

Regulations on proof of adequate knowledge of the German language (German Test Regulations)

of April 27, 2010 (status: March 1, 2024)

The Executive Board,

based on Article 11 paragraph 4 of the University Ordinance of September 12, 2012 (UniV),
[Version from March 5, 2024]

has decided the following:

SCOPE

Art. 1 ¹ These regulations apply to persons who wish to register at the University of Bern for a bachelor's degree program and who are not native speakers of German.

² These regulations also apply to persons who wish to register at the University of Bern for a master's degree program and who are not native speakers of German if this is required by the relevant plan of studies. [Inserted on March 5, 2024]

³ The native language is considered to be the actual native language or the language in which the applicant obtained their previous education or academic qualification that entitles them to study at the university.

DISPENSATION

Art. 2 ¹ Generally speaking, the following are exempt from having to prove sufficient language skills:

- a applicants whose native language is French or Italian with a Swiss previous education or academic qualification,
- b visiting students, recipients of Swiss government and exchange scholarships,
- c applicants who have passed the central Complementary Examination set by the Swiss Higher Education Institutions for applicants with a foreign previous education (ECUS), provided that the examination was taken in German, [Version from March 5, 2024]
- d applicants who have passed an entrance or supplementary examination in the subject of German before the cantonal baccalaureate commission,

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- e applicants who have passed the Goethe-Zertifikat C1, the Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung (ZOP), the Kleine Deutsche Sprachdiplom (KDS), the Grosse Deutsche Sprachdiplom (GDS) of the Goethe-Institut in Germany or at an authorized examination center of the Goethe-Institut abroad, or the telc Deutsch C1 certificate,
- f applicants who have passed the TestDaF of the German TestDaF-Institut with a score of at least “4” in all four parts, the Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz – Zweite Stufe (DSD 11), the Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD) Prüfung C1 Oberstufe Deutsch or the Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD) Wirtschaftssprache Deutsch – Niveau C2 with a score of “very good”, *[Version from March 5, 2024]*
- g applicants who have passed the Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber an deutschen Universitäten (DSH), grade 2 or 3,
- h applicants who can present confirmation that they have passed the Deutschttest für Ausländerinnen und Ausländer an einer schweizerischen Universität (a German language test for foreign students at a Swiss university).

² The faculties may exempt applicants from the German language test either generally for certain degree programs or individually on the basis of a request.

PROOF

Art. 3 ¹ Proof constitutes sufficient knowledge of written and spoken German, both active and passive.

² Proof is provided by a confirmation from the Language Center that the German language test was passed. *[Version from March 5, 2024]*

GERMAN LANGUAGE TEST

Art. 4 ¹ The Language Center is commissioned to conduct the German language test. *[Version from March 5, 2024]*

² The German language test usually takes place two to three weeks before the start of lectures.

³ The test may be repeated once. After two fails, it can only be taken again after five years at the earliest as part of a new registration at the University of Bern.

⁴ The Language Center charges an administration fee of CHF 50 for each test taken. *[Version from March 5, 2024]*

PROCEDURE

Art. 5 ¹ Applicants are requested in writing to register for the German language test on the basis of their application documents.

² Applicants must register with the Admissions Office (ZIB) of the Vice-Rectorate Teaching. *[Version from March 5, 2024]*

³ Applicants remain registered until the result of the German language test is available.

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⁴ If applicants pass the German language test, they will be definitively registered. If the German language test is not taken or not passed, the applicant will not be registered; the registration will be canceled.

⁵ An unexcused absence or an abandoned attempt will be counted as a failed attempt.

⁶ A passed language German language test is valid for five years for admission to the University of Bern.

ATTENDANCE OF COURSES

Art. 6 ¹ Applicants who have failed the German language test are only permitted to attend courses within the framework of the provisions on auditors.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Art. 7 ¹ An appeal against the registration announcement issued by the Executive Board of the University may be lodged with the Department of Education and Culture of the Canton of Bern within 30 days. [*Version from March 5, 2024*]

FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 8 ¹ These regulations replace the regulations on proof of adequate knowledge of the German language (German test regulations) of March 13, 2007, including modifications from July 1, 2008.

² These regulations enter into force on April 1, 2010.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the University

Bern,

Rector:

Modifications

Entry into force

Modifications from March 5, 2024, enter into force on March 1, 2024

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