

---

# TU Darmstadt

## Language Policy



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

### 1. Language Requirements for Prospective Students

TU Darmstadt acknowledges that competence in foreign languages and intercultural skills are vital pre-requisites to success in all academic programs.

- TU Darmstadt therefore particularly welcomes applications from prospective students who are not only interested in their respective fields of study, but also possess language and intercultural abilities that will enable them to succeed in following lectures, engaging in academic discussions, conducting everyday conversations, and understanding cultural differences.

For all academic programs conducted in German, the following language requirements apply:

1. Listening and speaking skills in German at the *independent user* level. (Common European Framework Reference: [www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen](http://www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen))
2. Reading and writing skills in German at the *advanced basic user* level. ([www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen](http://www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen))

In most programs applicants have to prove their German language skills and present a DSH, a TestDaF-certificate or an equivalent (<http://www.stk.tu-darmstadt.de>)

For all academic programs conducted in English, the following language requirements apply:

1. Listening and speaking skills in English at the *independent user* level. ([www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen](http://www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen))
2. Reading and writing skills in English at the *advanced basic user* level. ([www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen](http://www.goethe.de/referenzrahmen))

TU Darmstadt therefore invites applications for its above academic programs from prospective students who possess these language requirements ([www.spz.tu-darmstadt.de/sprachen/aequivalenz.html](http://www.spz.tu-darmstadt.de/sprachen/aequivalenz.html))

---

---

## 2. Improving Language Skills during the Course of Studies



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

TU Darmstadt offers a wide range of language courses in addition to German and English. Besides courses in grammar, pronunciation, and content courses, students are encouraged to attend courses on intercultural communication, giving presentations, job application skills, and/or to make use of the multimedia lab and online writing lab.

TU Darmstadt also invites students to attend courses in other languages in order to extend their language horizons and get credit. It is particularly recommended that 'outgoing' students facilitate their stay abroad by familiarizing themselves with the basic language skills of their target country. Courses are therefore offered at TU Darmstadt in all target languages for exchange programs.

## 3. Graduating from TU Darmstadt

TU Darmstadt encourages students not only to pursue their academic careers, but also to improve their soft skills. One way to do this is by receiving extra credit for language competencies. TU Darmstadt is certified in UNICert™ (<http://rcswww.urz.tu-dresden.de/~unicert/index.htm>) for several languages, an internationally recognized language program in higher education ([www.spz.tu-darmstadt.de](http://www.spz.tu-darmstadt.de)).

By including UNICert™ in their study programs, students can gain accreditation for substantial foreign language skills. TU Darmstadt recommends that students pursue their language career by working towards at least one level of UNICert™-certificate. The program makes it possible to obtain one UNICert™ level over the course of one academic year.

# Appendix to TU Darmstadt Language Policy



## Description of Language Competence

According to The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, there are 6 levels of language competence, i.e.

Level A = Basic User  
Level B = Independent User  
Level C = Proficient User

and the sub-levels:

1= low(er)  
2= high(er)

Levels and grades of language competence are described using these broad descriptors, including both general and technical language use areas.

## Levels of language competence required for university admission

The following diagram shows the minimum requirements (including the results of the first day of exams) that a student must demonstrate before beginning a degree program.

		Allgemeinsprache	
		Oral	Written
Minimum Requirements	Receptive Skills	B 1	A 2
	Productive Skills	B 1	A 2

The above diagram reflects the minimum requirements for students wishing to enroll in the first semester of a Bachelor degree, for example.

---

These same language requirements apply to foreign students and their knowledge of German, and for German applicants, to their English. These minimum language requirements also apply to all applicants to English language degree programs.



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

It is the responsibility of each department/faculty to clarify whether further language competencies (e.g. technical language ability) are required for specific degree programs. Minimum requirements are determined by each department/faculty. Language requirements for a Master program may be substantially different, i.e. higher, than for a Bachelor program, for example.

**Verification of entrance requirements:**

In order to ensure that the above entrance requirements are met, applicable language certificates or test results must first be submitted.