

Language Requirements

**for a (German taught) study (exchange) programme
at Aalen University, Germany**

General Information: The Common European Framework (CEF)

Our framework of reference was designed to provide a transparent, coherent and comprehensive basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses and curriculum guidelines, the design of teaching and learning materials, and the assessment of foreign language proficiency. It is used in Europe but also in other continents.

Since 2001 a European Union Council Resolution recommended using the CEF to set up systems of language ability validation.

The six reference levels (see below) are becoming widely accepted as the European standard for grading an individual's language proficiency.

Reference Levels	Hours	Hours cumulated
A1	≈ 120 Breakthrough	120
A2	≈ 150 Waystage	270
*B1	≈ 150 Threshold	420
B2	≈ 150 Vantage	570
C1	≈ 180 Effective Operational Proficiency	750
C2	≈ 250 Mastery	1000

German Language Requirements for Degree Seeking Students

If you want to apply for a German taught study programme as a degree seeking student, you must submit proof of German language proficiency on at least **C1** level within the application period. Examinations proving the proficiency are for example DSH2 or Test-DaF (with an average score of 4) or ZOP from the Goethe Institute

German Language Requirements at Aalen University for Exchange Students

In order to apply for a (German taught) study programme as an exchange student coming from one of our partner universities, you must provide proof of German language “threshold or B1” by submitting an accredited German language certificate (approved B1 level or for instance the “Zertifikat Deutsch B1” from the Goethe Institute. The minimum required hours that you should put in for a level is approximately ***B1 ≈ 420 h**.

A further German intensive course in order to raise your level to B2 (and C1) so that you can follow successfully German taught lectures will be offered before the start of the lectures.

Global Scale - Common European Framework (of Reference for Languages)

Proficient User	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
Independent User	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
Basic User	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

More info: <https://rm.coe.int/1680459f97>