

Course Types History University Freiburg

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Below you will find an overview of the different types of courses offered for History in Freiburg. The exact structure and implementation of the courses may vary depending on the teacher.

Important!

Please be aware that the Department of History and the Department of Ancient History **almost exclusively offer courses in German!**

- **Intro to Studying History for Erasmus Students (2-3 ECTS)**

This tutorial (de. *Tutorat*) will introduce Erasmus Incoming students to studying History at the University of Freiburg. We'll discuss topics like orientation on campus, the use of libraries and German databases, as well as the peculiarities of German historiography. Furthermore there will be useful information on exam registration and the types of examinations in Germany. Additionally, the course should also serve as a regular platform for general questions regarding the Erasmus stay. You can earn 2 ECTS by regular attendance and active participation in class. Writing a review of the course in German afterwards will grant you 3 ECTS for the course.

In short: Everything you need for a smooth start for your studies of history at Freiburg University.

- **Vorlesung (4 ECTS)**

Lectures (de. *Vorlesungen*) are a type of event in which a teacher lectures on a broader topic. There is little to no interaction with the audience. Often about 20 pages of research literature must be read each week as accompanying reading. As a performance, you may have to write protocols for individual sessions or, as in most cases, take a written exam. Lectures are particularly recommended if you feel unsure about the German language. In prior consultation with the teacher, more or fewer ECTS points can be awarded depending on the performance achieved.

- **Übung (4 ECTS)**

Exercises (de. *Übungen*) are interaction-based courses in smaller groups with a maximum of 20 participants. Practical or theoretical problems of historical research are usually discussed in the sessions. Apart from regular attendance and participation in

the discussions, a presentation or session usually has to be prepared. Often, a small written paper must also be written, for example in the form of an essay.

- **Proseminar (6-10 ECTS)**

Proseminars (de. *Proseminare*) are very similar to exercises. Here, too, discussions take place in a smaller group of 10-20 people. The subject of the discussion, however, is usually a special topic or a concrete, substantive question in the field of historical studies. Tutorials are always attached to proseminars, which teach the basics of historical research of the respective epoch. In contrast to the exercises, the workload is much more intensive, as students usually have to read at least 20 pages of accompanying reading per week and may also be required to take a written exam, make presentations, write protocols, organise sessions or write essays during the semester. A seminar usually concludes with a written paper (de. *Hausarbeit*) of approximately 12-20 pages or a 15-minute oral examination. Sometimes, term papers can also be written in English or other common languages such as French in consultation with the teacher.

- **Hauptseminar (10 ECTS)**

Mainseminars (de. *Hauptseminare*) can **only** be taken by International Incomings **in consultation with the Erasmus Coordination and the respective teacher** and are intended for advanced history students and German speakers. mainseminars are comparable to proseminars, but without tutorials and usually with an increased workload. A high level of content and language is also required in the written and oral performances. A term paper of 20-25 pages is usually expected.

Important!

We recommend (if you are uncertain about the German language) that you take a **maximum of one proseminar** and **no mainseminar**, as a written, academic paper usually has to be written in German at the end of a seminar. Instead, fill your ECTS with lectures, exercises, courses of other faculties or language courses of the Language Teaching Institute (*Sprachlehrinstitut, SLI*).

