

## What fellow Humboldtians recommend

”German is a must and not just a necessity. Language is the door to a culture, research culture inclusive. It makes for easier adaptation, acceptance and extra-curricular activities. (Nigeria)

”I recommend future research fellows to try to learn the language wholeheartedly. Otherwise they wouldn't or couldn't notice very many details in the society. This is a country with a big tradition not only in science but also in literature and arts. (Turkey)

”I really did enjoy the language course ... When I arrived at the institute, I started to speak German at my first contact. I think that if one wants to learn German, one should speak German from the beginning. (Belgium)



”Take the language course seriously. In some parts of Germany English is non-existent. (India)

”I would recommend everybody to take advantage of the full 4-month intensive German language course offered ... One cannot expect that everybody will speak English, especially in kindergartens, at schools, in shops, banks, railway stations etc. ... (Ukraine)

”Learning to speak German is very helpful. Do not be ashamed to make mistakes. People correct you and never laugh when you make mistakes. (Cameroon)



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## German courses for Humboldt Fellows

ahnentafel | bildungsroman | kaputt | doppelgänger | echt  
fahrvergnuegen | frauleinwunder | gemütlichkeit | hinter-  
land | kaffeeklatsch | hochsztapler | kindergarten  
kitsch | nix | poltergeist | rucksack | schadenfreude | sprach-  
gefühl | wanderlust | ksztaft | wunderkind | doppelgänger  
gemütlichkeit | kitsch | leitmotif | poltergeist | stiefmutter  
zeitgeist | weltanschauung | zeitgeist | rucksack | zucker-  
watte | Aha-Erlebnis | Einzelgänger | Fingerspitzengefühl  
Kleingeld | sowieso | leitmotif | überhaupt | dach | fajerwerk  
kicz | kindersztuba | kotlet | kumpel | kurort | wasserwaga  
weltanschauung | nix | weltzmerc | zeitgeist | hinterland  
wunderkind | rucksack | kitsch | weltanschauung  
ahnentafel | bildungsroman | kaputt | doppelgänger | echt  
fahrvergnuegen | szlauch | frauleinwunder | gemütlichkeit  
hinterland | kaffeeklatsch | hochsztapler | kindergarten  
kitsch | nix | poltergeist | rucksack | schadenfreude | sprach-  
gefühl | wanderlust | ksztaft | wunderkind | doppelgänger  
ersatz | gemütlichkeit | kitsch | leitmotif | poltergeist  
rucksack | stiefmutter | zeitgeist | weltanschauung  
kumpel | zuckerwatte | Aha-Erlebnis | Einzelgänger  
Fingerspitzengefühl | Kleingeld | sowieso | leitmotif  
überhaupt | dach | fajerwerk | kicz | kindersztuba | kotlet  
kumpel | kurort | szlauch | wasserwaga | weltzmerc | szlauch  
zeitgeist | hinterland | weltanschauung | wunderkind  
doppelgänger | leitmotif | poltergeist | rucksack | sprachgefühl  
ahnentafel | bildungsroman | kaputt | doppelgänger

## An invitation to explore the country

German Gemütlichkeit is a world famous synonym for making oneself comfortable. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation wants you to feel at home in Germany during your research stay. As language is an important part of feeling at ease in new surroundings, we would therefore like to invite you to take a German course. Even if everyone at the host institution speaks English and you do not actually need to use German as a working language in your research project, settling into your life in Germany will be much easier with a little knowledge of the language – be it when registering with the authorities or at the doctor's, shopping at supermarkets or just talking to people you meet who do not know much English, for example at a typical German Kaffeeklatsch or in a Biergarten.

This is why the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation provides support for fellows as well as their accompanying marital partners to take German courses. In intensive courses in Germany you spend two to four months learning about the fundamentals of the language, culture and every day situations. There are two other alternatives: participating in a language course during your research stay or attending a German course in your home country before coming to Germany. These options are designed for those who cannot attend an intensive course but want to be able to get by in everyday life.

**Ask your contact at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for further information and procedures.**



## Intensive courses

Intensive language courses last from two to four months and always take place immediately prior to your research stay. They are held in Germany at certified language schools with an excellent reputation. These courses are an ideal way of preparing for living and working in Germany. The advantages speak for themselves: intensive engagement with the language means faster progress. Your German language skills form the basis which will later on allow you to focus all your energies on your research project. And, on top of this, you will meet like-minded people, fellow Humboldtians and make first contacts in Germany. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation pays for your accommodation (bed and breakfast), a monthly allowance for additional expenses (pocket money) and a lump-sum to cover the costs you will incur at the beginning of your research stay.



### INTENSIVE LANGUAGE COURSES

**Duration:** 2–4 months  
**Time:** immediately prior to research stay  
**Place:** recognised and certified institutions in Germany (e.g. “Goethe-Institut”)  
**Special features:** small groups of learners  
**Objectives:** intensive engagement with the language, time to digest what you have learned, confidence for everyday situations in Germany

## Courses during the research stay

If you are unable to participate in an intensive language course before embarking on your research fellowship you have the option of attending an evening course during your research stay. This will at least provide you with a basic knowledge of German to get by in everyday situations. The teaching sessions are usually shorter than those at intensive courses and are often held in the evenings or at weekends which will allow you to combine pursuing your research project with learning German. During your research stay you can attend courses at universities, adult education centres and private language schools. The course conditions vary from one institute to another.

These courses are also an option for those who want to freshen up German language knowledge they have gained before.

### LANGUAGE COURSES DURING THE RESEARCH STAY

**Duration:** depending on course model (e.g. 2 months)  
**Time:** twice or three times a week  
**Place:** universities, adult education centres, private language schools  
**Objectives:** basic communication in everyday situations in Germany

On special application the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation can also support language courses in the home country for those who cannot make use of any of the two other options.