

Programmes with German at the University of Surrey

Studying German at Surrey, you will improve your competency in German to prepare you to use the language in professional and academic settings. Parallel to your language training, you will also study the culture, history and society of the German-speaking world. Below are some suggestions and resources to prepare you to study with us.

Post A-Level German

In your first year you will take a **German language** module in both semesters, and a **German culture and society** module in the second semester. You may also take a **German translation** module in semester 1.

For the German language modules, there is an accompanying course book, which will be used regularly throughout the first year, so is the one book you probably will want to purchase. However, we do have copies in the University library.

- Durrell, M. et al. (2015) *Essential German Grammar*. Second edition. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge (Essential language grammars).

For the module **Understanding Germany: History, Culture and Society** there is no course book, but you might find the following helpful for you to familiarize yourself with German history.

- Dirlmeier, U. (1995) *Kleine deutsche Geschichte*. Stuttgart: Reclam (Universal-Bibliothek ; Nr.9359).
- Fulbrook, M. (2004) *A Concise History of Germany*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: University Press (Cambridge concise histories).
- Large, D. C. (2002) *Berlin*. New edition. London: Penguin.
- Müller, H. M. (2007) *Deutsche Geschichte in Schlaglichtern*. 3rd ed. Leipzig: Brockhaus.

We also recommend that you immerse yourself in German language and culture. Listening to the news everyday is a good start! Here are some options that we recommend.

Newspapers

[Sueddeutsche Zeitung](#)

[Die Zeit](#)

[Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#)

[Nachrichtenleicht](#) - News articles in shorter form with less complex sentences

[Deutsche Welle](#) - DW uses a slightly easier language and more colloquial tone than most of the big national papers

[Jetzt.de](#) - Sueddeutsche Zeitung's magazine for young readers

Television

[Tagesschau App](#)

[ZDF Nachrichten](#)

Radio

[DW - Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten](#) - slowly spoken news casts from Deutsche Welle

Online Resources

[Potstick Deutsch](#) - Instagram account with regular examples with images of everyday words and expressions

[Language learning with Netflix](#)

Language Learning Apps a fun way to build your vocabulary and brush up on grammar

DuoLingo

Babbel

UTalk

Fluentu

Fluent Forever - less focus on grammar and more on listening to words in context

Online Language Practice

[Deutsche Welle Alltagsdeutsch](#) - short podcast on German culture and history with accompanying exercises

[Goethe Institut: Deutsch für dich](#) - online community for German learners with access to short videos about grammar and culture

[Deutsch-Perfekt](#) - Online magazine with text, audio and exercises, often on curious facts about German history or funny colloquialisms

[Easy German](#) - Filmed conversations with real Germans to practice everyday language

Online Grammar

[Grimm Grammar](#) - thorough (and cute!) online grammar resource themed around imaginative retellings of the Grimm stories

[BBC GCSE Bitesize German Grammar](#)

Film and Series

You can find German movies and TV-Series on Netflix, Kanopy and BBC-iplayer.

Some recommendations:

- Dark
- Berlin Babylon
- Goodbye Lenin
- Das Leben der Anderen
- Türkisch für Anfänger

Ab Initio German

In your first year you will have intensive language classes which aim to bring you up to a similar level to students who already have an A level. You will have six contact hours per week rather than three, in order to give you plenty of opportunities to practise the language and gain confidence.

We will also be using texts from other books and many online materials in German. In the second semester the ab initio language classes will ensure that you have covered the same professional language as the post A level class and will also give language support for the **Understanding Germany** module