

Overview of Language Certificates

Here we have listed some of the most common language tests for various languages, which often form part of the admission requirements when applying to study abroad. We would expressly like to point out that, with the exception of the DAAD language certificate, the language tests listed below cannot be taken at the University of Bonn but must be sat at the test centers indicated in each case. Furthermore, only the respective foreign university can decide what language test to accept.

To find out what language certificates are required by our partner universities in the Erasmus Programme and the Global Exchange Program, please see the specific information for each university in the search portal. Please also note the requirements of the individual programs with regard to the validity and age of the certificate.

- **DAAD language certificates for English, Spanish and French**

The so-called DAAD language certificate is required for all DAAD scholarship programs as well as for certain exchange schemes. It is a standardized form of proof of a person's level in a foreign language and is often provided to the departments at the relevant university directly. Instead of a test, the DAAD language certificate is a grading scheme that covers four areas of competence: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

You can obtain the DAAD language certificate for English at the University of Bonn's Department of English Studies. Please email office.anglistik@uni-bonn.de to arrange an appointment.

Romance Studies students can obtain the DAAD language certificate for French and Spanish from the Department of Romance Studies; all other students should contact either the Institut Français (for a French language certificate) or the departments at nearby universities that accept external students for the DAAD language certificate.

<https://www.fif.uni-bonn.de/pruefungen/daad-test>

- **English: TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language**

This is a standardized test that assesses a person's knowledge of English and serves as an admission requirement at universities in English-speaking countries in particular, most notably the U.S. TOEFL tests reading, listening, speaking and written expression and costs around \$240. It can be taken at many test centers across Germany. Candidates should register at least four weeks before their intended test date. Anyone based in Germany will do this via the website of the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which organizes the tests. Test certificates are valid for two years.

[https://www.etsglobal.org/fr/en/session/search/north-rhine-westphalia/cologne?testTypeIds\[\]=100291&testTypeIds\[\]=100624&date=2020-19&showMap=false](https://www.etsglobal.org/fr/en/session/search/north-rhine-westphalia/cologne?testTypeIds[]=100291&testTypeIds[]=100624&date=2020-19&showMap=false)

- **English: IELTS – International English Language Testing System**

This English language test is recognized around the world and enjoys a particularly high level of acceptance in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand. Whilst TOEFL is focused on American English, IELTS covers both British and American English. The test is divided into four areas: Listening, Academic Reading, Academic Writing and Speaking. Costing around €200-210, the test is valid for two years and can be taken at various test centers across Germany. Candidates will need to register via the web page of the British Council, which hosts the tests in Germany.

<https://www.britishcouncil.de/en/exam/ielts/dates-fees-locations>

- **English: CPE – Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English**

Awarded by the University of Cambridge, this English language certificate is recognized at many universities worldwide as an admission requirement for degree programs taught in English. The test is the most advanced of the Cambridge language certificates and likewise gauges a candidate's listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Unlike some other English language certificates, the CPE is valid for life. But please note the requirements of the individual programs with regard to the validity and age of the certificate.

The test can be taken at numerous sites in Germany and costs roughly €150 - 200. Candidates can register with their chosen test center directly.

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org>

- **French: DELF – diplôme d'études en langue française**

This French language test spans levels A1 to B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It covers the areas of linguistic competence, listening, reading and written expression and will never expire. Passing the examination grants direct access to French universities. In Bonn, the test is held at the Institut Français. <https://www.fif.uni-bonn.de/pruefungen/delf-dalf>

- **French: DALF – diplôme approfondi de langue française**

This French language test spans levels C1 and C2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It covers the areas of linguistic competence, listening, reading and written expression and will never expire. Passing the examination grants direct access to French universities. In Bonn, the test is held at the Institut Français. <https://www.fif.uni-bonn.de/pruefungen/delf-dalf>

- **French: ev@lang / France Education International**

Since December 2023, the Institut français Bonn has been a partner of ev@lang / France Education International and offers you a modern, fast and meaningful language test in French. Ev@lang is an accurate, adaptive online test. This means that the level of difficulty of the questions is automatically adapted to the candidate's level of ability depending on the answers given.

<https://www.fif.unibonn.de/evalang>

- **Spanish: DELE – Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera**

This official language certificate is awarded by the Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. Accepted in all Spanish-speaking countries, it spans levels A1-C2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and tests candidates' reading, listening, written communication and speaking skills. The DELE test is valid for life and costs between €100 and €200 depending on level.

<https://www.dele.org>

- **Chinese: HSK – Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (Chinese Proficiency Test)**

This standardized language test for Chinese as a foreign language is recognized

by the Chinese government. It comes in six different levels and can be taken at various test centers across Germany. Reading and listening as well as writing skills will be assessed depending on the candidate's level. The test is valid for two years and costs between €35 and €85 depending on the chosen level. We recommend planning well ahead as the test is only held a few days a year. The nearest test center is the Confucius Institute in Düsseldorf:
<https://www.konfuzius-duesseldorf.de/>.

- **Japanese: JLPT – Japanese Language Proficiency Test**

This standardized language test for Japanese as a foreign language is recognized by the Japanese government. It comes in four different levels and is only available at a handful of test centers in Germany. Students' knowledge of vocabulary and grammar as well as their listening skills are assessed in a series of multiple-choice questions. The test never expires and costs ca. €65 depending on the chosen level. We recommend planning well ahead as the test is only held in December in any given year.

<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/>