classes directly.
- **If the course is online, will it be recorded and accessible by others?**
No. As the language courses are interactive and require a high level of participation from the students, it does not make sense to record them and upload them.
- **If I participated in online preparatory course and already have a TIM-ID, do I need a new one for the Language course registration?**
No, your TIM-ID never change. Therefore you can use the same to apply for a Language Course.
- **If I have no pre-knowledge of the language, do I need to take the placement test?**
If you have absolutely no pre-knowledge of the language, you do not need to take the placement test. If you have the slightest knowledge, you should take it.
- **Are the cost of textbooks included in the course fee?**
If teaching/learning material is required (textbook), your teacher will inform you about it and about where to get it. Please note that you have to buy them yourself. Otherwise, your teacher will inform you about where to find course material.
- **What are the durations of the German language courses?**
One course hour last 45min. For a 4 hours/week course, you will therefore have a total of three teaching hours in online class.
- **Is there any final exam by the end of the course?**
Yes and there is a mid-term exam too.
- **Can students join courses "für wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter der RWTH Aachen"?**
If the course name specifically states that it is for scientific employees of the university, students cannot register for those courses.
- **Can we register for different courses on different semesters?**
Yes, you are welcome to try out new languages during different semesters.
- **Are the placement tests conducted every semester or only in winter semesters?**
For every course registration period there are placements tests, so each semester.
- **Can you choose the language of your own country in advanced levels?**
In theory you can but it would not help you much to be in the language course for your mother tongue and it could become frustrating for the other participants.
- **How can we find a tandem partner for practicing our language skills?**
There are many groups on social media (Facebook) for tandem programs in Aachen. You can also contact the student association INCAS, which also offers a tandem program.

- **Is the information about the price and schedule of the foreign language courses online?**
This information is available on the Language Center website and will be updated very soon for winter term 2020/21.
- **How are the class hour distributed?**
For a 4 hours/week course: 2x 1,5 hours usually (1 hour = 45min)
For a 8 hours/week course: 2x 1,5 hours twice a week