

TH Köln · Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54 · 50968 Köln · Germany

To ITMK's Partner Universities

Cologne, January 30, 2019

Reference: Language Requirements for Exchange Students at the ITMK / TH Köln

Dear international partners and colleagues,

We would like to inform you of a change for ITMK's incoming exchange students from 2019/20 on (this applies NOT to students coming on a special MA or AEL agreement):

1: Exchange students are required to do a **German assessment test** carried out by TH Köln's language learning centre (Sprachlernzentrum = SLZ). The **tests take place at TH Köln before the lectures start, i.e. in mid-September / early March**. Students can choose from several test dates but have to register online in advance. The dates as well as detailed information will be communicated in good time.

Therefore please note: Incoming students should plan to arrive in Cologne at least three weeks before lectures start, not only to sit the German aptitude test but also to get enrolled in time (timeframes for the enrollment are set by our International Office during the same period).

2: For some BA classes a **minimum B2 level in German is required**. These classes are as follows:

- **Translation classes from/to German**
- **Interpreting classes from/to German**
- **Proseminare (Introductory Seminars aiming at learning how to write a thesis in German)**
- **Deutsche Landeskunde + Sprachpraktische Übungen Deutsch für Austauschstudierende im BA Sprachen und Wirtschaft.**

In order to attend these classes, incoming students will need to show the result of their SLZ aptitude test in German. Please understand that we cannot accept any other test results.

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As we are aware that most of you are about to start their outgoing selection for next year, please allow us to remind you of **our required language levels**:

- **German:** Please consider a **minimum level of B1** in order to successfully attend our BA classes. German classes are only provided by TH Köln's SLZ (for assessment tests see above).
- Our language requirements for foreign languages are as follows:
English: B2,
French/Spanish: B1.
Please consider these levels as minimum prerequisites in the first year of study. To attend classes of higher years of study, higher language levels are logically required (especially for translation and interpreting classes). You should take this into consideration when deciding your students' study plans.

What can your students do when they do not have the appropriate language levels? Instead of attending our bachelor courses they can take language classes at TH Köln's SLZ. The SLZ focuses on language learning classes, not only in German but also in English, French and Spanish as well as Italian (free of charge for all TH Köln students, online registration for assessment tests is required). These SLZ classes also carry ECTS credit points. Further information can be found on the SLZ webpage:
German version https://www.th-koeln.de/internationales/sprachlernangebote_18336.php
English version: https://www.th-koeln.de/en/international_office/language_courses_for_students_60155.php

Our aim is to provide high-level education to all our students, including exchange students, which is why we feel this information needs to be taken into account when nominating future outgoing students. Thank you for your comprehension.

In case of any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our institute's incoming exchange officer Sabrina Geppert (sabrina.geppert@th-koeln.de).

With best wishes from Cologne,

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