

Programmes with German at the University of Surrey

Studying German at Surrey is all about improving your language skills so you can use the language competently and confidently in a variety of settings, and increasing your knowledge and understanding of the cultures of the German-speaking countries.

Here are a few suggestions about how best to prepare for your studies in German with us.

Post A-level German

In your first year you will take a **German language** module in both semesters, and a module on the history, culture and society of the German-speaking world in the second semester.

There is no set course book for the **German language** modules, but we use a grammar book, which will be referred to regularly throughout the first year, and indeed the second year, so this is the one book you probably will want to purchase. However, we do have copies in the University library.

- Durrell, Martin et al. (2015) *Essential German Grammar* (2nd edition). Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN: 9781138785816

For the module **Understanding Germany: History, Culture and Society**, we use a book written in English for background reading. Again, we do have copies in the library but you may prefer to purchase your own copy. Please note that you can also work with the second edition of this book.

- Fulbrook, Mary (2019) *A Concise History of Germany* (3rd edition). Cambridge: CUP. ISBN: 9781108407083

We also recommend that you make use of online resources to read, watch and listen to German regularly. Here are some of the options we recommend.

- **Goethe Institute London:** www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/kul/ser/onl.html
The Digital Library of the Goethe Institute in London offers a wide range of materials, including music and films. They also provide materials for learners of German.
- **Deutsche Welle Learn German:** <https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469>
A wealth of materials for learners of German, ranging from news reports with audio files to crime stories.
- **German TV channels** and programmes online:
 - ARD (Das Erste): <https://www.daserste.de/>
 - ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen): <https://www.zdf.de/>
 - WDR (Westdeutscher Rundfunk): <https://www1.wdr.de/mediathek/video>
 - BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/tv/onlineprogs.shtml>

For links to the most read **German newspapers**, including a short introduction to each paper, as well as general information about life and culture in Germany, you may like to explore the resources provided by www.deutschland.de:

- www.deutschland.de/en/topic/knowledge/national-newspapers

If you want to find out more about **German history**, or other aspects of **German culture and society**, there are plenty of online resources. Here are some useful and reliable sources:

- **Lemo (Lebendiges Museum Online):** www.dhm.de/lemo
Website of the German History Museum (Deutsches Historisches Museum), with a wealth of materials on German history from the early 19th century to present day. Parts of the website are also available in English.
- **Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (bpb):** www.bpb.de
Website of the Federal Agency for Civic Education with articles on politics, history, current affairs and issues in today's society. Parts of the website are also available in English.

Ab initio German

In your first year you will have intensive language classes with six contact hours per week in order to give you plenty of opportunities to practise the language and gain confidence. We will be using a course book and exercise book, which you may wish to purchase in advance:

- **Coursebook:** *Motive A1–B1 Kursbuch, Lektion 1–30*, Kompaktkurs DaF Deutsch als Fremdsprache by Dr. Wilfried Krenn, Dr. Herbert Puchta, Hueber Verlag.
ISBN: 9783190018789
- **Exercise book:** *Motive A1–B1 Arbeitsbuch, Lektion 1–30* mit MP3-Audio-CD Kompaktkurs DaF Deutsch als Fremdsprache by Dr. Wilfried Krenn, Dr. Herbert Puchta, Hueber Verlag.
ISBN: 9783190318780

If you have not done any German before and would like to learn some starter words and basis phrases before you begin your programme with us, there are many resources available online that will help you get started.

Here are some recommendations for online language learning platforms:

- **Deutsche Welle Learn German:** <https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/german-courses/s-2547>
- **BBC:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/>

If you want to find out more about **German history**, or other aspects of **German culture and society**, you may want to start with an overview in English. Here are some useful and reliable sources:

- **Encyclopaedia Britannica:** www.britannica.com/place/Germany
- **Lemo :** www.dhm.de/lemo
Website of the German History Museum, parts of which are also available in English.
- **Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (bpb) –** www.bpb.de
Website of the Federal Agency for Civic Education with articles on politics, history, current affairs and issues in today's society. Parts of the website are also available in English.