

Language Proficiency for Exchange Students worldwide

Dear partners,

I hope this message finds you well. Herewith I would like to update you concerning language requirements for incoming exchange students at RWTH Aachen University.

As you may know, sufficient command of the host country's language is essential for the success of the study abroad stay. Not only for the academic success language skills are crucial. Good knowledge of German makes life a lot easier and helps your future outgoing students to settle in and get along in Aachen. Although RWTH offers courses in English the vast majority of lectures and seminars is offered in German only.

We require students applying for an exchange period at RWTH to have at least B1.1 level of German knowledge in the European Framework of Reference in order to make the most of their stay. As proof we accept certificates in their application files such as OnTestDaF, Goethe Institut, TestDaf or confirmations of your university's language center or any other officially recognized language school.

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

We do have exceptions to that rule:

- Students taking English-taught courses exclusively are required to attach a B1 certificate of ENGLISH (6.0 IELTS) 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 certificate of ENGLISH is required.
- Students holding an A2.2 certificate of German who are applying for the Intensive German Language Course prior to each winter semester may apply with their A2.2 certificate because they will have acquired B1 level by the beginning of term. This option is only possible for students applying for the winter semester or the whole academic year.

If you have any further questions about language requirements at RWTH please do not hesitate to contact us at incomings@rwth-aachen.de. Please also find our Fact Sheet for further information.

Best regards,

Antonia Vietz
RWTH Aachen University, Head of Incomings Team