German Language Diploma and preparation Course:

Do you want to test your German skills? And set this down for posterity in your curriculum vitae or résumé? Or perhaps include an internationally recognised language diploma in your application? Then the German Language Diploma (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom – ÖSD) is just the right thing for you! In the preparation course you will study different types of questions that will come up in the examination and you will be prepared yourself for the examination using sample tests.

German Intensive Course (February / September)

You want to study as an exchange student at FH JOANNEUM during the summer or winter term but don't speak a word of German? Or perhaps you want to stay a second semester at FH JOANNEUM and perfect your German? Well, we have exactly the right thing for you! The German Intensive Course is one of our Orientation packages for incoming or international students, which prepare you best for your stay and your studies at FH JOANNEUM. The package includes the German Intensive course AND the Orientation Programme (OP), where all the administrative matters will be settled. During the OP we will also show you the city of Graz and the region of Styria.

Tandem Programme

In 2006 we launched the Tandem Programme as part of its activities in the area of "German as a Foreign Language". The aim of the project was and still is to put international students in contact with Austrian students, since experience had already shown that only in very few cases does physical proximity necessarily mean there will be any actual intercultural interaction. Although many Austrian students at FH JOANNEUM were aware of exchange students attending their university, only very few of them made the first step in getting (culturally) closer. Just dealing with everyday life as a student at university is often time-consuming enough as it is. The Tandem Programme aims to change this. Get our Tandem-Programme folder for more information!

ABOUT US ...

The INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS department advises the management team, the rector and heads of degree programmes on strategic aspects of internationalisation, and also acts as a central service point for around 220 outgoing students and 130 ERASMUS interns every year.

We also manage over 230 partnership agreements with universities all over the world and provide assistance to over 230 incoming students a year. We offer a comprehensive range of training courses in German as a Foreign Language for exchange and international students as well as for academic staff and organise events promoting the social integration of students. We are the main point of contact for our international partner universities and potential partners.

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GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Master the language, before it masters you!

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About German as a foreign language at FH JOANNEUM



The German course offer, which has been available for all degree programmes since 2005, guaranteed already over 2.200 exchange students, international students and staff free participation in one or more courses at our campuses in Graz, Kapfenberg and Bad Gleichenberg. Apart from the courses themselves, we also organize the tandem-programme to give you a cultural insight into your host country (separate folder available). You can also take ÖSD (German Language Diploma) examinations to test your German skills and to set this down for posterity in your curriculum vitae or résumé.

"The German language ought to be gently and reverently set aside among the dead languages, for only the dead have time to learn it." Mark Twain's opinion of the German language, while provocative, ironic and amusing, doesn't accord with linguistic reality at all. German may not be the easiest language in the world, but it is certainly not the most difficult. Take our neighbours for example, in Slovenia they have six cases and two different plural forms, and Hungarian generally counts as one of the most complex and challenging of all languages for learners. So, everyone can learn German and have fun doing so! A language opens the door to another culture, especially when you live in Austria and are discovering so many new things.

Why learn German, when everyone speaks English?

Admittedly, that is a good question, but one to which there is a clear answer: If I don't, I am only getting to see the façade of a country. To understand and master the language of a country means to learn and understand something of the culture, the mentality and perhaps also the peculiarities of its people. If this doesn't interest you then, of course, English is sufficient. The decision lies with each individual – whether they see life in a country as a visit to a supermarket in which they serve themselves without having to speak much, or whether they wish to discover something of the real life which is hidden behind the façade.

Experience language and culture



With an increasing knowledge of German, you will find many new opportunities to experience and discover Austria. Cinema, theatre, reading newspapers, meeting new people, travelling and much more – all will become adventures and will make your stay in Austria an unforgettable experience. And perhaps you will return to your native country with the feeling that you haven't been "abroad" over the past months, because the country, its language and culture have all become a part of you.

German as a Foreign Language at FH JOANNEUM stands for...

- ... courses with a focus on communication, integrated into a well-balanced course system: basic courses (focus on grammar), skill courses (training in reading and writing, listening comprehension, speaking), extra courses (culture and civilisation, ÖSD examination training)
- ... a placement test, specially developed in line with the curriculum
- ... intensive preparation for the Austrian ÖSD language diploma at no extra charge
- ... action-oriented grammar learning, adjusted to all knowledge levels
- ... hands-on learning, integrating topical issues relevant to study (e.g. CV and application writing etc.)
- ... small learning groups
- ... individual support and help
- ... motivated and qualified lecturers experienced in university level teaching
- ... effective up-to-date teaching material that is tailored to the special requirements of university level language learners
- ... an open and culturally varied environment (with people from some 35 different countries)
- ... an intercultural focus: courses on culture and civilisation, tandem programme, buddy programme and excursions to Vienna and Salzburg ensure valuable and stimulating exchanges between international and Austrian students.

Tailor-made courses for all students. An overview ...



Many different German courses will be offered every year depending of the location. We hope that they will familiarise you a little more with the German language and Austrian culture.

Overview about the German courses at FH JOANNEUM:

- I. Basic courses: Weekly basic courses focus on your grammar competences and the structure of the German language. They should be combined with courses "Reading and Writing" and "Listening and Speaking" of the same level in order to train all four competences. The beginner courses "Grundstufe 1 (A1/1)" and "Grundstufe 2 (A1/2)" integrate the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing and emphasize oral communication and listening comprehension in a culturally authentic context.
- **II. Reading and writing competences:** Weekly courses focus on reading and writing competences with authentic texts in order to enlarge your vocabulary and your reading and writing capacities. Three levels are offered: A2, B1-B2and C1.
- **III. Listening and speaking competences":** Weekly courses focus on listening and oral competences with authentic audio and video materials in order to enlarge listening and speaking capacities. Three levels are offered: A2, B1-B2 and C1.
- IV. Special Courses: Culture and People: The aim of this course is to bring Austria closer to you in all its multiplicity. The course will familiarise you with the Austrian political, social and cultural structure. In a project you will explore the intercultural differences between Austria and your home country. This course is available in English and German.

German Language Film: This course aims to familiarise you with German language films and focuses on topics related to the recent past or social phenomena in Germany, Austria and throughout the world. **Business German:** This course is designed to improve your business language skills using authentic material. You will also enhance your business vocabulary at B2-C1 level. We recommend this course for students who are interested in or deal with various business topics in their studies and have achieved a proficiency level of at least B2.