

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts Programme in German

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The German language and culture programme offered as a major or a minor by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises seven different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All the courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-72 hours. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 4,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the German language) for a 6-credit course. The categories of German courses are as follows:

1. Introductory language courses (6 credits)

These first-year courses emphasize the learning of the German language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. Students acquire a vocabulary of 1,000 to 1,500 words and are expected to demonstrate that they are able to use this vocabulary within the four areas of competence mentioned above. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, participation in class and discussions and online reading and listening, with a total written output of not more than 2,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the German language). It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the German language.

2. Advanced language courses (6 credits)

These advanced courses build on the first-year, introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of the German language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the German language. As in the first-year language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, in-class tests, participation in class and discussions and/or short oral presentations with a total written output of not more than 4,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the German language). It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the German language.

3. Survey courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on particular cultures and languages through the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, history of the language, etc. They are taught predominantly by lectures (24 hours) and tutorials/seminars (6-8 hours), or by lectures only. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to give presentations on particular topics. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to introduce assessment tasks which are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks will normally include assignments, in-class tests, oral presentations, participation in class and discussions as well as the writing of essays, reports, and projects totaling not more than 4,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the German language). Assessment may also include linguistic analyses and portfolios.

4. Translation courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on problems arising from transferring concepts and ideas from the German language into Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and/or English and vice versa while reinforcing students' language and culture skills in the German language. They are taught in seminar format and include class debates and problem-solving discussions. Assessment is 100% coursework, predominantly translation exercises totaling not more than 4,000 words (bearing in mind that it is required to be in the German language).

5. Study Abroad courses (6 credits)

Usually offered during the summer between the second and third years or the third and fourth years, and organized by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the German language is spoken, these courses are designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the first two or three years of studying German. These courses prepare students for more advanced work upon their return to Hong Kong. The percentage of assessment by coursework and/or by final examination will vary depending on the host institution.

6. Project courses: capstone (6 credits)

These courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the one-on-one supervision of a teacher. Students study in depth an approved topic of their choice in the German language. They are required to present their findings to their supervisor and students taking the same course, as well as submit a written project of approximately 3,500 – 4,000 words in the German language at the end of the course.

7. Internship (6 credits)

The objective of this course is to offer students an internship learning experience, along with the opportunity to earn credits towards their degree, while working in an organisation outside the campus. The internship experience draws on the German Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of German in the community. The duration of the internship depends on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx.

120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation. Students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice. They are asked to do this in liaison with a relevant teacher at the German Programme of HKU.