



Wissenschaftsverbund  
Vierländerregion Bodensee

## Lake Constance Summer School: Syllabus

### Intensive German Course

The aim of this course is to enable participants to quickly engage with their German surroundings, to find their bearings, lose their fear of the unfamiliar, and communicate – all of that in German, of course.

In order to ensure each group's level will be as homogenous as possible, there will be a placement test at the beginning of the course, which is supposed to determine the actual level of German skills of the participants. Based on this test (and not on any other certificates they may have) participants will be assigned to the most suitable course. Requirements for passing the course and obtaining a certificate are regular and active participation in class, written homework, presentations and tests. Participants may be required to create a portfolio charting their progress. Research outside of class (e.g. interviewing Germans, exploring the university and the city) are also part of the program and will help to introduce participants to the reality of the language they'll need in their new surroundings.

All objectives of the IBH language courses are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, but are not courses preparing participants to take any of the standard exams (e.g. the Goethe-Zertifikat B1).

#### **Basic Level (A1-A2-B1/1)**

Participants acquire and put to the test the most essential structures of the German language. In learning grammar, the main purpose is not grammatical knowledge itself, but being able to understand and produce phrases and expressions. We will listen to and read short real-life texts, write informal letters, short reports of personal experiences etc., and practice correct pronunciation. Role play of everyday situations, interviews and short oral presentations on simple topics will acquaint participants as much as possible with genuine day to day situations.



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### **Intermediate Level (B1/2-B2-C1/1)**

Skills, knowledge and structures acquired in basic level courses will be refreshed, consolidated, and built upon. We will increasingly deal with regional, cultural and intercultural matters by listening to and reading authentic texts (of a literary, journalistic and subject-specific nature), by producing one's own written work and doing oral presentations, and by guided and free discussions of current topics. In doing so, we will build skills needed for studying, e.g. strategies for purposeful, quick or cursory reading, for deducing the meaning of unknown vocabulary, and notation techniques. Periods in which students will be asked to consciously pay attention to their own language production (i.e. mistake analysis and monitoring) are essential to this course.

### **Advanced Level (C1/2-C2)**

Advanced level courses are aimed at students with a good and solid knowledge of German. The requirements of processing information and the language structures and skills that implies are significantly more demanding and complex: discussions, presentations, written commentaries etc. will be based on news reports on television or in papers, as well as on literary, feuilleton style, technical and subject specific texts. The necessary linguistic structures (e.g. indirect speech, argumentative conjunctions, sentence adverbs, prepositions taking the genitive case, word order, use of articles) will be developed and put into practice.