

FAQ's - German language courses at HafenCity University Hamburg (HCU)

When do the German language courses take place?

14-day intensive German courses usually take place in March and September of each year, semester-long courses during the summer and winter semesters. Each course consists of 45 teaching units. The intensive courses are currently held as online courses via Zoom.

You can find all information on the current course offers at:

<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/internationales/sprachkurse>

Who can take part in the German language courses?

All students of HafenCity Universität Hamburg (HCU), the Hochschule für Musik und Theater (HfMT) and the Hochschule für bildende Künste (HfBK), including guest students / ERASMUS students from these universities, can take part in the language courses.

Students from other Hamburg universities can participate on request, if there are still places available.

Where can I register for a language course?

Registration is possible via the platform of the Hamburg Adult Education Centre:

https://sbsites.de/unikurse.sprachkurse-hochschule.de/form/veranstalter4_HCU.php

The current registration deadline can be found on the HCU website under "Course Offerings" "Registration", see <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/internationales/sprachkurse>.

What documents do I need for registration?

You will need the following documents for registration:

- Certificate of enrolment
- Proof of previous language knowledge: As proof you can submit, for example, the certificate of a previous course (not older than 12 months).
- If you do not have a certificate from a previous course, you can submit the result of a free grading test (screenshot, scan), for example the online grading test from Cornelsen.

How do I pay the course fee?

Please pay the amount at the beginning of the course by bank transfer to the following account of the Hamburger Volkshochschule, stating the course number and your full name:

Name: Hamburger Volkshochschule
Bank: Hamburger Sparkasse
IBAN: DE34 2005 0550 1280 1678 81
BIC: HASPDEHHXXX

Three days after the start of the course you will receive an invoice by e-mail.

Please note: Unfortunately, a debit from a bank account with a foreign IBAN is not possible. Also a European IBAN (Italy, France....) is unfortunately not possible. The IBAN must start with "DE"!

Is cash payment also possible?

Yes, you can also pay the course fee in cash. Please make an appointment by e-mail to:

k.wittke@vhs-hamburg.de.

The address is: Bildungskontor VHS Hamburg, 6th floor, Mönckebergstr. 17, 20095 Hamburg.

Can I also pay the course fee directly at the HCU?

No! Payment for language courses (German) is made exclusively via the Bildungskontor of the Hamburger Volkshochschule (see above: How do I pay the course fee?).

When do I need a grading certificate?

Beginners' courses without prior knowledge of A1 or A1.1 do not require a grading certificate. If you have successfully completed a German course within the last twelve months and register for the follow-up course, please upload the relevant certificate of achievement on the registration platform of the Volkshochschule Hamburg. Skipping a level is possible if you have previously completed the course with a grade 1 or if the lecturer supports this.

I do not have a current grading certificate - how can I register for the right level?

Please take one of the free grading tests listed below and upload the result (screenshot, scan) on the registration platform.

German level A1.2 and A1.2

https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/einstufungstest/EINSTUFUNGSTEST_DAF_A1_DT_48755/index.html

(The site <https://www.cornelsen.de/empfehlungen/sprachtest/deutsch-als-fremdsprache> also has the English and Turkish versions).

German A2:

https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/einstufungstest/EINSTUFUNGSTEST_DAF_A2_DT_86428/index.html

(On the homepage you will also find the English and Turkish version)

German B1:

https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/einstufungstest/EINSTUFUNGSTEST_DAF_B1_87505/index.html

German B2:

https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/einstufungstest/Deutsch_als_Fremdsprache-Niveau_B2_Einstufungstest/index.html

German C1:

https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/einstufungstest/Deutsch_als_Fremdsprache-Niveau_C1_Einstufungstest/index.html

Please go to one of the websites mentioned and do the online placement at the target level. At the end, you will receive a result that serves as proof of your placement.

I study at the HfBK or the HfMT - can I apply for the German course at HCU?

Yes, but please note that the language courses are primarily offered to students of HafenCity University. Nevertheless, we welcome applications from students of other universities. Fill in the application form; if you have been offered a place, you will receive an invitation by e-mail one week before the course starts.

I have not received a course invitation?

The invitations for the language courses are sent out via e-mail by the Hamburger Volkshochschule approximately one week before the course starts. If you have not received an invitation, please also check your spam folder.

Please note: The Adult Education Centre does not send out course invitations before the end of the official registration period!

I have not received any information about Sprachcommsy from the course management up to 24 hours before the course starts.

Check your spam filter or the inbox in your spam folder.

If you do not find a course invitation there either, please contact Ms Kerstin Wittke at the Bildungskontor of the Hamburger Volkshochschule, e-mail: k.wittke@vhs-hamburg.de.

What is Sprachcommsy?

Sprachcommsy is a virtual learning platform, an e-learning system.

You will receive more information about Sprachcommsy directly from your course instructor at the beginning of your course.

Do I get a certificate after the course?

Upon successful completion of the language course, you will receive a certificate of achievement (PDF) from the Hamburger Volkshochschule.

You will receive the certificate of achievement if you have been present for at least 80% of the course duration, have completed additional coursework (e.g. homework) and have successfully passed the finale exam.

How many ECTS credits will I receive for this language course?

The number of credit points (3 ECTS/4 ECTS) varies depending on the course type. For all questions on the subject of "recognition of academic achievement", please contact the examination office at Hafencity University or your home university.

The Hamburger Volkshochschule, as a cooperation partner, cannot give you any information on this.

Why have I not received a certificate of achievement, or there is an error on the certificate of achievement? Who should I contact?

Please address your question directly to Ms Kerstin Wittke at the Bildungskontor of the Hamburger Volkshochschule, e-mail: k.wittke@vhs-hamburg.de.

You can also find all information about the language courses on the website of the HCU Hamburg:
<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/internationales/sprachkurse>