

What you have to know about the DSH examination at the University of Wuppertal

Who has to take the DSH examination?

- If you would like to study at the University of Wuppertal and acquired your university entrance qualification abroad, you have to take the DSH examination. This also applies to German citizens who acquired their university entrance qualification abroad.

When and where does the next DSH examination take place?

- The written DSH examination takes place on September 20th 2025 from 8 am to 2 pm. The room will be announced in due time via email.

Please be on time, because the examination starts with the listening comprehension.

- Once the written examinations are corrected, the location and dates of the oral examination will be announced.

How do I have to register for the DSH examination?

1. a) Students who participate in a preparatory German language course at the University of Wuppertal will be registered for the next DSH after they passed the entrance examination.
2. b) If you acquired your language certificate (level C1) at another institution, you can apply for a place to study at the University of Wuppertal via UNI-ASSIST. As soon as you received your letter of admission to a degree programme at the University of Wuppertal, you can register for the next DSH examination. You will receive a link along with your letter of admission. It will direct you to a website where you can register for the next DSH examination on 20 September 2025. The registration period is between 25 August and 15 September 2025.

The examination fee is 100 Euros for students who participated in a German language course at our university, and 150 Euros for applicants who did not complete a German language course at the University of Wuppertal. Even if you do not take the examination, you will not be refunded the payment.

On the day of the examination, please bring along a valid identity card or passport and the letter of acceptance.

Exemptions from the DSH

- Prospective students who passed the “Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung” (ZOP), the “Kleine deutsche Sprachdiplom” (KDS), (since 1 January 2012 Goethe-Zertifikat C2), the “Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom (GDS)” the “Große deutsche Sprachdiplom” (GDS), the “Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (DSD) (DSD II, German Language Certificate of the Education Ministers Conference), the “TestDaF” (with a result of TestDaF level 4 (TDN 4) in all four sections) or “telc C1 Hochschule”.
- Students can be exempted from the DSH, if one of the following cases occurs:
 - ☐ They passed a part of the secondary school education at a German school,
 - ☐ They completed a degree course in German Studies,
 - ☐ They speak German as a first or second mother tongue, if they intend to enrol for a temporary study visit without completing a degree programme within an international university cooperation, or
 - ☐ They successfully completed the DSH examination (DSH level 2) at a Studienkolleg.

A DSH certificate from another university or university of applied sciences or a Studienkolleg will be accepted only if the DSH Examination Regulations of this university or university of applied sciences is registered with the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) and if the student’s German language skills are equivalent to the DSH level.

In case of justified doubts that the language skills correspond to the certified DSH level, the University of Wuppertal reserves the right to condition the admission and registration of the applicants on the results of an additional examination. The chairperson of the Examination Board will conduct and assess the language examination.

- If one of the above-mentioned reasons for exemptions applies to you, please contact the Language learning Institute at the University of Wuppertal.

Process of the written examination

- The DSH comprises a written examination and an oral examination. The written examination takes place before the oral examination and comprises four parts:
 - a) Listening comprehension (understanding and dealing with an audio; 50 minutes to deal with the text, 10 minutes before and 40 minutes after listening to the audio.)
 - b) Writing skills (students will be given a worksheet with a diagram, a table, or a citation on a specific topic.)
 - c) Reading comprehension and grammar (understanding and dealing with a knowledge-oriented and study-related reading text comprising authentic scientific language structures. The text does not require any previous knowledge on the topic. 90 minutes to deal with the text.)

Each examination part will be followed by a thirty-minutes-break.

- The partial examinations comprise two subject areas.

Process of the oral examination

- The oral examination consists of two parts: the examination preparation and the examination itself. After a brief introduction, the oral examination starts with a five-minute presentation and an interview of about 15 minutes. Students will be given a maximum of 20 minutes to prepare the presentation. Usually, the oral examination will be based in a short text, a diagram, or similar.

Which examination result do I need to be allowed to study at the University of Wuppertal?

- You can become a student at the University of Wuppertal, if you pass the written and the oral examination and achieve at least level DSH 2.

When can I repeat the exam?

- You can repeat the DSH twice at the University of Wuppertal.

What will happen if I do not show up for the examination?

- If a student does not show up for the oral or written examination, the DSH examination is considered a fail. The examination fee will not be reimbursed.

Am I allowed to use any aids?

- Students are allowed to use a single German dictionary.

Is there anything prohibited?

- All electronic devices (mobile phone, laptops etc.) are prohibited and students are not allowed to use them during the examination. If the mobile phone of a participant rings during the examination, the participant will be excluded from the DSH.

How can students prepare for the examination?

- The German courses at the University of Wuppertal will prepare all students adequately for the DSH examination.

Can I inspect my examination after I received the result?

- Students who would like to inspect their examination are asked to send a request to the chairwoman of the examination board, Mrs Britta Li: brittali@uni-wuppertal.de