

RTU Course "Business German"

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General data

Code	VSL703
Course title	Business German
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Responsible instructor	Tatjana Smirnova
Academic staff	Ilze Silīņa Larisa Rozenberga
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	2 parts, 6.0 credits
Language of instruction	LV, DE
Annotation	An integrated domain specific course on Business German intended to develop skills required for professional communication in the context of knowledge intensive economy. Students are involved in a wide range of interactive learning activities (presentations, discussions, case studies, problem solving tasks) facilitated by the application of authentic materials and up-to-date study aids. Students are motivated to work autonomously and as a part of a team, study the specifics of doing business across countries and cultures, master professional terminology and professional slang, as well as develop advanced communicative competences. Problem-oriented tasks aim at promoting student creativity and entrepreneurial abilities, cross-culture competences, managerial and leadership skills in international business contexts in the global market.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The goal of the course is to develop integrated advanced German language skills and competences in different business and special professional field related contexts. The objectives of the course: To develop reading and writing skills (text organization, terminology and formulaic expressions); To develop presentation and discussion skills (critical evaluation and analysis, argumentation, explanations etc.); To develop listening comprehension skills (audio and video recordings); To improve accuracy of expression (professional terminology, slang and clichés).
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Students independently read, analyze and summarize upper-intermediate, advanced and authentic texts on the major, learn relevant terminology and improve their German language skills by using the handouts, texts and video materials in the ORTUS system, the Internet and libraries. Students read texts on economics, entrepreneurship, management and innovation, prepare and deliver presentations (at least 2 each semester) and complete business correspondence tasks (2-3 each semester). Independent work constitutes 30%, the exam result makes up 70% of the final mark.
Recommended literature	Obligātā. // Obligatory : Breitsameter, Anna. Mit uns B2 : Deutsch für Jugendliche : Kursbuch /Anna Breitsameter [un vēl 4 autori]., 144 lpp. : ilustrācijas, kartes, portreti, tabulas ; 30 cm Breitsameter, Anna. Mit uns, B2 : Deutsch für Jugendliche : Arbeitsbuch /Anna Breitsameter [un vēl 3 autori]., 156 lpp. : ilustrācijas, tabulas ; 30 cm Papildu. // Additional : Studio. Die Mittelstufe, B2/2,Kurs- und Übungsbuch /von Christina Kuhn ... [et al.] ; Phonetik: Ulrike Würz ; Prüfungsvorbereitung: Nelli Pasemann. Berlin : Cornelsen, 2017., 240 lpp. : ilustrācijas ; 30 cm. + 2 Audio-CDs. Studio. Die Mittelstufe, B2/1,Kurs- und Übungsbuch /von Christina Kuhn ... [et al.] ; Phonetik: Ulrike Würz. Berlin : Cornelsen, 2014., 232 lpp. : ilustrācijas ; 30 cm. + Piel. (1 Audio-CD ; 1 brošūra (31 lpp.) Jin, Friederike. Grammatik aktiv : Üben, Hören, Sprechen : [A1-B1] / [von Friederike Jin, Ute Voß] Berlin : Cornelsen, 2016., 256 lpp. : ilustrācijas ; 26 cm + 1 MP3.
Course prerequisites	Level B2 according to CEFR

Course contents

Content	Full- and part-time intramural studies		Part time extramural studies	
	Contact Hours	Indep. work	Contact Hours	Indep. work
Introduction	2	2	1	5
Company. Company structure	4	4	1	9
Forms of business organization, legal and economic issues	4	4	1	9
Motivation. Remuneration and incentive schemes	4	4	1	8
Project management. Budgeting. Estimates	4	4	1	7
Business and legal correspondence	4	4	1	8
Leadership. Management styles. Decision making	6	6	1	12
Innovations and creativity in business. Competition	4	4	1	9
Doing business internationally. Intercultural issues	4	4	1	9
Outsourcing	4	4	1	5
Mergers and acquisitions	4	4	1	5
Industrial relations. Human resource management	4	4	1	12

Change. Risk management. Conflict management	6	6	1	10
Company finance. Annual report	10	10	3	10
Stock exchange. Securities. Capital markets	6	6	1	10
Corporate responsibility. Sustainable business	6	6	1	4
Tests	4	4	2	8
Total:	80	80	20	140

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to use complex, integrated methodology working with texts, are able to analyse texts, tables, diagrams, graphs, select and comprehend relevant information using the terminology acquired, to answer questions, to summarize a text.	Tests, exam
Students are able to understand the terminology in texts related to business issues and texts in the major, to use terminology commenting on the texts and delivering presentations, to take part in conversations on professional issues in German.	Tests, exam
Students are able to express their views in writing on various aspects of their special field in argumentative essay format, to summarize information, to prepare business documents (letters, forms, statements).	Portfolio of written tasks, exam
Students are able to use communicative skills taking part in discussions, dialogues, delivering presentations, etc. Able to make presentations about various aspects of business and their major, to use PowerPoint preparing presentations.	Presentations, exam
Students are able to participate in discussions related to their major, expressing their views and listening to and analyzing different views expressed by peers.	Tests, exam
Students are able to understand audio and video recordings related to their major, to prepare and answer questions about the information heard.	Tests, exam

Evaluation criteria of study results

Criterion	%
Activity during classes	5
Tests	15
Presentations	15
Portfolio of written tasks	15
Examination	50
Total:	100

Study subject structure

Part	CP	Hours			Tests		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*	
2.	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*	