**GERMAN FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE STUDENTS**

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**Course Aims**

• Develop all language skills (aural, oral, writing, reading) in German at Beginner’s and Intermediate level

• Introduce students to and extend their knowledge of German/Austrian/Swiss science and technology and politics.

• Prepare students for everyday life in a German speaking environment should they wish to

study abroad, go on a placement or take up a summer job in Germany/Austria/Switzerland.

• Teach students to read and understand articles about Science and Biotechnology and other related fields and discuss topics of that nature.

• Contribute to a positive development of students’ careers.

**Requirements**

*Courses are offered for both Beginners and Intermediate students.*

Students holding a Leaving Certificate qualification in German must register for the Intermediate course (GR150/GR252).

There is no previous knowledge of German required for the Beginner’s Course (GR572/GR224).

**Biotechnology students** can start studying German in their first year in college at Beginner’s Level (without Leaving Certificate) or at Intermediate Level (post Leaving Certificate). They will finish their German studies at the end of semester 1 in third year.

**Science** students may study German in their second and third year in college at Beginner’s level (without Leaving Certificate) or at Intermediate level (post Leaving Certificate).

**Teaching Methods**

Active student participation in small classes; online grammar session in 1st year, role-plays; group work; presentations; comment writing, reading of scientific articles, visual and aural work.

**Contact Hours:**

3 core hours per week for 1st Year Beginners Biotechnology/Science Students.

3 core hours per week for 1st Year Intermediate, 2nd and 3rd Year Biotechnology Students.

3 core hours per week for 2nd and 3rd year Science Students.

**Courses on offer**

**GR572/GR 224 – Beginners German for Biotechnology and Science Students**

Lecturer: Vincent O’Connell

E-Mail: [vincent.oconnell@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:vincent.oconnell@universityofgalway.ie)

Announcement: an Introductory Session for this course is held during orientation week every September (room and time tbc on timetable online). Students need to bring their science timetable to this meeting. It is necessary for all students interested in this course to attend as the timetable agreed upon in this meeting will be final.

Course description: This course equips students with the basic elements of German grammar, vocabulary, text comprehension and conversation, and provides an introduction to basic subject-related scientific terms. Students will practice all four language skills (aural, oral, reading and writing). The aim of this course is to reach an A2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Language of instruction: German and English

Methods of assessment and examination: 2-Hour-In-House Test [winter term] + 2-Hour-Exam Paper [summer term] (35%); Oral Examination at the end of the winter and summer term (25%); Continuous assessment in both the winter and the summer term (40%)

Core texts: *Deutsch Heute* will be used but does not need to be purchased.

**GR150 - 1st year Intermediate German for Biotechnology and**

**GR252 - 2nd/3rd year Science**

Lecturer: Vincent O’Connell

Email: [vincent.oconnell@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:vincent.oconnell@universityofgalway.ie)

Course description: This course is designed to improve, strengthen and develop all existing language skills. A focus in this course is to strengthen grammar and conversational skills through roleplay. Students learn about developments on the biotechnological and scientific sector in the German speaking areas through current articles, video clips about scientific developments/ innovations/ inventions and they have to report on their own science subjects. A specialized science vocabulary is introduced from the beginning and gradually expanded. They also learn about different aspects of German/Austrian/Swiss society, culture, and politics. The aim of this course is to reach a CEFR A2+ level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Students require 40% to advance to GR241/GR353.

Language of instruction: German and English

Methods of assessment and examination: 2-Hour-In-House Test [winter term] + 2-Hour-Exam Paper [summer term] (40%); Oral Examination at the end of the winter and summer term (25%); Continuous assessment in both the winter and the summer term (40%)

**GR241/BG204 – 2nd Year Biotechnology/GR 353 - 3rd Year Science**

Lecturer: Antonia Musolff

Email: [antonia.musolff@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:antonia.musolff@universityofgalway.ie)

Course description: In this course, the language skills are further expanded and improved. A large part of the course contents deals with Biotechnology and Science based topics (e.g. medical/ pharmacological research, diseases and addictions, genetics and genetic engineering, environmental issues, bio-hazards, microbiology, etc.). Students will prepare a presentation on a German biotechnology/science company in order to get an overview of opportunities for their year abroad and future career options. The aim of this course is to reach a B1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference. Biotechnology students require 40% to advance to GR358/BG305. Science students will finish their German studies with this course.

Language of instruction: Mostly German, some English

Methods of assessment and examination: 2-Hour-In-House Test [winter term] + 2-Hour-Exam Paper [summer term] (35%); Oral Examination at the end of the winter and summer term (25%); Continuous assessment in both the winter and the summer term (40%)

Core text: Netzwerk Neu. B1.1 Kurs- und Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos.

Will be used and should be purchased. Supplementary material will be made available on Canvas or in class.

**GR358/BG305 – 3rd Year Biotechnology**

Course description: In this course students will work with scientific articles and videos and practice new grammar while focusing on topics related to their biotechnology studies. They will prepare a presentation (in German) on a scientific topic of their choice. This allows students to practise their oral and presentation skills, which is a good preparation for their placement abroad. Furthermore, students will learn to write their CVs and motivational letters as well as practice job interviews in German. Students will need these skills to apply for international research centres or a master’s degree at a German/Austrian/Swiss university. The aim of this course is to reach a B1+ level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Language of instruction: German

Methods of assessment and examination: 2-Hour-Exam Paper (35%), Oral Exam (25%), Continuous Assessments (40%)

**Placement of 3rd Year Biotechnology Students in Germany/Austria**

At the end of third year, Biotechnology Students have the invaluable opportunity to spend three/four months at one of the international Austrian/German research centres in Vienna or Hamburg, where they will be involved in specialized laboratory procedures and gain important experience for their future career. It is also possible to spend a full Erasmus year abroad, taking courses in one semester and doing a placement in the other semester.

In recent years, students were placed at the BOKU (Universität für Bodenkultur) in Vienna or at the Hamburg University of Life Sciences.

**Scholarships for Studying in Germany/Austria**

Excellent students of German for Biotechnology/Science (Grade A) have the opportunity to apply for summer scholarships to study German at a German University (ca. 4 weeks).

**Why study German?**

• To enhance your career opportunities by learning one of the most important languages within the EU

•To get an international perspective on research methods and work procedures in Biotechnology and Science

• To be able to apply and to be prepared for a master programme or post-graduate research in a German-speaking country.

• To have the cutting edge when applying for a position in the rapidly expanding biotechnology industry in Ireland and abroad, e.g., with German-based pharmaceutical companies, biotech enterprises, etc.