COMPETENCE THROUGH LANGUAGE
The LSI in Bochum
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Dear Readers,

You are planning to work in another country? For personal or professional reasons, you want to be able to speak to and understand people in a language that the LSI teaches? Or you just want to acquire additional language qualifications?

Since it was founded in 1973, the Bochum University Institute of Intensive Language Training (Landesspracheninstitut in der Ruhr-Universität Bochum) has been training students in the skills required to communicate in Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and others. The intensive courses have been designed to enable you to quickly learn to express yourself in the new language of choice and familiarise yourself with it as well as the associated culture.

This brochure provides an introduction to the LSI. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us directly or why not visit us on the Internet?

We would be very happy to assist you on your way to „competence through language“.

Dr. Dr. h.c. Klaus Waschik
Languages:
Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Korean, Turkish, Persian: Farsi, Dari

Target groups: Adults who, within the scope of their professional work or university studies, wish to become proficient in a new language

Main focus:
the ability to communicate in the real world

Intercultural preparation and introduction to the respective region's characteristics are either integrated into the courses or provided as separate courses

Courses usually last two or three weeks

Courses in Bochum: learning and living under a single roof, accommodation in guestrooms on the premises

Courses in the countries of the target language (China, Japan, Russia, Jordan, ...)

Personalised learning in small groups

The curricula and training materials have been adapted to the LSI's particular target groups and have been developed at the institute itself by scientifically qualified and experienced tutor teams, both native speakers and German with corresponding training

Classrooms with modern facilities

Special or individual training on inquiry
There's no magic or secret formula to learning a foreign language as quickly as possible, particularly where languages that are considered difficult are concerned. If such an undertaking is to succeed, it requires thorough preparation and hard work – both by the students and tutors.

People wanting to understand and to be understood need to develop their own entirely personal approach to the new language and culture. The LSI's tutors are committed to helping students do so in the way that is appropriate to them. The focus here is not so much about acquiring a theoretical understanding of the language, its structures and rules – because the theory is only important to the extent that it creates and expands the individuals' ability to communicate.

Developing the best possible, efficient and target-oriented ability to communicate: that's the basic concept on which the intensive courses at the LSI are built. This concept has been woven from decades of experience into the training materials devised – and continuously developed – by the LSI's tutors.

The absolute priority is to develop the students' ability to communicate in the real world.
The intensive language courses at the LSI employ a rich and varied training concept. The course units start with the participants’ first language, German in this case, as the foundation. This allows the available linguistic comparisons to be methodically utilised and the differences between the two languages to be highlighted.

From the outset, the new language is put to active use in role play, discussions, question-and-answer games and the focused use of media – the variety of methods employed during the course makes it easier for students to get to grips with the rules structures and vocabulary of their language of choice. The courses are structured such that the individual units build upon each other thus making it possible to learn the new language from scratch. The LSI has developed grading tests for students already possessing some knowledge of the language they wish to learn. These tests enable the tutors to determine how much prospective students already know so that they can then recommend the appropriate course levels.

The benefit: existing linguistic weaknesses and strengths are highlighted and taken into account.
The institute's own library provides an additional benefit to course participants. It holds over 31,000 books, magazines, CDs and DVDs covering such fields as culture, regional studies, business and languages.

In addition to the main sections containing encyclopaedias, teaching materials and regional studies, the LSI library also offers a mix of different subjects relating specifically to the individual languages being taught with daily newspapers and magazines complementing the collection.

Visitors may use the peace and quiet of the library to browse the shelves or view media on the computer workplaces in the separate reading room.
The high quality of the training units is guaranteed not least by the course materials. These materials have been developed by the LSI's teams of tutors from their decades of experience.

Multimedia learning is integrated into the LSI's course units. MP3-CDs containing many speech and audio exercises complement the training manuals. Vocabulary trainers may be used for individually revising acquired vocabularies and committing them to memory with the help of interactive exercises. Each section of the institute also provides additional teaching aids: for instance, video training is also available for people who, following the initial learning phase at the LSI's Russian section, cannot travel to Bochum for work-related or organisational reasons.

The LSI has also developed a special script software for the effective teaching of Arabic. The „Arabische Schrift“ online self-study course enables students to flexibly focus on teaching themselves the individual elements of the writing system – even before the course commences.

Learning by association and vision: this is how the principle of the „kana interaktiv“ self-study program for students may be described. Software-based learning is supported by 92 learning cards which graphically document the relationship between the characters and key terms. They help accelerate memorising these Japanese syllable alphabets.

One of the most unusual aspects of learning Chinese is the group of so-called „classifiers“. The „Kleines Kollokationslexikon der Zähleinheitswörter Chinesisch-Deutsch“ develops a detailed and systematic approach to this linguistic phenomenon and so constitutes a major tool in learning Chinese.
Besides the educational training concept, the tutors are also decisive to the effective acquisition of a new language. It is their technical, educational and personal qualifications that constitute the basis for linguistic success.

The LSI's tutor teams are made up of both experienced native speakers possessing relevant teaching experience as well as German speakers who have learnt and studied the target language as a foreign language and who are very skilled in how they convey their knowledge. Each tutor team is also supported by guest tutors drawn from the countries of the respective target languages. Such contact with native speakers makes it easier for participants to familiarise themselves with the new language.

The fact that the teams are so mixed also creates very high levels of intercultural competence: due to their different cultural backgrounds and thanks to their teaching experience, the tutors are able to help those learning a new language bridge the gap between their own cultures and those of the target countries.
What does „intensive“ mean?

It would be wrong to define „intensive“ as just a matter of quantity, for instance, that a certain number of lessons are provided each day and on several days a week.

Of course, the available time also matters. But, at the LSI, the intensive courses usually run for two or three weeks; between six and eight lessons are taught each day with another two to four hours individual course work being added to this. In other words, it is decisive that participants at the LSI’s courses dedicate them selves fully to learning the new language, i.e. that they are open to the target language and the respective culture without losing sight of their own languages and their own cultural backgrounds.

Intensive also means that the approach to the new language has been scientifically developed as an overall process and educationally structured in such a way that previous and new knowledge engage with and build upon each other.

And it is not least the intensive personal contact within the small learning groups that creates the perfect set of common goals for both tutors and students.
"THE COMPETENT TUTORS WHOSE NATIVE TONGUE IS THE LANGUAGE YOU WANT TO LEARN ALONG WITH THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED LEARNING MATERIALS AND FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE AT THE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE COMBINE TO CREATE A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT PERMITS YOU TO FOCUS TOTALLY ON THE RESPECTIVE LANGUAGE. FOR ME AND MY COLLEAGUES, SUCH LANGUAGE TRAINING AS PROVIDED BY THE RUSSIAN SECTION IN BOCHUM IS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY OF LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE SHORTEST OF TIMES."

DR. ALEXANDER GERST
Astronaut,
ESA (European Space Agency)
HOLGER KÜMMERER
Section Manager in the Purchasing Department, Robert Bosch AG

“It was the ideal preparation for my posting to China. And what was particularly positive was the mix of tutors, teaching materials and the revision period in the evenings.”

PROF. DR. GABRIELE KRONE-SCHMALZ
Television journalist and writer

“I STILL REMEMBER THE COMBINATION OF EFFECTIVE METHODOLOGY AND PLEASANT FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. THE RUSSIAN SECTION IN BOCHUM IS JUST THE PLACE FOR THOSE WANTING TO GAIN RAPID BUT PROFOUND ACCESS TO RUSSIAN – WITH RUSSIAN BECOMING MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT AS A RESULT OF RUSSIA’S DYNAMIC GROWTH.”

PATRICK WELTER
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

“Beginners face an apparently insurmountable obstacle when they start learning Japanese. Proof of the success of the LSI’s elementary course is the fact that this hurdle is overcome almost unnoticeably. The pleasant and friendly atmosphere at the LSI contributes to this success in equal measure as does the large amount of material presented and the sophisticated training methods employed.”

IRIS WURM
Ph.D. student, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK)

“The compared with other training methods intensive approach to the language really excited me. A great sense of achievement (I was already able to read the Arabic script within three to four days) motivated me to carry on learning the language.”
An intensive course at the LSI makes demands on the whole person – all day long. So staying at one of the LSI's guestrooms and starting the day with a rich breakfast and then concentrating on lessons without having to travel any distance and perhaps taking the opportunity of browsing the library’s shelves when you get the chance is a great help.

The LSI has 78 comfortable single and double rooms in five price categories. All rooms are en-suite and include Internet access, a small fridge and a kettle. Bed linen and towels are, of course, also provided.

Participants may end the day after lessons in the spacious lounge, cook a meal with other students or revise the day's lessons in a relaxed atmosphere.

The small patio that leads off the breakfast hall is often the venue for sociable barbecues with other students in the summer. For those who need to balance their mental exertions with physical activities, the nearby woods are a great place to go jogging and the table-tennis facilities are just the thing to build up a sweat.
DOUBLE BEDROOM (approx. 38 m²)

SINGLE BEDROOM (approx. 20 m²)

... more categories available
Bochum is a lively university city that is home to 370,000 people and that is located at the heart of the metropolitan Ruhr region which – with a population of five million – is the largest economic centre in Europe. The mining industry which once dominated the region has now been replaced by service and education providers and businesses.

The cultural landscape of the metropolitan Ruhr region is also one of the largest in Europe – it was for good reason that the Ruhr region became the European Capital of Culture in 2010. More than 40 stages in Bochum alone – including the famous Bochumer Schauspielhaus (theatre) – present many opportunities for a varied evening programme. The unique Deutsche Bergbau Museum (German Mining Museum), the Museum Bochum, the planetarium and many other smaller museums and galleries are just waiting to be discovered. And fans of musicals will also find what they want here: Bochum has been home to Starlight Express, one of the most famous musicals in the world, since 1988.
The Bermuda3Eck is the longest stretch of pubs and bars in the Ruhr region: it counts over 75 pubs, bars and restaurants where guests and students can wind down after a hard day at the institute. People with a little less taste for the highlife will find peace and calm in the parks and green areas in and around Bochum. The “Innenstadt West”, for example, is a former industrial site that has been remodelled into a park. It is regarded as being exemplary of the structural changes that the entire metropolitan Ruhr region is currently undergoing.

And the conservation area that is the Bochumer Stadtpark is a great place to jog or take a walk as are the paths along the banks of the River Ruhr.