

Berlin in the Sommer (A1-B1)

Semi-intensive German language course

15 June – 10 July 2026

CATEGORY German Language

COURSE STRUCTURE

You will receive a total of **45 hours of academic lessons** (one lesson equals 45 minutes; 15 hours per week). Lessons will comprise lectures, group work, discussion sessions, and excursions.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

HUWISU courses are grouped into different time tracks. Your class will take place in **Track A**

Monday: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm & 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Thursday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

COURSE LANGUAGE and LANGUAGE LEVEL

All classes will be conducted **in German**. According to self-assessment and "Sprachpass", the participants are placed in groups of different language levels.

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course.

CREDITS & CERTIFICATES

Participants will receive **6 ECTS** credit points and a certificate if they attend regularly (at least 80% attendance), participate actively and fulfil all course assignments. Additionally, six weeks after the end of the course a Transcript of Records is issued by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the academic program, you are invited to **join our cultural and social program**. We offer a fine selection of interesting activities that aim to give you an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Through excursions, social gatherings, and sport activities, you have the opportunity to get to know the city, the university, and to meet students from all parts of the world. **Costs for these offers are included in the program fee.** Below, you find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program shortly before the start of the program via email as well as during the course period.



POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL GUIDED TOURS

- Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt*)
- German Parliament (*Bundestag*)
- House of Representatives (*Abgeordnetenhaus*)
- Topography of Terror exhibition
- Political Archive of the Federal Foreign Office

CULTURAL GUIDED TOURS

- Kreuzberg Tour
- Museum Island (*Museumsinsel*)
- Berlin Cathedral (*Berliner Dom*)
- Daytrip to Potsdam
- Exhibitions

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- Welcome Session
- Beach Volleyball
- Farewell Get2gether

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions in the classroom: Be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: Complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: Pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers').

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must follow teachers' instructions to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

LANGUAGE LEVEL A1

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course.

Students **without previous knowledge of German** can participate in this course. The levels are based on the guidelines set by the *the Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

According to the results of an assessment test prior to the course the participants are placed in groups of different language levels. If you are an absolute beginner no test will be necessary.

Beginners A1

This course is designed for students with no previous or only very little knowledge of German and focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With regard to content, one of the foci of this course is Berlin and the region.

By the end of the course you will:

- know greeting and everyday expressions, be able to count, tell time and use sentences in day-to-day contexts.
- be able to give some information about yourself, your family and friends.
- be able to order food and beverages and purchase things.
- be able to ask for directions and name a few interesting sights in Berlin.

Grammar:

- conjugation of regular verbs and some irregular verbs
- definite and indefinite articles
- singular and plural forms of nouns
- negation, forming questions and simple sentences
- use of some prepositions, accusative form (direct object)
- dative: some examples

TEXTBOOKS

Grammar content and textbooks according to student's needs, as participants with different backgrounds will be asked for their exact needs on the first day of the course. Furthermore, we will have to ensure that the textbook we use is new to everybody in the class.

Commonly used books are, e.g.: Pluspunkt Deutsch A1, Panorama A1, Studio 21 A 1, Menschen A 1

COURSE SCHEDULE

The respective schedule strongly depends on different aspects such as

- the course book and reading materials
- the background of the students
- individual interests with regard to areas/topics

ASSIGNMENT INFO

Modes of assessment: reading, listening comprehension, writing, speaking, grammar and short presentations according to the level and topics covered in class.

Please note that homework is considered part of the course commitments.

Students will also be asked to work in pairs or in small groups and to contribute to oral discussions in class – due to our communicative approach and in order to use the language not only in written texts, but also in speaking.

Progress checks with different foci according to topics covered (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, readings skills etc.): 50 % - Active participation in the class discussion (and possibly presentations on higher levels): 50% - A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

YOUR INSTRUCTORS

The language courses are held by qualified language teachers. The lecturers all have academic degrees and international teaching experience. In the varied teaching sessions, they are highly committed to the learning progress of the students.

LANGUAGE LEVEL A2

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course.

To be able to follow the course in an optimal way students should **have completed all A1 language level courses**. The levels are based on the guidelines set by the *the Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

According to the results of an assessment test prior to the course the participants are placed in groups of different language levels. If you are an absolute beginner no test will be necessary.

Beginners A2

This course is designed for students with some knowledge of German and focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With regard to content, one of the foci of this course is Berlin and the region. Therefore, authentic material can be used in the course along with the course book.

By the end of the course you will:

- be able to engage in simple conversations about familiar things.
- be able to talk about yourself, your family and friends.
- be able to order food and beverages, purchase things and rent a hotel room.
- be able to talk about your studies and about your dreams and aspirations.
- In addition, you will feel more able to understand information when you hear German speakers talking about topics familiar to you.

Grammar:

- conjugation system of verbs
- verbs that take accusative/dative case
- prepositions with accusative and dative
- word order in main clauses and some subordinate clauses
- present perfect tense
- "sein", "haben" and modal verbs in the simple past

TEXTBOOKS

Grammar content and textbooks according to student's needs, as participants with different backgrounds will be asked for their exact needs on the first day of the course. Furthermore, we will have to ensure that the textbook we use is new to everybody in the class.

Commonly used books are, e.g.: Pluspunkt Deutsch A2, Panorama A2, Studio 21 A2, Menschen A2.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The respective schedule strongly depends on different aspects such as

- the course book and reading materials
- the background of the students
- individual interests with regard to areas/topics

ASSIGNMENT INFO

Modes of assessment: reading, listening comprehension, writing, speaking, grammar and short presentations according to the level and topics covered in class.

Please note that homework is considered part of the course commitments.

Students will also be asked to work in pairs or in small groups and to contribute to oral discussions in class – due to our communicative approach and in order to use the language not only in written texts, but also in speaking.

Progress checks with different foci according to topics covered (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, readings skills etc.): 50 % - Active participation in the class discussion (and possibly presentations on higher levels): 50% - A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

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LANGUAGE LEVEL B1

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course.

To be able to follow the course in an optimal way students should **have completed all A2 language level courses**. The levels are based on the guidelines set by the *the Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

According to the results of an assessment test prior to the course the participants are placed in groups of different language levels. If you are an absolute beginner no test will be necessary.

Intermediate B1

This course is designed to improve your writing and speaking competence in German, to increase your vocabulary and to help you developing effective reading and listening strategies. One of the foci is the development of self-correction in oral and written production. Our in-class discussions are based on readings of texts to facilitate exchange of information, ideas, reactions, and opinions. In addition, the readings provide cultural and historical background information. You will expand and deepen your knowledge of grammar through specific grammar exercises.

Course topics, e.g.:

- People in Germany, German history and social situation (esp. Berlin)
- Multicultural Berlin / Migration in Germany
- German media and music: topics from newspaper articles, films, popular songs

By the end of the course, students will be able to talk, read and write about historical, cultural and social topics, many of them in connection with Berlin and Germany, and use vocabulary and structures accordingly.

On this level, students will also be familiar with more formal ways of using the language, like for instance in written German or when talking about topics in an official or academic setting.

Grammar focus:

- present perfect versus simple past
- genitive
- passive voice
- some conditional forms
- infinitive constructions ("zu + Infinitiv" versus "um zu + infinitive")

TEXTBOOKS

Grammar content and textbooks according to student's needs, as participants with different backgrounds will be asked for their exact needs on the first day of the course. Furthermore, we will have to ensure that the textbook we use is new to everybody in the class.

Commonly used books are, e.g.:

- Pluspunkt Deutsch B1
- Panorama B1
- Sicher! B1
- Weitblick B1
- Studio 21 B1
- Aspekte neu B1
- Spektrum Deutsch B1

In addition, authentic materials like brochures, descriptions, newspaper articles, interviews, song texts et cetera can be used.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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ASSIGNMENT INFO

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Please note that homework is considered part of the course commitments.

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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: January 2024