



Center for Languages and Key Competences (Zessko)

Foreign Language Training in Eleven Languages

Language training at Zessko is

- **accredited** and UNIcert® **certified**, based on European quality standards (CEFR)
- **university-specific**: integrated, academically robust, competence-oriented, didactically innovative, geared toward mobility and employability
- **needs-based**: for beginners to advanced students, general academic language, subject orientation, course-independent learning, supervised independent study, language tandems, tutorials

Contact: [Christoph Lehker](#)

Certificate in “Intercultural Competence in Studies and Professional Life”

This certificate documents the students’ **academic achievements** and **extracurricular commitment** to acquiring intercultural skills. By **gaining knowledge** and **practical experience**, students learn to

- analyze cultural traits
- interact appropriately in situations in which cultures overlap
- and play a moderating role in conflicts

The workload encompasses at least **eighteen ECTS credits**.

Contact: [PD Dr. Ljuba Kirjuchina](#)

"Student Projects" Module in Studiumplus

Student projects are a new form of academic teaching and learning. **Independent learning in peer situations** with academic advisers enables students to:

- freely design their studies in a modular framework
- put their ideas into practice and improve their ability to work on a team
- practically apply and expand their knowledge
- acquire key competences related to specific professions
- enrich the cultural and social life of the University of Potsdam

Contact: [PD Dr. Ljuba Kirjuchina](#)

Self-Managed Learning with Consultations

Zessko supports course-independent learning through professional learning consultants and certified peer tutors:

- **supervised independent study** and **language tandems**
- **writing assistance** in German and English – individual, process-oriented support for assignments and final theses, writing groups, and workshops
- **presentation coaching** – individual consultations for scholarly presentations (seminar papers, moderation of group discussions, dissertation defenses, etc.); support of instruction by helping with seminar presentations, etc.

Contact persons:

Supervised independent study: [Christoph Lehker](#)

Writing assistance (German/English): [Ariane Wittkowski](#)

Presentation coaching: [Judith Tägener](#)

Successful Start in University Studies for International Students (ESiST)

The University of Potsdam is a member of the Brandenburg university network that supports and is named after ESiST. The program includes:

- the one-year course “**Preparing for Studies in Brandenburg**,” which allows students to acquire the higher education entrance qualification for the state of Brandenburg (linguistic, subject-specific and intercultural preparation, with an additional focus on academic languages and methodologies)
- University entrance examination (**HZP**)
- German Language Exam for University Admission (**DSH**), including preparation
- **Intensive German courses for refugees** at different CEFR levels
- Course offerings in the introductory study phase

Contact: [Dr. Christian Jennerich](#)

The "Docendo Discimus" Program – Didactic Methods for Tutors

Zessko offers **training and support for advanced students** in the following fields:

- Self-competence for studies and professional life (mentoring)
- Academic work and writing
- Academic communication and presentation
- Language tutorials (for philological programs at the UP)

Participants can earn a total of **12 ECTS** credits and a **certificate**.

Contact persons:

Mentor and tutor training and support: [Judith Tägener](#)

Tutor training and support for language tutors: [Michael Konarski](#)