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Regulations Governing the German Language Test for Non-German-Speaking Prospective Students at the University of Zurich

(Dated 26 May 2009)

The Extended Executive Board of the University has resolved:

§ 1 Basic Principle

¹These regulations apply to students seeking to study at the University of Zurich whose native language is not German. The native language is defined to be the actual native language or the language in which the prospective student earned the qualification that entitles them to study at the University of Zurich.

²The German language test is designed to determine whether prospective students have sufficient knowledge of the language to be admitted to study. It is valid for all degree programs.

§ 2 Exemption

¹The following prospective students are not required to take the German language test:

- a. Prospective students with a Swiss qualification
- b. Visiting students, recipients of a Swiss government scholarship or exchange grants, and mobility students
- c. Prospective students who have passed the abridged entrance examination of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) in Fribourg in German
- d. Prospective students who have passed the University of Zurich entrance examination in the subject German as a First or Second Language



- e. Prospective students who can present one of the following German diplomas:
- New Goethe-Zertifikat C1
 - Goethe Institut Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung (ZOP)
 - Goethe Institut Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom (KDS)
 - Goethe Institut Grosses Deutsches Sprachdiplom (GDS)
 - Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber an Deutsche Universitäten (DSH), class 2 or 3
 - Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK), level II (DSD II)
 - Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache (TestDaF) with a grade of at least TDN 4 on average, and at least TDB 3 in all sub-tests
 - Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD), Oberstufe Deutsch, level C1
 - Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD), Wirtschaftssprache Deutsch, level C2

²Doctoral candidates are not required to take the German language test if their supervisor and the relevant dean's office deem their knowledge of the language to be sufficient. This exception also applies to candidates writing their thesis in their native language or in English; a confirmation to this effect must be submitted.

§ 3 Administrating Office

The German language test is organized and conducted by the Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich.

§ 4 Dates of Tests

The German language test takes place three weeks before the lecture period in the Spring Semester and four weeks before the lecture period in the Fall Semester.

§ 5 Admission to the Test

Upon receiving a positive decision on admission, prospective students will be invited in writing to register for the German language test.

§ 6 Registration

Prospective students must register for the test in writing via the Student Services Admissions Office.



§ 7 Fee

A fee of CHF 90 must be paid at the time of registration. This fee must be paid again if the candidate retakes the test.

§ 8 Deregistration

The fee for the test will only be refunded if a candidate has to deregister due to an act of God (illness, a death in the family, etc.).

§ 9 Test

¹The test comprises the following three sections:

- a. Section A is a 60-minute written test of reading comprehension and grammar. It carries a maximum of 35 points;
- b. Section B is a test of listening comprehension in which candidates have to answer questions on a talk or presentation. They are also required to write a short text. Section B is written and lasts 60 minutes. It carries a maximum of 45 points.
- c. Section C consists of an oral exam lasting 15 minutes. It carries a maximum of 20 points.

²Candidates can score a maximum of 100 points. To pass the test they must earn a total of at least 60 points on the entire (three-part) exam.

§ 10 Test Results

¹If a candidate scores 60 points or more, they have passed the test and can proceed with regular matriculation.

²If a candidate scores fewer than 60 points, they have failed and cannot be matriculated. Candidates who fail the test can submit a new application to matriculate in a subsequent semester, but the new application must be accompanied by a certificate demonstrating that they have in the meantime successfully completed a German course.

§ 11 Retaking the Test

Candidates may retake the test once.



§ 12 Final Provisions

These regulations enter into force on 1 August 2009. They replace the guidelines governing the German language test for non-German-speaking prospective students at the University of Zurich dated 17 December 2002.

On behalf of the Extended Executive Board of
the University

The President:
Fischer

The Secretary:
Stöckli