



GR 141 (Programmes 1BC1 & 1BC3 & 1BC8)

FIRST YEAR (ADVANCED) COMMERCE WITH GERMAN

First year (Advanced) Commerce with German is available to:

- students who applied through the CAO for the B.Comm (International) with German programme 1BC3. Entry requirement: H4 or better.
- students of the first year B. Commerce (General) programme 1BC1 and B. Commerce (Global Experience) programme 1BC8. Entry requirement: Leaving Certificate German)

Course Coordinator (Semester 1): Dr Thomas Wilks

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Lecturers:

Dr Thomas Wilks (German Language, Business German, *Landeskunde*), contact as above

Vincent O'Connell (Conversation/Multimedia Lab)

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Course Outline:

5 contact hours per week (Semester 1 & 2) are made up of:

- *German Language I (3 hours per week)*
- *Landeskunde: Society, culture & the economy in the German-speaking world (1 hour per week)*
- *Conversation & multimedia laboratory (1 hour per week)*

Course Aims and Objectives:

Students will follow a course which is designed to:

- build and expand on the German language skills they already possess
- develop the ability to express ideas and argue convincingly in oral and written German
- expand existing vocabulary and introduce new business terminology
- develop the linguistic skills necessary to successfully take and pass level A2+ (CEFR) university examinations
- facilitate insights into current cultural and social issues in German-speaking countries through authentic course materials from German-language sources in a range of media.
- use continuous assessment and regular feedback to gain confidence in participating actively and engagingly through the target language
- convey a general understanding of social, political, economic and cultural affairs in the German-speaking world.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the academic year, first year students should be able to:

- understand and feel comfortable with the use of general structures of German grammar in oral and written expression
- make basic oral presentations in German on a variety of general and business-related topics
- form opinions and discuss basic general and business-related topics
- translate a variety of simple texts into English and German, using appropriate grammatical structures
- analyse different types of texts in German and discuss text-related questions
- read and answer basic general and business correspondence as well as compose argumentative and descriptive writing on a variety of topics
- use self-study and multimedia laboratory facilities for autonomous learning and project work
- have a basic understanding of culture and civilisation in German-speaking countries
- relate to contemporary social and economic affairs in German-speaking countries.

Students of general or Global Commerce (1BC1, 1BC8) who are successful in this module and who demonstrate commitment and interest may apply at the end of the academic year to transfer to Commerce International (only after all examination results have been issued in June) to continue with German for the rest of the B.Comm and take an immersive Year Abroad at a German or Austrian partner university.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

- The programme actively engages students, encouraging participation and reflection on learning skills and styles from the outset. A small class size, role-plays, discussions, presentations, project work and a student-centred learning approach all facilitate a productive, communicative learning environment.
- Extensive use of authentic textual and audio-visual sources ensures the contemporary focus of the curriculum. Guided self-study on the VLE and use of multimedia laboratories engage students with online language applications.
- German is used increasingly during the year as the language of instruction and communication, ensuring regular exposure to the target language.
- All students are expected to access the Virtual Learning Environment *Canvas* regularly. Module announcements are posted here. Assignment instructions and submission areas, teaching notes and slides, links to online resources on language and society, video and audio materials are all provided on Canvas. Interactive discussion forums consolidate oral and written work in class.

Textbooks (required):

<i>A-Grammatik</i> 2nd edition, 2023	Übungsgrammatik, ISBN 9783969150573	Publisher Schubert	Semester 1 & 2
<i>Begegnungen A2+</i> 3rd edition, 2021	Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, ISBN 9783969150085	Publisher Schubert	Semester 1 & 2

Both books will be available in the campus bookshop. Additional materials will be provided on Canvas and in class.

Course elements:

- **Grammar:**
Students will receive and will put into regular practice a detailed revision and consolidation of all basic elements and structures of German grammar, syntax, punctuation and orthography up to CEFR level A2+.
- **Introduction to Social and Economic German:**
An introduction to the topics, language, vocabulary and structures used in everyday life and business in the German-speaking world (level A2+).
- **Reading skills:**
Analysis of various types of texts using authentic German-language media. Introduction to surface, selective and detailed reading skills.
- **Writing skills:**
Introduction to writing skills in general and business contexts, e.g. informal and formal correspondence, structured and free compositions on general and business-related topics, basic job applications etc.
- **Conversation:**
General conversation and discussions on a variety of topics including family and friends, student life, demographics, living arrangements, work and finance, plans for the future, media, social networking, travel etc.
- **Presentations:**
Students will be guided in German-language and transferable skills for successful oral presentations. All students will give class presentations on German cultural and/or business topics. These will develop skills applicable to academic and professional presentation contexts and job interviews.
- **Multimedia laboratory:**
Students will work with audio and multimedia applications to perfect existing receptive and productive language skills and to expand on newly acquired skills. The use of internet resources including blogs, podcasts and social media also helps students to gain insight into cultural and social aspects of the German-speaking world as well as to engage in autonomous learning beyond the teaching sessions.
- **Landeskunde (Society, culture and the economy):**
Students are introduced to important aspects of German, Austrian and Swiss culture and society. Students will analyse basic economic affairs and developments in the German-speaking world. A brief introduction to Liechtenstein will also be provided.

Exams and Assessments:

- First year students take their German written examination at the end of the academic year (21 April—8 May 2026). There is also an in-house oral examination towards the end of the teaching period in Semester 2.
- Continuous online and in-class assessment throughout the academic year is a vital part of the course. Grades are also awarded for participation and project work. An indicative mark (letter grade) is provided at the end of Semester 1, but as GR141 is a full-year module, the final module mark is awarded only after the written examination in Semester 2.

Allocation of Marks:

Semester 1: **ECTS**

5.0

Final In-Class Exam	30%
Mid-term In-Class Exam	20%
Language Lab/Conversation	15%
<i>Landeskunde</i> (written and oral project work)	15%
Graded coursework assignments	20%

Semester 2: **ECTS**

5.0

Applied German Language Paper (2 hour written exam)	30 %
Oral Examination	20 %
Language lab	15 %
Oral Presentation (Social and Economic German)	15 %
Graded coursework assignments	20 %

Repeat Examinations:

In-house examinations and/or language tests cannot be repeated in the August ('Autumn') examinations. Coursework and in-house assessment marks from both semesters cannot be carried forward to the August ('Autumn') repeat examinations. Assessment for the August ('Autumn') sittings is based on a 2-hour written examination (60%) and an extended in-house oral examination (40%).