

LXT193 Learning to teach Languages in Primary Schools (Beginners German)

This module consists of two key elements:

1. an introductory **OU level 1 module** is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand simple German in everyday contexts. It takes you through a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working and eating out in German-speaking countries. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities – which support independent learning. Together, they'll give you not just language skills but a real feel for German-speaking cultures as well.
2. a pedagogy strand with a strongly reflective approach, designed to develop the skills you need to teach beginners German in your primary classroom and develop your pupils' language and literacy skills. It explores current thinking in theory and practice of Primary Languages teaching, familiarizes you with key pedagogical concepts around embedding in daily classroom routines, uses multi-media to introduce you to teaching methods in and outside the classroom and guides you in applying your new knowledge in your own teaching context. Part of the course work will take place on a dedicated website and in online tutorials, but you will also spend time trying out what you have learned and reflecting on this with fellow students.

Module

Module code LXT193

Credits 15

Course work includes:

Language

2 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs)

2 Interactive computer-marked assignments (iCMAs)

No examination

No residential school

Pedagogy

- **4** 300-word word formative reflective pieces in the form of blog postings on the discussions among the student cohort revolving around the application of the pedagogy and language studied in the classroom
- **1** final written 500-word formative reflective piece which summarises the impact of the learning in the 5 course blocks on the individual students' teaching practice, including a plan for further development of your own practice

What you will study

Language

The module is based around one book and has at its core the following elements:

- user-friendly, 'bite-sized' information dealing with language and cultural aspects
- gradual development of study and language skills
- development of basic vocabulary and set phrases
- audio material, featuring recordings by native German speakers, rhymes, radio documentaries and a wide variety of speaking activities
- regular practice activities and self-assessment tests to monitor your progress
- online video clips to support your practice activities.

The study materials are carefully structured and graded, and provide ample opportunities to practice the language in realistic contexts, with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. By the end of the module you will be able to speak and understand simple language and will have developed an understanding of aspects of German, Austrian and Swiss society and culture.

This module is designed to enable you to achieve a level of language proficiency equivalent to level A1 of the Council of Europe [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#). You will have developed your knowledge and understanding of the language as well as an awareness of cultural diversity in German speaking countries which form a key part of the learning outcomes for studying at this level. By the end of the module you will have developed key OU level 1 undergraduate study skills such as learning to work independently and using strategies which enable you to solve problems and analyse data.

Pedagogy

The module is based around a dedicated website and has at its core the following elements:

- user-friendly, 'bite-sized' theory and practical information dealing with teaching Languages at Primary level
- gradual development of study and language teaching skills
- audio-visual material, featuring real-life classroom activities for critical reflection as well as a range of community initiatives, such as outdoor learning, which highlight how Languages can be incorporated into a wide range of Primary school activities
- guidance around interdisciplinary learning and engagement with the wider community
- practice activities and self-assessment tests to monitor your progress
- materials for your own further research in this area
- regular online peer group discussions to support your study and practice activities.

The pedagogy element comprises a balance of theory and practice which enables you to engage with both in a professionally supportive environment. You will have the opportunity to apply your new language skills in your classroom, with your pupils.

The study materials are carefully structured and graded, and provide clear guidance on how to implement what you have learned in your own classroom context. By the end of the module you will be able to teach

simple language in the Primary classroom through a wide range of activity types, will have developed an understanding of key aspects of teaching German as a foreign language and you will have increased your confidence in this aspect of your teaching practice.

Teaching and assessment

Language

Support from your tutor

You will have a tutor who will help you with the study material and mark and comment on your written and spoken tutor-marked assignments (TMAs) and whom you can ask for advice and guidance. If you are new to the OU, you will find that your tutor is particularly concerned to help you with your study methods. This module usually includes a mix of face-to-face and online tutorials. Please note that depending on where you live, the mix will vary. All of these will provide plenty of opportunities to speak and listen to German. Where face-to-face tutorials or day schools are held will depend on the distribution of students taking the module.

Assessment

The assessment details for this module can be found in the facts box above.

You must use the online eTMA system to submit your tutor-marked assignments (TMAs).

TMAs test your writing and speaking skills. Your listening and reading skills will be tested by computer-marked assignments (iCMAs) presented on the website. You will be given more detailed information when you begin the module.

Pedagogy

Support from your tutor

You will have a tutor for the pedagogy who will help you with the study material and mark and comment on your formative and summative assignments, and whom you can ask for advice and guidance. This module usually includes a mix of face-to-face and online tutorials. Please note that depending on where you live, the mix will vary. All of these will provide plenty of opportunities to plan and reflect upon the implementation of what you have learned in your own teaching context. Where face-to-face tutorials or day schools are held will depend on the distribution of students taking the module

Assessment

The assessment details for this module can be found in the facts box above.

Formative assessment: your reflective blog posts as part of the application element of each unit

Summative assessment: a summary of the reflective pieces produced in each block

Regulations

As a student of The Open University, you should be aware of the content of the academic regulations which are available on our [Essential Documents](#) website.

What's included

Books, a dedicated website with additional online resources and activities and audio recordings (delivered via the website and on audio CDs). As a registered language student you have automatic access to an online forum, where you can communicate with fellow students over the internet, and to online audio-conferencing software.

You will need

A headset with a microphone and headphones to talk to your tutor and other students online during some of the module activities and the facility to play audio recordings.

Computing requirements

You will need a device with internet access to study this module as a web browser is used to access learning materials and activities. Any other computer-based activities you will need to carry out, such as word processing, using spreadsheets, taking part in online forums, and submitting files to the university for assessment, are specified in the module materials. If any additional software is needed for these tasks it will either be provided or is freely available. You may need administrative privileges to install the software.

Suitable devices are:

- A Windows desktop or laptop running Windows 7 or later operating system
- A Macintosh desktop or laptop running OS X 10.8 or later operating system.

Some software will not run on Linux, iOS or Android devices.

A netbook, tablet, smartphone or Linux computer that supports one of the browsers listed below **may** be suitable. However, these devices may not be suitable for some activities. If you intend to use one of these devices please ensure you have access to a suitable desktop or laptop device that uses the Windows or OS X operating system in case you are unable to carry out all activities on your mobile device.

Recent versions of the following browsers are suitable for carrying out web-based activities:

- Safari
- Chrome
- Firefox
- Edge

Or Internet Explorer 9 and above.

Using a browser upgraded to the latest version will maximise security when accessing the internet.

Using company or library computers may prevent you accessing some internet materials or installing additional software.

To be able to talk and listen in our online discussions you will need both a microphone and speakers/headphones.

Devices with small screens may make it difficult to view the material provided and carry out the activities. However, a device that has a resolution of at least 1024 pixels horizontally and also at least 768 pixels vertically should be adequate.

See our Skills for OU study website for further information about [computing skills for study](#) and educational deals for buying [Microsoft Office software](#).

If you have a disability

Please note that this module makes substantial use of audio and visual materials. Full transcripts of the audio materials are provided except for those used for assessment purposes. The written and spoken elements you will be asked to complete as part of your assessment use audio and possibly visual stimuli. The study materials are available in alternative versions in Word format for use with a screen reader. They are also available in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). Some Adobe PDF components may not be available or fully accessible using a screen reader and foreign language materials may be particularly difficult to read in this way. Comb-bound versions of the written study materials can also be provided on request.

You will need to make extensive use of a personal computer and the internet. If you use specialist hardware or software to assist you in operating a computer or with this type of material you are advised to [contact us](#) about support which can be given to meet your needs.

If you have particular study requirements please tell us as soon as possible, as some of our support services may take several weeks to arrange. Find out more about our [services for disabled students](#).