



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Preparatory course



Foundation Programme

Saarland University • Saarbrücken



Overview

Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">German
Date(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 March - 11 July 2025 (Registration deadline of course provider: 15 January 2025)15 September 2025 - 13 February 2026 (Registration deadline of course provider: 15 July 2025)
Mode of study	Less than 50% online
Phase(s) of attendance in Germany (applies to the entire programme)	Yes, compulsory
Pace of course	Instructor-led (Specific due dates for lectures/assignments/exams)
Additional information on dates and mode of study	At the beginning of each semester, we allow a certain period of time for late arrivals after registration at Saarland University has been completed. During this time, our lessons are available online. Nevertheless, it is highly recommended to be present right from the start.
Description/content	<p>The programme starts with a placement test in German that can be taken online or in person.</p> <p>If you demonstrate a level of B2 CEFR during the test, you can start off directly with the preparatory semester that combines language training (DSH-level) with focus courses related to the field of study that you are pursuing. Otherwise, you will have the opportunity to participate in a language course leading up to B2 and start the preparatory semester afterwards. It doesn't matter if your language skills are zero or low at the beginning, as we offer courses on all levels!</p> <p>The preparatory semester ends with tests in German and the focus courses. Other tasks that are deemed equivalent to taking a test (presentation, text writing, etc.) will be assigned in some of the focus courses. The successful candidates start the second part of the preparation course directly at the Faculty of Science, Humanities or Economy.</p> <p>In this second phase, you may already collect credit points for your studies. In this way, you can slowly progress from the preparatory phase into the "real" study phase and complete your Bachelor's degree.</p> <p>When applying for our programme, you will have to choose one of the following clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">VSI-STEM – see https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/vsi-mint.html; it leads directly to the Bachelor's Plus MINT programme with a large variety of options (cf. https://www.mintplus.saarland/). Please see the presentation on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM-g0XSaCwo.

- **VSI-Business Science and Economics** – see <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/vsi-economics.html>; it leads to studies of Business Administration, Digital Business Administration or Business Informatics (cf. <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/department/economics/study/bachelor.html>)
- **VSI-Humanities** – see <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/vsi-humanities.html>; it leads to studies in different fields (cf. <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/fakultaet/p/fachrichtungen.html>)

More precisely, you will complete your preparatory course as an initiation into different fields that you are interested in and then decide in which area you want to pursue your Bachelor's degree.

The extended entrance phase at the beginning of your studies takes your personal strengths and weaknesses into account, gives you a broader introduction into different fields of studies and provides important support and advice for your studies as well as career opportunities and trainings to fill existing knowledge gaps.

The programme was especially designed by the ISZ Saar and the faculties to foster efficient and successful studies at Saarland University.

Course Details

Course components

- Subject-specific preparation
- Preparation for academic working methods
- Preparation for entrance examinations
- Language course

Further information on the language course / language courses

Language courses are available on all levels of the CEFR from A0 to C1. The preparation course starts on a B2 level that has to be proven in our placement test. As we focus on academic language, written skills are of high importance! The final examination in German is similar to the DSH test and requires a C1 level for successful completion.

Recognised language exams offered (e.g. DSH, TestDaF, TOEFL)

Yes

Average number of hours per week

25

Do course participants have student status?

Yes

Does this course involve taking the university entrance examination or does the course specifically prepare students for this examination?

Yes

Preparation for degree programmes

- Bachelor's degree

Preparation for subject groups

- Engineering
- Mathematics, Natural Sciences
- Languages and Cultural Studies
- Law, Economics and Social Sciences

Further information on subsequent admission to degree programmes/guaranteed admission

This programme is specially designed for prospective students who need a German university preparatory programme ("Studienkolleg").

Participants will have direct access to Bachelor's degree studies in related fields after finishing the Foundation Programme at Saarland University. Once you are enrolled in our programme, there is no need to submit further applications.

Average number of participants per group/course

20

Costs / Requirements / Registration

Costs

As in all universities, you have to pay a semester fee (about 300 EUR) upon enrolment. In Saarland, this fee includes free public transportation in the region, an administrative charge of 50 EUR, and budget meals in the students' canteen. There are no extra tuition fees charged for your International Foundation Programme at Saarland University!

This price includes

- Course fees for language course
- Course fees

Academic admission requirements

You should hold a national school leaving certificate that enables you to start university studies in your home country (not necessarily equivalent to a German "Abitur"). The admission requirements are thus equivalent to Studienkolleg access (<https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>).

Language requirements

None – we offer German courses at all levels (A0-C1). The part of the programme that combines German with relevant focus courses starts at a B2 language level. This language level can be acquired at our institute (no course fees).

Do applicants require a higher education entrance qualification recognised in Germany?

No

Do applicants have to have already been admitted to a study programme at your university?

No

Submit application to

www.uni-assist.de

Please note that all applications have to be addressed to uni-assist. From there, you will get the specific online address for the application!

We recommend contacting uni-assist in good time before the application deadline and obtain their statement about the recognition of your school-leaving certificate. Then you can upload your application directly on our servers as indicated by uni-assist.

Services

Is accommodation organised?

The organiser helps participants look for accommodation.

Accommodation

For information, please see: <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center/accommodation.html>

Meals

You have access to quality food for reduced prices in the students' canteen (Mensa) – students pay about 3 EUR for a full dinner with soup, salad, main dish, and dessert. Provisions for vegetarians and people with allergies will be made.

Is a social and leisure programme offered?

Yes

Description of social and leisure programme

The International Office offers a varied social and leisure time programme that is open for all students of the preparatory study programme. There is also a range of sports activities available on the campus.

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center/intercultural-life.html>

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/institution/sports.html>

Free internet access

Yes

Support in visa matters

Yes

Pick-up service from train station/airport

No

Saarland University



Get prepared for your studies!

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Saarland University has more than 50 years' experience in preparation of international students with and without direct university access for studies. This new programme combines this experience with a more flexible access to your studies.

The university is home to several top research centres that directly influence the departments and give this medium-sized university a wide reputation as a strong, research-driven place.

The new International Foundation Programme aims to give more international students the opportunity to integrate into these fields of study and to support them in the very beginning of their academic careers.



University location

The state capital of Saarbrücken is the regional centre of the Saarland and is situated at the heart of the Saar-Lor-Lux region. The city has approximately 180,000 inhabitants and is strongly influenced by its proximity to France and the chequered history of a French-German border town. The university, trade fair, and conference city is set amidst vast forests. It enchants visitors with its French charm, which is reflected in the narrow alleys at the foot of the castle and in the pedestrian precinct of the St. Johanner market square.

Saarbrücken has a lot to offer tourists and businesspeople alike: the French flair, the picturesque old part of the city, an extraordinary cultural life, and much, much more...

<http://www.saarbruecken.de/en>

Contact

Saarland University

Internationales Studienzentrum Saar (ISZ Saar)

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/vsi-mint.html>

📘 <http://www.facebook.com/Saarland.University>

🐦 https://twitter.com/Saar_Uni

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/saarland-university>

📷 https://www.instagram.com/uni_saarland/

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/user/SaarlandUni>

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International Programmes in Germany - Database

www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

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GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing
www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer

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