

## **UNDERGRADUATE COURSES:**

### **GERMAN FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE STUDENTS**

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#### **Course Aims**

- Develop all language skills in German at Beginner's and Intermediate level
- Introduce students to and extend their knowledge of German/Austrian/Swiss society, culture and politics
- Prepare students for everyday life in a German speaking environment should they wish to travel abroad, study, go on a placement abroad or take up a summer job
- Help 3rd Year Biotechnology Students to cope successfully when working in a lab in one of the international research centres in Germany/Austria during their 3- to 4-monthly placement
- Teach students to read and understand articles about Biotechnology and other related fields and discuss topics of that nature
- Contribute to a positive development of students' careers

#### **Requirements**

Biotechnology Students and Science Improvers I and II require Leaving Certificate German. There is no previous knowledge of German required for the Beginner's Course.

Science students may study German in their second and third year in college at beginner's or at post leaving certificate level.

#### **Teaching Methods**

Active student participation in small scale classes; role-plays; group work; presentations and report writing; translation of texts and text analyses; visual and aural work; tuition in the language as well as the multi-media lab.

#### **Contact Hours**

4 core hours per week for the German Beginners course (Science Students), 1 optional hour.

3 core hours per week for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Biotechnology Students.

3 hours per week for Science Improvers I and II.

## **Textbooks and Additional Teaching Material**

*Studio d [A1 and A2], Klipp und Klar – Übungsgrammatik Grundstufe Deutsch, Essential Grammar of German and A Practice Grammar of German* are the main Grammar books being used as well as supplementary handouts. Extensive authentic teaching material for translations is taken from online sources, current German/Austrian news magazines and from the science supplements of newspapers; DVDs, CDs and CD-Roms are also applied.

### **GR 224 - Beginner's German for Science Students**

**First meeting for students of GR 224 to take place on Monday 8th September 2014 at 5 p.m. in AM 205 (first floor of Arts Millennium Building)**

Students need to bring their science timetable to this meeting. It is necessary for all students interested in this course to attend as the timetable agreed upon in this meeting will be final.

This course equips students with the basic elements of German grammar, vocabulary, text comprehension and conversation and also provides an introduction to basic subject-related scientific terms. Students will have to practice all four language skills.

Students of the Beginner's Course who wish to advance to Improvers I have to complete the course with **70%**.

### **BG 111 /GR150 – 1st Year Biotechnology / GR 252 – Science Improvers I**

This course is designed to improve and develop all existing language skills. Students learn about developments on the biotechnological and scientific sector in the German speaking areas through the translation of current articles, through video clips about scientific developments/innovations/ inventions and they have to report on their own science subjects. A specialized science vocabulary is introduced from the beginning and gradually expanded. They also learn about different aspects of German/Austrian/Swiss society/culture/politics.

Students require 40% to advance to Improvers II or GR241/BG204.

### **GR241/BG201 – 2nd Year Biotechnology/GR 353 – Science Improvers II**

In this course students practice report writing (e.g. reporting on lab experiences, practices in the labs, lab procedures, and also science assignments/projects), curriculum vitae, job applications, interview situations, etc. A large part of the course deals with Biotechnology and Science based topics (e.g. medical/pharmacological research, diseases and addictions, genetics and genetic engineering, environmental issues, bio-hazards, microbiology, etc.). Biotechnology students require 40% to advance to GR358/BG305.

### **GR358/BG 305 – 3rd Year Biotechnology**

This course concentrates on the preparation of the 3rd Year Students for their placement in one of the international research centres in either Germany or Austria. Students have to report in detail about procedures and experiences in their laboratory practicals, they learn about work etiquette abroad, about recent developments in the area of biotechnological engineering, about the emergence of new biotech centres abroad, about ethical problems connected with medical/genetic research, about the performance of biotech companies on the stock exchange,

etc.

Biotechnology students require 40% to advance to GR358/BG305.

### **Placement of 3rd Year Biotechnology Students in Germany/Austria**

At the end of third year, Biotechnology Students have the invaluable opportunity to spend three/four months at one of the international Austrian/German research centres where they will be involved in specialized laboratory procedures and gain important experience for their future career.

In recent years students were placed at the BOKU [Universität für Bodenkultur] in Vienna, at the Hamburg University of Life Sciences, at the I.M.P. (Institute for Molecular Pathology) and the L.B.I. (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute) in Vienna, at E.M.B.L. (European Molecular Biology Laboratory) in Heidelberg and at the Max Planck Institute in Dortmund.

### **Placement of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Science Students in Germany or Austria through the I.A.E.S.T.E. programme**

#### **Studying in Germany/Austria**

Excellent students of German for Biotechnology/ Science (Grade A) have the opportunity to apply for summer scholarships to study German at a German University (ca.4 weeks)

### **Examinations, Assessment and Marking**

- Two-Hour-In-House Test [winter term] + Two-Hour-Exam Paper [summer term] (35%)
- Oral Examination at the end of the winter and summer term (25%)
- Continuous assessment in both the winter and the summer term (40%)

### **Why study German?**

- To get to know and appreciate the German speaking countries, their people and cultures.
- To enhance your career opportunities in general.
- To be able to apply, to be equipped, and to be prepared for post-graduate research in a German-speaking country.
- To be able to apply for positions and to have the cutting edge when applying for a position in the rapidly expanding biotechnology industry in Ireland and abroad, e.g. with German-based pharmaceutical companies, biotech enterprises, etc.