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## **Regulations Governing Language Requirements in the Language of Instruction**

(dated 25 April 2017)

*The Extended Executive Board of the University has resolved:*

### **§ 1 Basic Principles**

<sup>1</sup> Foreign-language applicants for a Bachelor's, Master's, or Teaching Diploma degree program must provide proof of competence in the language of instruction of the respective study program or teaching subject before they matriculate at the University of Zurich.

<sup>2</sup> The language skills required for matriculation at the doctoral level are assessed during the admissions process by the institute/department or the graduate school, and/or the dean's office/office of student affairs.

<sup>3</sup> Foreign-language applicants refer to persons whose first or primary language is different from the language of instruction.

<sup>4</sup> In these regulations, first or primary language should be understood as the language that a person proficiently uses to write, speak, and understand written and oral statements without any difficulty. This corresponds to reference level C2 or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>5</sup> At the University of Zurich, the languages of instruction used in the study programs and teaching subjects are German and/or English.

<sup>6</sup> Proof of language proficiency of level C1 or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) must be submitted for the relevant language(s) of instruction.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Certain study programs or teaching subjects require language skills in other and/or further languages; proof of these language skills must be submitted to the faculties either during the academic admission assessment or in the course of the studies. Details are listed in the relevant program regulations.

### **§ 2 Recognized Language Certificates**

The list of recognized language certificates with at least reference level C1 is determined by the Admissions Committee in consultation with the Language Center and published as an appendix to these regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf)

### **§ 3 Exemption from Proof of Language Proficiency in the Language of Instruction**

Prospective students with one of the educational backgrounds listed below are exempt from providing proof of language proficiency in the language of instruction:

- Federal or Swiss maturity certificate, or federally or Swiss recognized maturity certificate
- Federal professional maturity certificate in combination with proof of passing supplementary examinations
- Specialized maturity certificate recognized in all of Switzerland in combination with proof of passing supplementary examinations
- Maturità ginnasiale commerciale del Canton Ticino
- Bachelor's degree from UZH
- Bachelor's degree or comparable degree in the language of instruction that is relevant for the studies from a university or university of applied sciences located in a region where official language is the same as the language of instruction (does not apply to distance learning or studies at campuses in countries where the official language differs from the language of instruction)
- Attendance of the last three years of upper secondary school in the language of instruction relevant for the studies in a school located in a region where official language is the same as the language of instruction

### **§ 4 Final Provisions**

<sup>1</sup> These regulations enter into force on 1 May 2017 for admissions to studies from Spring Semester 2018 onward.

<sup>2</sup> The final German language test in accordance with the Regulations Governing the German Language Test for Non-German-Speaking Prospective Students at the University of Zurich dated 26 May 2009 will take place in August 2017, with a repeat exam offered in February 2018.

<sup>4</sup> The Regulations Governing the German Language Test for Non-German-Speaking Prospective Students at the University of Zurich dated 26 May 2009 shall be repealed as of 28 February 2018.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the University of Zurich

The President:  
Michael O. Hengartner

The Secretary General:  
Rita Stöckli

## Appendix of Recognized Language Certificates

(Amendment dated December 17, 2024, valid from January 1, 2025)

### German

Goethe-Zertifikat C1

Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Grosses Deutsches Sprachdiplom

Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber an Deutschen Universitäten, DSH2 and DSH3

Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK), level II, DSD II

Zertifikat telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule

TestDaF with an average result of TDN 4 and at least TDN 3 in all sub-tests

ÖSD Zertifikat C1

ÖSD Zertifikat C1 – Jugendliche

ÖSD Zertifikat C2

ÖSD Zertifikat C2 – Wirtschaftssprache

UZH German language test (held for the final time in Spring Semester 2018)

### English

IELTS Academic

Required score: 7 (minimum 6.5 in speaking and writing)

TOEFL iBT / MyBest™ Scores to TOEFL iBT

Required Score: 100 (minimum speaking 25 and writing 26)

C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge Advanced English, CAE): grade B

C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge Proficiency English, CPE)