



American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

– founded 1958 –

Guide to Course Offerings

The University of Heidelberg offers more than 9000 courses a semester, so you are sure to find courses that interest you and meet your credit requirements. AJY has created this provisional list of courses to give you a better overview of the courses you might want to take. Please keep in mind that courses are subject to change and are not limited to the examples we provide here.

We have listed the courses in the following categories:

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AJY students take courses in several of these categories.

The AJY Intensivkurs (Pre-Semester Intensive Language Course)

After arrival in Heidelberg, students participate in a **mandatory 4-week intensive language course** at the AJY Study Center. Students will be placed according to their level of German (intermediate, advanced intermediate, advanced).

The course consists of two parts:

1. Sixty (60) hours of intensive practice in listening and reading comprehension, advanced German grammar and vocabulary, text analysis and text production, preparing the students for the University's German Language Proficiency Examination (DSH).
2. The course is supplemented by site-visits to local institutions in Heidelberg and by visits from guest-speakers. These are designed to complement course materials and introduce students to Heidelberg and German culture.

In addition, AJY offers between one and three courses a semester (depending on the size of the cohort) that are taught in house, specifically for AJY students. These courses are designed to be current and interactive. Each course will offer several excursions in and around Heidelberg to connect our international students with the local context. The topics of the courses will focus on current affairs in Germany and how these play out locally, state-wide, and internationally.

Common Courses for Students of German as a Foreign Language

The International Study Centre (ISZ) and the Institute of German as a Foreign Language Philology (IDF) offer courses for international students at the University of Heidelberg. These courses are offered at all levels of German proficiency.

Some examples are:

Creative Writing in German – a class in which you learn how to express yourself by writing lyrical pieces in German

A Canon of German Literature – an advanced German literature class

German History – a course that teaches German history in a European context

German through Film – designed to develop a critical vocabulary for the analysis of cinema

IdeFix German Theater Group – a theater group of students whose first language is not German

Economy & Economic Geography – a course on globalization, sustainability, and local economic structures

Introduction to the Political System of Germany – a course on German politics and the political system of Germany

For a more information on courses at the ISZ, click [here](#). For more information on courses at the IDF, click [here](#).

Specialized Language (Fachsprache) Courses for Students of German as a Foreign Language

The International Study Center (ISZ) also offers classes in German for non-native German speakers looking to broaden their German in a specific field. We recommend these classes to accompany your studies in one of these fields or to Full Year students to prepare you for a course you might take in one of these fields in your second semester at the University of Heidelberg.

- Legal German
- German for Biology and Medical Students
- German for Economics and Business
- German for Art Students

The Departments at the University of Heidelberg

Upon passing the DSH, you may take any course the University of Heidelberg offers. The University of Heidelberg has 12 faculties consisting of many departments which cover numerous subject areas. For an overview of the departments at the University of Heidelberg, click [here](#).

Courses in English at the University of Heidelberg

As a full-immersion program we encourage our students to take all their courses in German. However, for many students it can be a necessary or attractive part of the program to take certain courses for a major without a language barrier. This often applies to STEM students for which the University of Heidelberg has developed an impressive course selection in English. Therefore, we accept one course per semester in English.

Most offerings are in the following areas:

- **Medical Faculty of Heidelberg** (approx. 100 courses a semester), including seminars, lectures, and labs.
- **Mathematics and Computer Science** (approx. 60 courses a semester), including seminars, lectures, and tutorials.
- **Institute for Physics and Chemistry** (approx. 10 courses a semester)
- **Physics and Astronomy** (approx. 200 courses a semester), including seminars, lectures, and tutorials.
- **Biology and Environmental Studies** (approx. 220 courses a semester) including lectures, seminars, and labs.

Additional courses in English are commonly offered in these departments:

Theology, Law, Philosophy, History, Economics, Sociology, Earth Sciences, Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg Center for Cultural Heritage, Judaic Studies, Transcultural Studies.

Current Course Catalog (LSF)

The full course catalog for the University of Heidelberg for each semester can be found online. To browse the course catalog for the current ongoing semester, click [here](#). **Note:** courses for the winter semester (WS) beginning in October are usually posted in July. Courses for the summer semester (SS) beginning in April are usually posted in January.

To search for a specific course, click [here](#). You will be taken to the following page:

The screenshot shows the LSF search interface. The search criteria section includes:

- Semester: WS 2020/21
- Titel der Veranstaltung: [Text input]
- Veranstaltungsnummer: [Text input]
- Veranstaltungskürzel: [Text input]
- Einrichtung: [Text input] with 'Auswahl' button
- Überschrift: [Text input] with 'Auswahl' button
- Lehrperson: [Text input] with 'Auswahl' button
- Raum: [Text input] with 'Auswahl' button
- Veranstaltungsart: [Dropdown menu] with 'Alles auswählen' option
- Unterrichtssprache: [Dropdown menu] with 'Alles auswählen' option
- Studienlevel: [Dropdown menu] with 'Alles auswählen' option
- Übergreifende Kompetenzen: [Dropdown menu] with 'Alles auswählen' option
- ELearning: [Dropdown menu] with 'Alles auswählen' option

Buttons at the bottom: 'Suche starten' (highlighted), 'Formular leeren'.

When searching for a specific course, make sure to enter the correct search parameters. First, make sure you have chosen the correct semester. WS is the fall semester, SS is the spring semester. Second, choose which faculty (Einrichtung) you want to search for. If you do not have a preference choose “alle auswählen”. Next you can choose what type of course you are looking for (Veranstaltungsart). If you do not have a specific course type you are searching for, choose “alle auswählen”. Lastly, you can choose what language the course you are looking for should be in. Hit the button “Suche starten” to search for your course.

If you have any questions about academics, course selections and meeting credit requirements, please contact us at ajy@uni-heidelberg.de ! We would be more than happy to help you navigate what classes are best suited for you.