Learning Languages
RWTH Aachen University Language Center
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Mission Statement

Vision
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… Our objective is to support all RWTH students, researchers and administration staff by providing them with the linguistic resources they need to achieve their scientific and professional goals in a globalized knowledge society.
Vision

Students, graduates, researchers and RWTH employees are fully capable of presenting and discussing the issues of their fields of expertise in both German and English in scientific, technical and professional contexts using established norms of written and oral communication.
Vision

... In addition, they are able to communicate in at least one further world language by having acquired the requisite basic language skills and intercultural competence. The ideal of the communicative pluralinguality of all RWTH members determines the quality and scope of the Language Center’s services.
• Began as Chair for Applied Linguistics in 1997
• Language Center established in 2007
• Originally hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, in 2015 it was established as a central unit offering its services to all faculties and institutes.
• Currently almost 100 employees – permanent, part-time, teachers and administrative staff
1. German as a Foreign Language
2. Modern Languages
3. English
4. English for Scientific Purposes
5. The Writing Center
1. German as a Foreign Language

Aims:

• To offer prospective students the chance to prepare for and to sit the German University Language Entrance Exam (DSH)

• To provide incoming students and visiting researchers the opportunity to improve their German so as to integrate them into the RWTH community

• To support students and researchers with specialized courses in German for engineering purposes
1. German as a Foreign Language

Course Programs

- DSH Exam Preparation Courses + DSH Exam
- Year-long German Course for students in Master programs taught in English
- German semester courses for exchange students, doctoral candidates, international researchers
- German for Engineering Purposes
- International Projects with Partner Universities
2. Modern Languages

Aims

• To provide students with elementary and intermediate language skills in a variety of European and world languages

• To offer outgoing students culture- and country-specific knowledge and intercultural communication skills
2. Modern Languages

Course Program

• Language Courses for students of all faculties

• Both courses in the semester and intensive courses outside the semester

• 15 languages: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Swedish, Spanish, Turkish
2. Modern Languages

Course Program

- “Mobility” Languages: Aim is to bring students to the B1 level to allow a semester abroad with the Erasmus program

- “Go-Out” Program: Special program (primarily A1) to help students obtain a first orientation in languages and countries important for RWTH’s international partnerships (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian)

- “Heritage Language” Program: For students growing up in Germany whose home language is not German but rather Turkish, Polish, or Russian
2. Modern Languages

Course Program

• One-to-One Skills Development Coaching

• Special modules: Italian Society and Culture, French for Scientific Purposes, Spanish Current Events, Dutch Exam Preparation Courses
3. English

Course Program

• B1 level:
  • Intensive Refresher Courses

• B2 Level:
  • Academic Skills
  • Focus on Business
  • Technical English

• C1 and C2
  • Academic Communication
  • Business Matters
  • Communication for Engineers
Course Program

- Cambridge Exam Preparation Courses (Advanced and Proficiency)
- One-to-One Skills Development Coaching
- Writing Consultations
4. English for Scientific Purposes

Course Program

• Conference English

• Academic Presentations

• Scientific Writing (Courses, Webinars, Workshops, Writing Consultations)
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5. The Writing Center

- Formerly Center for Creative Writing. Part of the Language Center since Winter Semester 2016/17.

- Mission: To train students and researchers to write clear, concise and persuasive texts in their respective fields

- Services include workshops and courses on many types of writing (scientific, technical, journalistic) as well as writing consultations
5. The Writing Center

Course Program

For German native speakers:

• Crash Courses in Spelling, Punctuation,
• Fundamentals of Scientific Writing
• Journalistic Writing
• Creative Writing
• Writing Consultations
Course Program

For international Students:

• Fundamentals of Writing
• Technical German
• Writing Consultations
5. The Writing Center

Course Program

- Tailor-made courses for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering

- E-Learning support for Studiportal

- “Lange Nacht der Hausarbeiten”: From 7 p.m. until deep in the night writing support for term papers, projects, bachelor and master theses
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