

Language policy at the University of Bonn

§ 1 PREAMBLE

In line with its self-image as an internationally oriented research university, the University of Bonn considers institutional and individual multilingualism as well as cultural diversity to be valuable resources. This results in a university language policy that takes multilingualism as its starting point and defines it as a central, desirable goal to an equal extent within research, teaching, and administration.

§ 2 LANGUAGE POLICY PRINCIPLE

For an internationally well networked research university – with a large number of international students and researchers as well as international degree programs, doctoral programs, and research collaborations – it is essential to communicate in the current lingua franca, English. This goal must be balanced with an equal demand for the promotion and protection of cultural and linguistic diversity, which is to be valued, supported and used as a resource for global education. In this context, it is also important to further promote German as a language of science and teaching, especially as the mastery of the German language at level DSH 2 is a prerequisite of enrollment for students aiming to complete German-language courses of study. In any case, German is indispensable as the language of everyday communication at the University of Bonn.



§ 3 INDIVIDUAL LANGUAGE SKILLS

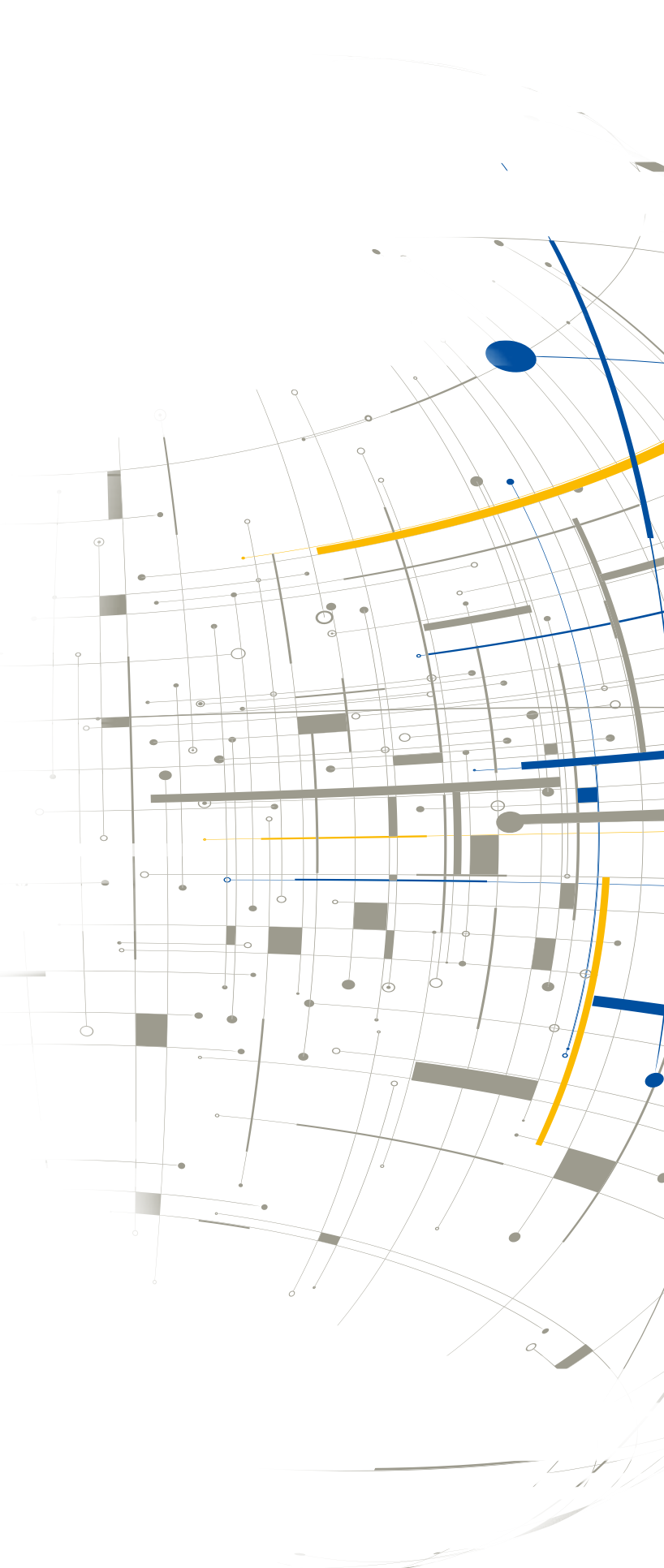
For all students, but especially for all academics at the University of Bonn, the aim of the aforementioned language policy is for them to be able to teach, communicate and publish at a high linguistic level in German and English and, if possible, in other languages. Communication and foreign language skills are key competences inside and outside the academic world; they facilitate international mobility, promote international exchange programs, pave the way for international career paths, and lead to better employment opportunities overall.

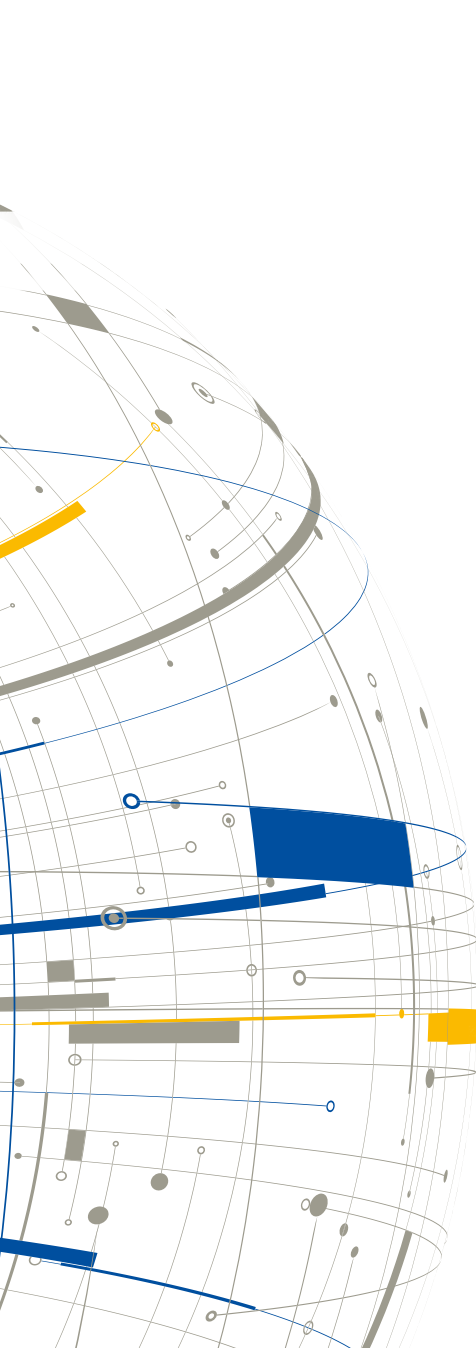
In order to promote the communicative, intercultural and multilingual skills of researchers, lecturers, students, and administrative staff, the University provides target group-specific qualification and support services in the field of foreign language training and further education. The University also provides its members with access to digital language learning services and makes it possible to sit recognized language tests.

The participation of foreign students and researchers in academic and non-academic life depends largely on sufficient competence in the German language, the active promotion of which the University sees as its own important task. Corresponding services and an open cosmopolitan, multilingual working and living environment contribute to promoting the international recruitment of excellent young researchers and their successful integration.

§ 4 INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF

With internationalization at home in mind, multilingualism increases the welcoming culture on site and facilitates the integration of international researchers and students into everyday campus life. With this aim, the administrative employees should be supported in providing an increasing number of oral and written services in English for international researchers and students. In the interests of institutional multilingualism at the University that goes beyond English, employees with knowledge of other foreign languages are also encouraged to use them in their daily work.





§ 5 MULTILINGUALISM IN TEACHING

The internationalization of teaching is a central goal at the University of Bonn. The teaching in undergraduate courses of study is usually in German, but should be supplemented by units in other languages in elective subjects (mainly in English, but also in other languages relevant to the subject). In the main language of instruction, the existence of a language level of at least C1 (according to the Common Framework of Reference for Language) serves as a quality assurance tool.

Master's programs can be offered completely in English. These measures enable guest and exchange students to actively participate without fundamental language barriers. Students in English-language Master's programs are encouraged to acquire German language skills at least at the level of everyday language competence.

§ 6 PUBLIC IMAGE

The public image of the University of Bonn should include a fully bilingual website (German/English) and – where appropriate – information, press releases, etc., also in German and English. It also includes signs in German and English in all central buildings and areas of the University (functional representation of multilingualism).



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