

The International School for Graduate Studies (ISGS) at the University of Kaiserslautern offers international Master & doctoral studies as well as doctoral research training in special Graduate Schools or Graduate Groups. Even if these programs are predominantly conducted in English, a minimal knowledge of German is required in order to get along in daily life. Furthermore, a basic knowledge of the German language is a precondition for graduating at the University of Kaiserslautern.

The detailed language requirements for Master & PhD- Programs are as follows:

MASTER PROGRAMS

Application

No prior knowledge of German is generally required when applying for & starting an international Master program.

English language certificate (TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent) is required.

Studies

All students in international Master programs at the University of Kaiserslautern have to pass a special exam in German language (DSI-exam, see below) latest after their first year of studies.

Students in German Master Programs have to pass the DSH or Test-DaF-exam (<http://www.uni-kl.de/VKB>) before starting their studies.

Teaching languages in International Master Programs

- MSc. Biosciences: English
- MSc. Electrical & Computer Engineering: English and German (depends on branch of specialization)
- MSc. Mathematics: English
- MSc. Computer Science: English
- MSc. Commercial Vehicle Technology: English (first semester), then English & German

GERMAN...

Why Learning German?

- ... it is a language of science, technology & research: It is second most commonly used scientific language!
- ... it helps discovering the rich German culture, literature, philosophy & music
- ... it is a language of business & industry and will help you to start a global career

DOCTORATE/ PHD

Application

As there are many "types" of Doctorate studies (individual PhD, Graduate School, PhD-program...), the German language requirements may differ. Thus, please inform directly at your Professor or the respective institution .

Usually, an English language certificate (TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent) is required.

Research

Even though the working language in research training groups is English and the thesis can be written in English, you will have to pass the DSI-exam (see below) after the first year of your studies.

DSI-CERTIFICATE: German for Graduates

Regulations

All ISGS-students in International Master programs or Doctoral studies are required to pass a special exam in German (so-called DSI-exam). The DSI- Certificate (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für Studierende in internationalen Studiengängen) represents a basic level of proficiency in the German language.

The concept of the DSI-course has been especially designed for international Graduates in Kaiserslautern and thus includes not only language training but orientation in town and campus as well as cultural & social aspects (see next page).

DSI-Exam

According to the study/research regulations ("Masterprüfungsordnung" oder "Promotionsprüfungsordnung") you have to pass the DSI-exam after the first year of your studies/ research. Otherwise you cannot graduate from the University of Kaiserslautern! The DSI-exam is offered twice a year (February & July) and contains a listening comprehension test as well as an oral exam in your field of specialization or discipline.

Special teaching units will be offered to prepare this exam so that most of the students pass their DSI-exam already after the first semester. No additional fees have to be paid for the DSI-examination.



Orientation in Communication & Culture

CONCEPT OF THE ORIENTATION COURSE

The tailor-made Orientation Course (O.K.) at the University of Kaiserslautern combines language training and integrative elements especially arranged for the needs of Graduates.

The main features of the O.K. are:

The Language Component

The language classes consist of 300 teaching units and are provided for different levels of language expertise.

Twice a year (August & March) they start with an intensive block course from 6-8 weeks and are continued with evening classes during lecture time. The course comprises a mixture of taught classes, practical training, exercises, self-learning in language labs and hands-on experiences in 'real life'.

The language component of the Orientation Course leads to a special exam in German (DSI-Exam). DSI (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für Studierende in internationalen Studiengängen) is a basic language exam for students in international programs at the University of Kaiserslautern. (see page 1)

The Cultural & Social Component

The Language classes are embedded into an attractive social & cultural program:

Effective Communication prior to arrival, individual welcome service upon arrival and individual guidance in the first days, Campus & City tour, networking with academic staff, tutors and other graduates, Introduction into German Academic Culture, Excursions in the region & in Germany, visits to industries & enterprises, social events, like hiking, festivities, country evenings etc.

The Administrative Component

The Orientation Course also comprises comprehensive administrative support services, like accommodation, registration in municipality, visa, health insurance, computer account & library issues, rental contracts, telephone issues and other specific & individual needs.

"The ISGS-Orientation Course helps getting your head free for efficient studies & research!"

FAST FACTS

Registration

A registration form can be found on the ISGS-Website: www.uni-kl.de/isgs.

Please fill in the form not before you have an admission of the University of Kaiserslautern!

Course Fee

1000,- €. The fee includes the language course (1 year), social & cultural program as well as administrative support services. This amount is set on a non-profit basis.

Dates

Start of the Orientation Courses:

Early August (winter term)

Early March (Summer term)

Arrival, welcome & administrative services:

First days of March & first days of August

"The content of the course is tailored to help you to 'survive' in daily life and on the academic front."

GENERAL COURSE MODEL

DAY	TIME	WEEK 1 ARRIVAL WEEK	WEEK 2 PREPARATION WEEK	WEEK 3-10	FINAL WEEK
Mon & Tue	08:30 - 12:00 12:00 - 13:30 13:30 - 16:45	Welcome Services Coffee & Tea at ISGS Welcome Services	Administr. Issues Coffee & Tea at ISGS Administr. Issues	Language Classes Coffee & Tea at ISGS Language Classes & Practical Language Training	Project Work: ISGS German Newspaper Coffee & Tea at ISGS Project Work
Wed	08:30 - 12:00 12:00 - 13:30 13:30 - 16:45	Welcome Services Coffee & Tea at ISGS Welcome Services	Administr. Issues Coffee & Tea at ISGS Administr. Issues	Excursions and/or Administrative Issues	Excursions and/or Administrative Issues
Thu & Fri	08:30 - 12:00 12:00 - 13:30 13:30 - 16:45 Evening	Welcome Services Coffee & Tea at ISGS Welcome Services	Director's Official Welcome Individual Placement in Groups of German Class Welcome Party & Barbecue	Language Classes Coffee & Tea at ISGS Language Classes & Self-learning & occasional social program	Course feedback & Self-assessment Preparation of the German Class Farewell-Party Farewell Party
Sat		Cultural Program	Cultural Program	Cultural Program	Cultural Program
Sun	Social Program	Social Program	Social Program	Social Program	Social Program