

Academic Culture in Germany

Target group

Exchange students and international students of the EUF with at least English B2 knowledge.

This course is mandatory for all incoming students from our partner universities.

Course content

How can professors at German universities be addressed correctly? What does a formal e-mail at the university look like? How do I prepare a conversation with a lecturer if I want to discuss the subject of my term paper?

Communication at the university is different in every country. It is based on hidden values, norms and role concepts. To avoid problems due to cultural and linguistic misunderstandings, we offer you this course.

An important element of academic culture in Germany is so-called "best academic practice". It describes what qualitatively and ethically good research work and teaching is. Plagiarism is therefore severely sanctioned in Germany. This course teaches you how to avoid plagiarism and how to quote correctly.

This course also includes working with and on the German academic language, dealing with the following questions: What vocabulary and language structures are common in the academic language and communication at German universities? How does an "scientific style" express itself in speaking and writing?

Using text examples and writing exercises, you will develop the characteristics and means of speaking the scientific language German, get to know the most important rules and conventions of citation and get an overview of the various types of sources.

In addition, you will learn standard structures for scientific texts on the basis of text examples and learn which formal aspects you must pay attention to.

A course thrives on people meeting each other. It is therefore particularly important that you participate actively on a regular basis and are well prepared.

Semester hours: 2 SWS

Exam: Five homework tasks and a final paper (about 8 pages)

In the final paper you show that you have learnt how to structure a typical German "Hausarbeit" or term paper, that you know how to quote properly and avoid plagiarism.

Workload:

- 30 teaching units face-to-face
- 30 teaching units of self-study and homework
- 15 teaching units writing the exam paper