

## Language Requirements for exchange students

Sufficient command of the host country's language is essential for the success of the study abroad stay. Language skills are not only crucial for academic success. Good knowledge of German makes life a lot easier and helps you to settle in and come along in Aachen quickly. Although RWTH Aachen University offers courses in English, the vast majority of lectures and seminars are offered in German only.

**Therefore we have set up the following rules concerning German language proficiency:**

- We require students applying for an exchange period at RWTH Aachen University to have at least **B1.1 level** of German knowledge in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).
- Accepted proof of language proficiency: language certificates using the **CEFR** (e.g. B1.1, B1.2, B2.1...), such as OnTestDaF, Goethe, TestDaF, ...
- Not accepted: high school diplomas or transcripts not informing about the level in the CEFR

**We do have a few exceptions to this rule:**

- **Students taking English-taught courses exclusively** are required to attach a B1.1 certificate of ENGLISH (>4.5 IELTS or TOEFL iBT >60) and do not need to proof their German skills (although prior knowledge is highly recommended!).
- **Students doing project work or writing their final thesis** under RWTH supervision may also be excluded from the rule since they can arrange with their supervisor to conduct the work in English. Hence, a B1.1 certificate of English is required.
- **Students who are German/English speaking natives** do not have to proof their German/English language proficiency
- **Students who are doing a language course at the time of application which leads to the required B1.1 level** can submit a confirmation letter by the language school. This letter should state the kind of course and to which level it leads upon successful completion. It also needs to contain the ending date.
- **Students who have an A2.2 certificate already and register at the same time for the intensive German language course at RWTH Aachen University.** The course takes place each September and is only available for students from our partner institutions starting their stay in the winter semester.

Upon receiving your application we will check whether you have added the appropriate language certificate. The Learning Agreement should list all courses you would like to take and from the Learning Agreement we will be able to judge which language certificate you need. We are not able to accept applications lacking the proof of language proficiency.

Please note that students not meeting our language requirements may not be accepted as exchange students.