

## Study Preparation German Language Course

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), München

Course Date:	March and September
Class times:	09:30 a.m. - 01:00 p.m. and 02:30 p.m. - 04:00 p.m.
Lessons:	90
Students in class:	approx. 15 students

The IUCM offers German courses for the preparation of studying for the language levels A1-C1 according to the GER (Common European Framework of Reference).

The aim of the preparation course is to prepare linguistically and culturally for studying at the LMU and for living in Munich as a student. In addition to the general language lessons, participants will be taught in vocabulary, grammatical structures and cultural particularities, which are especially relevant for studying. Improvement and consolidation of language skills in German are the focus of the interactive class. A campus orientation is part of the intensive course as well as an intercultural training.

The classes are conducted by experienced staff which is university educated and has a degree in German as a foreign language. The course ends with an internal LMU exam (not like DSH, TestDaF etc. which entitles for a study at the university.). Each student receive a certificate with ECTS credits.

### General course description and objectives

This four-week German language course is an intensive class. It is designed for foreign students in all areas of study and provides language training at all levels. The main goal of the course is to combine language training with regional and cultural studies. Thus, each course is designed to teach the language within academic, cultural and societal contexts. Students will deepen their knowledge of Germany, while simultaneously developing their language skills. One focus will be the German higher education system and student life in Germany. The course will also examine and explore social contexts relating to everyday life and culture in Munich. Depending on the language proficiency and interest of each group, further topics (esp. current topics) will be covered regarding German history, society, politics, literature, art, music, German television and movies.

The course aims to promote intercultural learning. Therefore, an intercultural training is integral part of the preparation course. Intercultural learning will not be limited to Germans and their culture, but also extend to the participants' cultures. Teachers will therefore strongly encourage communication among participants about their individual cultures.

Extracurricular activities, such as watching a recent movie in a local cinema or visiting the ballet in the Bavarian state opera, visiting the Concentration Camp in Dachau or excursions to Salzburg and the Neuschwanstein castle, will be coordinated in class beforehand and discussed in subsequent classes as follow-up to the trip.

## Prerequisites and placement test

Groups shall be assigned according to the results of an online placement test, distributed by email four weeks before the beginning of the course. All participants must complete the online placement test. This guarantees that the language teaching level within each class is tailored to the ability of the participants.

## Detailed course description

### Elementary Groups (A1, A2) - Beginners (Absolute Beginners)

This course is intended for students who have no or very limited prior knowledge of German. Participants study the foundational aspects of German grammar, develop their comprehension of low to medium difficulty texts, write short pieces of work, and practice speaking about everyday basic topics. Students will also deal with cultural issues, including topics associated with Munich and its region.

Material used: Course materials are especially compiled for the courses.  
Recommended materials are:

#### Textbooks

Dallapiazza, Rosa-Maria et al. (2007) *Tangram aktuell*. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. Ismaningen: Hueber.

Buscha, Anne & Szita, Szilvia (2007-2008) *Begegnungen*. Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. Leipzig: Schubert Verlag.

#### Grammar book

Buscha, Anne & Szita, Szilvia (2010) *A Grammatik*. Übungsgrammatik Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Sprachniveau A1 • A2. Leipzig: Schubert Verlag.

Further grammar books may be specified in the course.

#### Supplemental materials

Current audio and film material, some authentic material (literary texts extracts, articles from newspapers and magazines), and material specifically developed for the course.

Tutorial classes: Conversation: role playing of everyday situations, reports, oral language games, pronunciation exercises.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance  
Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. contact hours) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 contact hours, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

**Active participation** will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers, asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

#### Grammar / vocabulary / phrase quizzes

**Grammar / vocabulary / phrase quizzes** are small **announced tests** on learned grammar, vocabulary, and phrases pertaining to certain situations. Quizzes will be evaluated based on raw scores; totals will be converted to a percentage and then used in calculation of the final grade.

#### Two short oral presentation

The **oral presentations** are short individual presentations on a given topic. Length of each presentation will be 3 minutes, and will be held during the tutorial classes.

#### Passing the final exam

Participants will write a **final exam** based on course themes. The test will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

Evaluation: Active participation in class 20%  
Grammar / vocabulary / phrase quizzes 15%  
Two short oral presentation (tutorial classes) 30% (15% each)  
Final exam 35%

### **Intermediate (B1, B2)**

Participants should already have a solid understanding of the grammar topics taught in the beginner course. Teaching is based on: refreshing and expanding participants' current knowledge of German grammar, developing their comprehension of literary texts and articles from newspapers and magazines, and encouraging participants to develop their written and conversational skills on topical subjects.

Material used: Course materials are especially compiled for the courses.  
Recommended materials are:

#### Grammar book

Hering, Axel et al. (2009) *Übungsgrammatik für die Mittelstufe*.  
Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Ismaning: Hueber.

Further grammar books may be specified in the course.

#### Supplemental materials

Primarily authentic materials consisting of current media such as literary texts extracts, newspaper and magazine articles, and audio and film material.

Tutorial classes: Conversation: presentations, discussions, Role-playing, oral language games, pronunciation exercises.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance  
Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. contact hours) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 contact hours, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

Active participation will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative

to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers, asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

#### Presentation of a study relevant topic

The oral presentations are short group presentations on a study relevant topic. Length of each presentation will be **10 minutes**, and will be held during the tutorial classes.

#### Passing the final exam

Participants will write a final exam based on course themes. The test will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

Evaluation: Active participation in class 30%  
Oral presentation (tutorial classes) 30%  
Final exam 40%

### **Advanced (C1)**

The advanced level is suitable only for participants who are already fluent in German. Participants develop their capacity to analyze and discuss texts covering different aspects of German literature, culture, and society. Teaching at this level is weighted more on improvement of style and idiom use, and less on grammar skills. Grammatical structures will be covered according to the needs of the course members. We will also concentrate on language as specifically pertaining to academic study.

Material used: Various types of current texts such as literature, newspaper and magazine articles, academic articles, technical reports relating to specific fields (architecture and others), and audio / film materials.

Tutorial classes: Conversation skills in presentations and discussions, pronunciation exercises.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance  
Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. contact hours) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 contact hours, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

Active participation will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers, asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

#### Presentation of a study relevant topic

The oral presentations are short group presentations on a study relevant topic. Length of each presentation will be **10 minutes**, and will be held during the tutorial classes.

#### Passing the final exam

Participants will write a final exam based on course themes. The test will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

Evaluation:

Active participation in class 30%  
Oral presentation (tutorial classes) 30%  
Final exam 40%

## Grade / Credits / Transcripts

### Contact hour requirements\*:

90 contact hours (morning classes and compulsory excursions)

**Credits:** 6 ECTS

### General Course requirements:

- regular attendance (maximum failure time: 12 contact hours)
- doing homework
- active participation in class
- presentation of a study relevant topic ("Referat")
- preparation of a briefing paper for the audience ("Handout")
- admission to & passing the written exam at the end of the course

Those who do not pass the exam and/or are absent up to 20 contact hours may still obtain a certificate of completion without ECTS points and without grade.

**Transcripts:** Every student will receive an official transcript after successful completion of all program requirements. The transcript will show the course name and contact hours, the number of acquired credits as well as grade achieved.

**Credit transfer:** Most international colleges and universities accept credits from the LMU, however each institution has its own policy regarding credit acceptance from other institutions. We strongly recommend that students consult their academic advisor and / or professor in order to receive credit transfer approval before applying to the Study Preparation German Language Course. Students who would like to transfer credits to their home universities should print out all documentation to present to either their professor or study abroad advisor when asking for credit and grade approval.

**Grading scale:** The grading scale of the Study Preparation German Language Course is based on LMU general grading system.

LMU Grade	ECTS Grade
1.0	A
1.3	A
1.7	B
2.0	B
2.3	B
2.7	C
3.0	C
3.3	D
3.7	E
4.0	E
NA	F
NA	F

\* One contact hour comprises 45 minutes.

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