

AMTLICHE MITTEILUNGEN

Dated May 6, 2021

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CONTENTS :

Regulations

Regarding the
German Language Test for
University Admission (DSH)

at the
University of Siegen

dated May 6, 2021

Regulations

Regarding the

German Language Proficiency Test

for Admission to Higher Education

(DSH)

at the

University of Siegen

Dated May 6, 2021

The translations provide a service to international students, researchers and staff. The legally binding version of the notifications are available in German only.

In accordance with § 2 Para. 4, § 49 Para. 12, and § 64 Para. 1 of the Higher Education Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG) dated September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by legislation dated March 25, 2021 (GV. NRW. p. 331), the University of Siegen has issued the following examination regulations:

Table of Contents

A. General Examination Requirements

- § 1 Scope
- § 2 Exempting Examinations and Qualifications
- § 3 Purpose of the Examination
- § 4 Admission, Examination Fees
- § 5 Structure of the Examination
- § 6 Assessment and Grading of Examination Results
- § 7 Examination Chairperson, Examination Committee
- § 8 Withdrawal, Unexcused Absence, Cheating, Disruptive Behavior
- § 9 Repetition of Examinations
- § 10 Examination Certificate

B. Specific Examination Requirements

- § 11 Written Examination
- § 12 Oral Examination
- § 13 Entry into Effect, Amendments, Transitional Specifications

A. General Examination Regulations

§ 1

Scope

- (1) University applicants who have obtained their higher education entrance qualifications at a non-German speaking institution must demonstrate, prior to the beginning of their studies at a higher educational institution in the Federal Republic of Germany, mastery of sufficient German language proficiency as per the regulations in the General Act on Higher Education (*Hochschulrahmengesetz*, HRG) and the portion of the Higher Education Acts for the respective federal states regarding university admission. In accordance with § 3 in conjunction with § 7 of the “*Rahmenordnung über Deutsche Sprachprüfungen für das Studium an deutschen Hochschulen*” (RO), proof can be documented via the “German Language Proficiency Test for the Admission to Higher Education” (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang*, DSH).
- (2) In accordance with § 3 Para. 5 RO, a DSH examination passed with an overall grade of at least DSH-2 is considered proof of language proficiency for unrestricted admission or enrollment in all degree programs and university degrees. A final grade of DSH-3 denotes notably high German proficiency. DSH-3 surpasses the threshold required for admission or enrollment.
- (3) In accordance with § 1 Para. 3, 4, and 5 in conjunction with § 3 Para. 7 RO, the higher educational institution can, where in the interest of specific study objectives, also define lower admission requirements (DSH-1).

§ 2

Exempting Examinations and Qualifications

The following parties are exempted from the DSH:

1. University applicants who have successfully passed the language test based on the *Rahmenordnung über Deutsche Sprachprüfungen für den Hochschulzugang* (RO) at another German institute of higher education or as part of an assessment test at a *Studienkolleg* (preparatory course).
2. University applicants who can demonstrate the level of language proficiency required for university studies based on a secondary school degree corresponding to a German higher education entrance qualification.
3. Holders of the “*Deutschen Sprachdiploms der Kultusministerkonferenz – Zweite Stufe* (DSD II),” as ratified by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs on December 6, 1996.
4. Holders of a successfully passed Goethe certificate C2: *Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (GDS). Effective January 1, 2012, the Goethe Certificate C2: *Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (GDS) replaced the various upper-level examinations from the Goethe Institute: the *Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung* (ZOP), the *Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (KDS), and the *Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (GDS). If the examination date for the *Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung* (ZOP), *Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (KDS) or *Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (GDS) examinations occurred more than 5 years before the cutoff date of December 31, 2016, then the university can use its own judgment about whether to accept the certificate.
5. Holders of foreign certifications indicated in number 3 (stroke 4) of the resolution by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs from June 2, 1995 (in the current applicable version) entitled “*Zugang von ausländischen Studienbewerbern mit ausländischem Bildungsnachweis zum Studium an deutschen Hochschulen: Nachweis der deutschen Sprachkenntnisse.*”
6. University applicants who have documented proof of the completion of the DSH-German Language Proficiency Test, whereby the examination was organized and curated by the German as a Foreign Language department of a German university but taken a foreign university.

7. University applicants seeking a spot at university as part of an exchange program, namely involving short-term studies abroad without the goal of earning a degree in Germany.

It is assumed in this case is that the study abroad program organizers will ensure that sufficient language competency is present.

8. University applicants who can demonstrate German language proficiency in the sense of § 3 Para. 1 in sufficient scope (such as through a completed degree program in German at an accredited foreign institution of higher education) can, on a justified case-by-case basis and upon application, be exempted from the DSH-German Language Proficiency Test. The chairperson of the examination committee decides on the application.
9. University applicants who have passed the “*Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache*” (TestDaF) as per § 4 RO-DT with a grade sufficient for admission to the university in question (TDN 4 in all 4 sections of the examination); and
10. University applications who have passed the *telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule* examination.

§ 3

Purpose of the Examination

The DSH establishes proof of sufficient language proficiency to engage in university studies, specifically in terms of skill in aural comprehension, reading comprehension, writing, and oral expression. The examination certificate expresses the overall scores from the oral and written test in terms of the following levels of achievement: DSH-3, DSH-2 or DSH-1 (beginner level), with grades shown from the individual components of the test. These test results document language proficiency in each individual linguistic discipline.

§ 4

Admission, Examination Fees

- (1) Admission to the DSH will be regulated by the chairperson of the examination committee. Admission will be oriented toward the stipulations of the Higher Education Act for North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG) regarding admission to university.
- (2) Participation in the DSH is subject to an examination fee based on the statutes on the collection of higher educational fees (*Abgabensatzung*) of the University of Siegen dated May 7, 2013 (*Amtliche Mitteilung* 33/2013) in the respective applicable version.
- (3) If an examination candidate can credibly demonstrate at the time of registration for the test that enduring or chronic physical disabilities represent a significant or insurmountable hurdle to participation in the test in the intended form, then it is permissible for extended deadlines to be offered on the test, or for a comparable examination to be offered in a different format. Submission of an official doctor's note can be required for this.

§ 5

Structure of the Examination

- (1) The DSH is composed of a written and an oral examination. The written examination is generally performed prior to the oral examination. Both sections of the test are to be performed at the same location and within one examination cycle.
- (2) In accordance with § 11, the written examination is structured into separate test units:
 1. Comprehension and processing of an audio text (HV),
 2. Comprehension and processing of a written text (LV) and structures of academic language (WS), and
 3. Composition of a text on a pre-assigned subject (TP).

- (3) The oral examination is a mandatory component of the DSH. No exemptions are possible. The oral examination can be disregarded if the written examination is not passed as per § 6 Para. 2. Prior achievements are not eligible for advance credit toward the written examination sections.

§ 6

Assessment and Grading of Examination Results

- (1) The overall test is passed if the written test as per Para. 2 and the oral test as per Para. 5 are passed.
- (2) The written test is passed if an overall score of at least 57% is achieved in the requirements for the HV, LV, WS, and TP test modules as defined in § 11 Para. 1.
- (3) In accordance with § 11, a 2:2:1:2 weighting scheme will be used for the HV, LV, WS and TP test modules.
- (4) Comprehension and processing of a written text and structures of academic language form one joint test module.
- (5) The oral test is passed when at least 57% of the requirements are satisfied.
- (6) The overall grade for the test is defined as per Para. 1
 - as DSH-1 if the written and oral tests achieve at least 57% of the requirements;
 - as DSH-2 if the written and oral tests achieve at least 67% of the requirements;
 - and as DSH-3 if the written and oral tests achieve at least 82% of the requirements.

§ 7

Examination Chairperson, Examination Committee

- (1) An orderly DSH test can only be administered by a full-time employee qualified in the field of German as a Foreign Language (DaF) or by a full-time employee qualified in DaF from the STARTING department at the University of Siegen as chairperson of the examination committee.
- (2) The chair of the examination committee appoints and coordinates one or more examination committees whose members are qualified for DaF. At least half of the committee must be comprised of either university employees (*Angestellte*) or civil servants (*Beamte*). The examination committee must have at least two members.
- (3) Members of the university community, such as representatives of the department or faculty to which the application has been made, may attend the oral examinations as guests.
- (4) The examination committee is to prepare an official record of the test process and results.
- (5) All participants in the test are obligated to secrecy.

§ 8

Withdrawal, Unexcused Absence, Cheating, Disruptive Behavior

- (1) The examination performed is considered "not passed" if the candidate is absent from the examination appointment without valid reason or if the candidate withdraws from the examination after it has begun without valid reason. The same holds if a written portion of the examination is not submitted within the appointed deadline.
- (2) The candidates can withdraw without reason up to one week before the respective examination date by contacting the STARTING department at the University of Siegen. Once this deadline has passed,

any withdrawal or absence must be justified, immediately and credibly, to the chair of the examination committee. In the event of illness by the candidate, the submission of a doctor's certificate can be required. If the justification is accepted by the chair of the examination committee, then the candidate will be informed of this in writing and a new date will be set. Any prior examination results will be carried over to the new testing session.

- (3) Should a candidate attempt to influence the result of the examination through cheating, such as through the use of impermissible aids, then the relevant performance will be graded as "not passed"; for oral tests, the accusation of cheating will be made by the respective testers, while for written tests this will be made by the proctors and added to the official record. The assessment will be made by the chair of the examination committee. Candidates who engage in behavior disruptive to the orderly conduction of the examination can be disqualified from the ongoing examination and, typically following an official reprimand from the proctors, barred from any future continuation of the examination; in this case the respective performance is graded as "not passed." The reasons for the ban are to be added to the official record. In especially grievous cases, the chair of the examination committee can disqualify the candidate from any further examinations.
- (4) The candidate is to be informed without delay about any decisions against them, including the statement of a reason and information detailing the appeals process against the ruling.

§ 9

Repetition of Examinations

The DSH can be repeated two times at the University of Siegen.

§ 10

Examination Certificate

- (1) The examination certification shows the grades from the test, including which results were achieved as per § 3 in conjunction with § 6 Para. 6.
- (2) A certificate is to be prepared for the DSH, in accordance with the annex, and signed by the chair of the examination committee and another member of the examination committee appointed that task. The title and first and last name of the signatories are to be recorded on the certificate in block print. The certificate contains a note that the applicable local examination regulations under which the test was conducted are in harmony with the requirements of the *Rahmenordnung über Deutsche Sprachprüfungen* and are registered with the HRZ (number, date).
- (3) If the overall grade for the test is "not passed," then a certificate attesting to participation in the test with the result "not passed" can be issued.
- (4) The test documents are to be retained for 5 years. Electronic archiving is permissible.

B. Specific Examination Requirements

§ 11

Written Examination

- (1) The written examination comprises the following test modules:

1. Comprehension and processing of an audio text
(Working time: 10 minutes after the 1st spoken text and 40 minutes after the 2nd spoken text. The recitation time and any advance instructions are not counted against the working time);
 2. Comprehension and processing of a written text and academic structures (working time: 90 minutes, including reading time); and
 3. Composition of a text based on an assigned subject
(Working time: 70 minutes).
- (2) The test modules must involve at least two different thematic areas. Monolingual dictionaries are permissible to complete the tasks. Electronic tools or other aids are not permitted.
- (3) The working time for all written portions of the test (including recital of the listening comprehension text) is not to exceed four hours.
- (4) The following regulations apply for the individual test modules:

1. Comprehension and processing of an audio text (HV)

This test module is intended to probe the ability to follow and comprehend academic lectures and presentations, to prepare appropriate notes from them, and then to work with them.

a) Scope and type of text

A text should be selected that reflects the communication scenario of a lecture or exercise. The text should not require prior specialist knowledge. Depending on the amount redundancy in the written text, it should total between 5,500 and 7,000 characters (including spaces).

b) Execution

The audio text is presented twice. Notes can be taken while it is read. An indication of the thematic field can be provided prior to the presentation of the examination text. The provision of names, dates, and difficult specialist terms as well as illustration using visual aids are permissible. The type of presentation should be appropriate for the communication scenario lecture/exercise.

c) Tasks

The tasks depend on the structure of the examination test. These should, in particular, test the comprehension of the subject matter and recognition of the thematic structure and text organization. A range of differently structured tasks can be posed and combined with each other, for example

- Answering of questions,
- Structural sketch,
- Summary
- Depiction of the line of reasoning.

d) Assessment

The performance will be graded based on completeness and appropriateness of fulfillment of the posed tasks, and not based on linguistic correctness or form.

2. Comprehension and processing of a written text and structures of academic language (LV and WS)

This test module is intended to explore the ability comprehend and engage with a written academic-oriented text.

a) Scope and type of text

A primarily authentic, research-based, and academic-minded text is presented, with no prior specialist knowledge required. The texts can for example include an image, chart, or diagram. The text should contain between 4,500 and 6,000 characters (including spaces).

b) Reading comprehension tasks

The tasks depend on the structure of the examination test. Text comprehension and the ability to process texts can for example be examined through the following types of tasks:

- Answering of questions,
- Depiction of the text's argumentation structure,
- Depiction of the structure of the text,
- Explanation of text passages,
- Formulation of headers,
- Summary.

c) Grading of reading comprehension

The performance will be graded based on completeness and appropriateness of fulfillment of the posed tasks, and not based on linguistic correctness or form.

d) Tasks for structures of academic language

The tasks in the area of structures of academic language comprise the identification, comprehension, and application of grammatical structures relevant to academic language. These tasks should focus on peculiarities of the text (including syntactic, morphological, lexical, idiomatic, or specifics of the text type) and can for example involve extensions, comprehension questions involving complex structures, as well as various types of conversions (paraphrasing, transformation).

e) Grading of structures of academic language

The performance is to be graded on linguistic correctness.

3. Composition of a text based on an assigned subject (TP)

This test module is intended to explore the ability to express oneself in writing, independently and coherently, on an academic, research-based topic, and to compose an argumentative non-fictional text.

a) Tasks

The text production should encompass roughly 250 words. The tasks should elicit demonstrations of linguistic ability, including depictions, summaries, comparisons, justifications, assessments, and expression of opinions. The tasks can involve non-linear, discontinuous texts such as diagrams, keyword lists, tables, images and/or quotes, statements, or short texts. The text production may not take on the character of an unguided essay. The tasks should preclude the use of pre-formulated passages or schematic text components.

b) Grading

Performance will be graded based on its appropriateness in the objective context, completeness, thematic development, structure of the text, coherence, and linguistic aspects (correctness, vocabulary, syntax, cohesion). Linguistic aspects are to be given stronger consideration in this regard.

§ 12

Oral Examination

The oral examination should demonstrate the ability to engage in academic-level linguistic activities (discussion, assessment, exemplifying, informing, etc.) in a spontaneous, fluent, and appropriate method as well as to deploy relevant interaction strategies (change of speaker, cooperation, asking for clarification).

1. Execution

The oral examination is to take no more than 20 minutes, with another 20 minutes available to prepare for the short presentation. A monolingual German dictionary is allowed during preparation of the short presentation. No other aids or electronic tools are permitted. Group examinations are not permitted.

2. Tasks

The oral examination comprises a short presentation, no more than 5 minutes in total and ideally descriptive in nature, and then a discussion of no more than 15 minutes. The basis for the oral examination (assigned subject) should be a short text that is not overly difficult or linguistically complex, or a chart or image. The tasks should elicit demonstrations of linguistic activity, such as depictions, summaries, comparisons, justifications, assessments, and expression of opinions.

3. Grading

The performance will be graded based on the suitability of the content, the comprehensibility and independence of the statements, the conduction of the discussion, linguistic correctness, and lexical differentiation, pronunciation, and intonation.

§ 13

Entry into Effect, Amendments, Transitional Specifications

- (1) These regulations go into effect on October 1, 2020. At the same time, the “*Ordnung für die Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH) der Universität Siegen*” dated November 7, 2012 (Amtliche Mitteilung 32/2012), modified by the “*Ordnung zur Änderung der Ordnung für die Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH)*” at the University of Siegen from July 9, 2013 (Amtliche Mitteilung 82/2013), will become invalid.
- (2) Repeated sitting of examinations originally taken before the entry into effect of these examination regulations will be conducted based on the examination regulations in effect at the time of the first examination.
- (3) The official German version of these regulations will be published in the university's official gazette, “*Amtliche Mitteilungen der Universität Siegen.*”

It contains elements ratified by the Senate on April 21, 2021.

Please note that as per § 12 Para. 5 HG NRW, infringement of the procedural or formal standards of the HG or of the regulations or other autonomous rights of the university are no longer actionable once one year has passed since this public notice, excepting situations where

1. the regulations have not been published in a proper way,
2. the Rector's Office has previously objected to decision about these regulations by the committee,
3. complaint has already been issued about the formal and procedural deficit to the university and the infringed legal stipulations and the facts of the case related to the deficit have been described, or
4. no indication of an exclusion of objections was included in the public notice.

Siegen, May 06, 2021

Rector

signed

(University Professor Dr. Holger Burckhart)

[Ort], den _____

Unterschrift

(Titel, Vorname und Name)

(Vorsitzende/r der
Prüfungskommission)

(Siegel)

Unterschrift

(Titel, Vorname und Name)

(Mitglied der
Prüfungskommission)

Der Prüfung lag die DSH- Prüfungsordnung der Universität Siegen vom [Datum] zu Grunde. Die Prüfungsordnung entspricht der "DSH-Musterprüfungsordnung" (Beschluss der HRK vom 11.03.2019 und des Schulausschusses der KMK vom 16.07.2019) und ist bei der Hochschulrektorenkonferenz registriert (*Registrierungs-Nummer*). Eine nach Maßgabe der Rahmenordnung abgelegte DSH- Prüfung wird gemäß § 7 Absatz 1 der Rahmenordnung von den deutschen Hochschulen und Studienkollegs in Deutschland anerkannt.

Mit der DSH- Prüfung wird die sprachliche Studierfähigkeit in einer schriftlichen Prüfung (mit Teilprüfungen im Hörverstehen, Leseverstehen und wissenschaftssprachliche Strukturen und Textproduktion) und einer mündlichen Prüfung (Mündlicher Ausdruck) nachgewiesen. Die schriftlichen Teilprüfungen werden in folgendem Verhältnis gewichtet: Hörverstehen, Leseverstehen, wissenschaftssprachliche Strukturen und Textproduktion 2 : 2 : 1 : 2.

Im Gesamtergebnis sind schriftliche Prüfungsteile und mündliche Prüfung im Verhältnis 70:30 gewichtet.

(1) Das Gesamtergebnis weist die sprachliche Studierfähigkeit auf drei Stufen aus:

	Gesamtergebnis	Zulassung
		(gemäß Rahmenordnung über Deutsche Sprachprüfungen für das Studium an deutschen Hochschulen entsprechend Beschluss der HRK vom 08.06.2004 und der KMK vom 25.06.2004 i.d.F. der HRK vom 23.07.2020 und der KMK vom 28.11.2019, §3, Abs. 5 bis 7.
DSH-3:	Besonders hohe schriftliche und mündliche Fähigkeiten (Mindestens 82 % der Anforderungen sowohl in der schriftlichen Prüfung als auch der mündlichen Prüfung)	(Abs. 5) Eine mindestens mit dem Gesamtergebnis DSH-2 bestandene DSH gilt als Nachweis der sprachlichen Studierfähigkeit für die Zulassung oder Einschreibung zu allen Studiengängen und Studienabschlüssen an allen Hochschulen
DSH-2:	Differenzierte schriftliche und mündliche Fähigkeiten (Mindestens 67 % der Anforderungen sowohl in der schriftlichen Prüfung als auch der mündlichen Prüfung)	(Abs.6) Mit Erreichen der Ebene DSH-3 werden besonders hohe Deutschkenntnisse nachgewiesen. Die DSH-3 liegt über dem für die Zulassung oder Einschreibung erforderlichen Niveau.

DSH-1:	Grundlegende schriftliche und mündliche Fähigkeiten (Mindestens 57 % der Anforderungen sowohl in der schriftlichen Prüfung als auch der mündlichen Prüfung)	(Abs. 7) Soweit eine Hochschule für bestimmte Studienzwecke von DSH-2 abweichende geringere sprachliche Anforderungen festgelegt hat, hat eine darauf beruhende Zulassung oder Einschreibung keine bindende Wirkung für eine Zulassung oder Einschreibung bei einem Wechsel des Studiengangs an derselben Hochschule oder für die Zulassung oder Einschreibung an anderen Hochschulen, falls dafür andere sprachliche Anforderungen festgelegt sind.
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(2) Sprachliche Fähigkeiten in Teilbereichen

Teilbereich	Gesamtergebnis		
	DSH-3 Besonders hohe Fähigkeit, ...	DSH-2 Differenzierte Fähigkeit, ...	DSH-1 Grundlegende Fähigkeit, ...
Schriftlich			
Hörverstehen	in typischen Zusammenhängen des Studiums (Vorlesungen, Vorträge) der Darlegung von Sachverhalten und ihrer Erörterung mit Verständnis zu folgen, sowie darüber in schriftlicher Form zusammenhängende und strukturierte Aufzeichnungen (Notizen) zu fertigen (Darstellung, inhaltliche Gliederung und Zusammenfassung von Gedankengängen,).		
Leseverstehen und	studienbezogene und wissenschaftsorientierte Texte zu verstehen und zu bearbeiten: Inhaltliche Erfassung dargestellter Sachverhalte, Erkennen von Gedankengang und Argumentationsstrukturen sowie deren Gliederung, Zusammenfassung.		
Wissenschaftssprachliche Strukturen	typische wissenschaftssprachliche Formen zu verstehen und selbst anzuwenden: Satzbau, wissenschaftliche Terminologie und Wortbildung, Wortschatz und Ausdrucksformen in unterschiedlichen Anwendungsbereichen, wie referierende Darstellung, argumentative Darlegung, ...		
Textproduktion	studien- und wissenschaftsorientierte Sachverhalte und Themen schriftlich zu behandeln: Beschreibung, Vergleich, Kommentierung, argumentative Bewertung.		
Mündlich			
Mündliche Sprachfähigkeit	studien- und wissenschaftsorientierte Themen und Sachverhalte mündlich zu behandeln: - monologisch (erörtern, bewerten, exemplifizieren, informierend darstellen, ...); - in sprachlicher Interaktion: spontan, fließend und angemessen ausführen sowie sie zu rezipieren; relevante Interaktionsstrategien beherrschen (Sprecherwechsel, kooperieren, um Klärung bitten, ...).		