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:

1. The AJY Vorbereitungskurs (pre-semester intensive language course)
2. Common courses for students of German as a foreign language
3. Specialized language (Fachsprache) courses for students of German as a foreign language
4. Links for the departments at the University of Heidelberg
5. Courses in English at the University of Heidelberg
6. Current course catalog

AJY students take courses in several of these categories.

1. The AJY Vorbereitungskurs (pre-semester intensive language course)

After arrival in Heidelberg, students participate in a mandatory 4-week preliminary course at the AJY Study Center. The course includes one week of orientation followed by three weeks of intensive language instruction. For the language course component, the students will be placed according to their level of German (intermediate, advanced intermediate, advanced). The course consists of three 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 a program of visits / excursions to various institutions and sites in and around Heidelberg.
3. Since all AJY students are required to participate in a non-academic activity (such as a sports club, choir, volunteer work) on a weekly basis during the university semester, students begin planning for their individual activity during the preliminary course. Students are required to turn in an essay (250 words, in German) about their nonacademic activity (NAT), or they may write a blog/Facebook entry (in English). All students must provide photos showing them doing their non-academic activity. Students doing a special NAT may present at the AJY Colloquium Day in early December.

The Vorbereitungskurs will prepare you for the DSH, an entry exam for international students for the University of Heidelberg. After completion of the Vorbereitungskurs, all AJY students take the DSH to determine their German proficiency level.
In addition, AJY offers two to three courses a semester 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.

2. **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 ([https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/e_index.html](https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/e_index.html)).

   For more information on courses at the IDF, click here ([https://www.idf.uni-heidelberg.de/englisch.html](https://www.idf.uni-heidelberg.de/englisch.html)).

3. **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

4. **Links for 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 many departments and therefore covers many different subject areas.
5. 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. This is why we accept one course a semester in English.

Most offering 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:


6. Current course catalog:

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 (https://lsf.uni-heidelberg.de/qisserver/rds?state=wtree&search=1&category=veranstaltungbrowse&navigationPosition=lectures%2克莱ctureindex&breadcrumb=lectureindex&topitem=lectures&subitem=lectureindex). 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.

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 aiy@uni-heidelberg.de! We would be more than happy to help you navigate what classes are best suited for you.