Start your studies with TestDaF

TestDaF

Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache
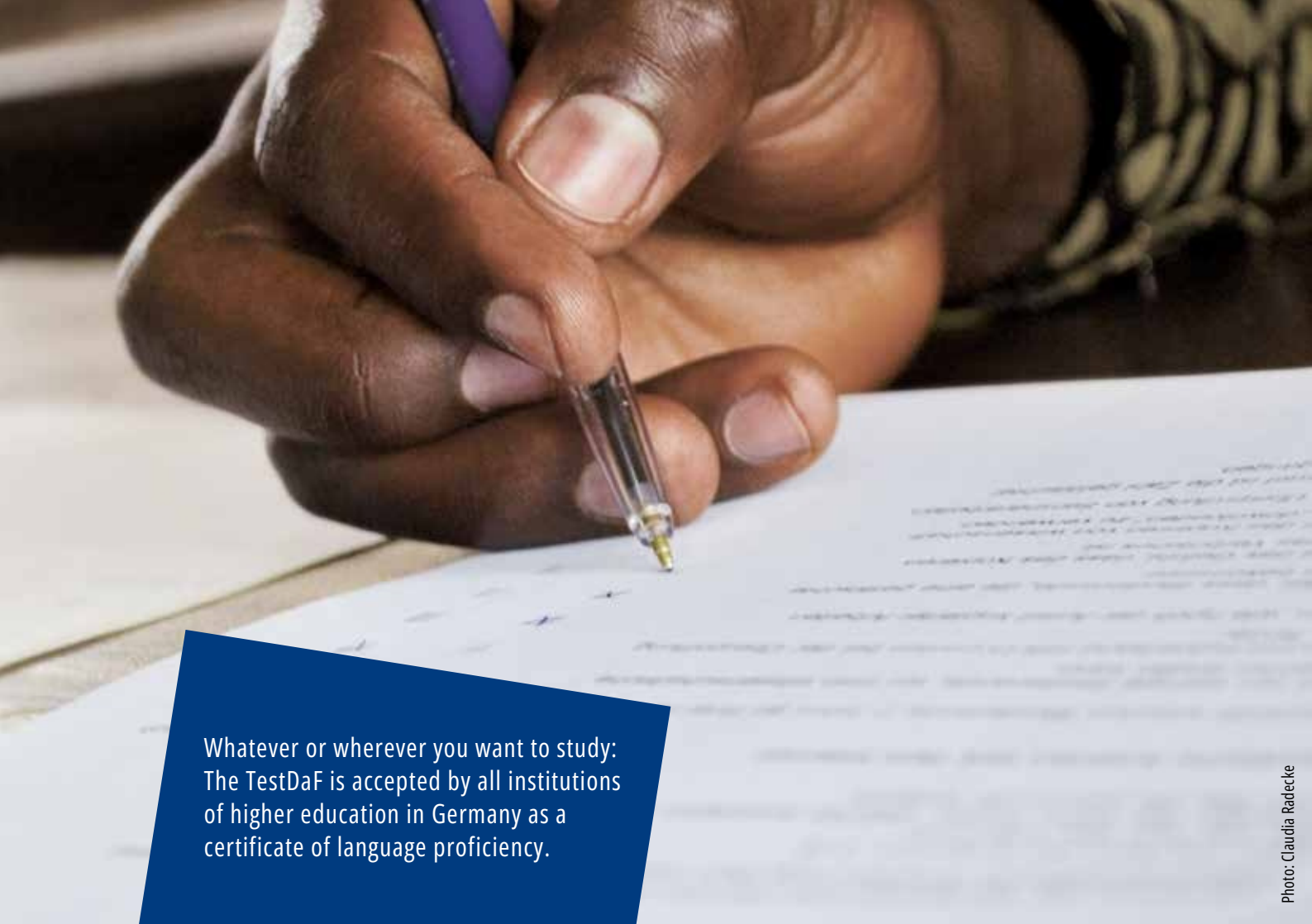
Whatever or wherever you want to study:
The TestDaF is accepted by all institutions
of higher education in Germany as a
certificate of language proficiency.

The TestDaF:
Language Certificate for your Studies and Professional Career

50,000 certificates per year: The TestDaF is the most important language test for international students who need to prove their German language proficiency.

- With TestDaF level (TDN) 4 in all four components you will be admitted to almost all study programmes.
- Only very few masters programmes require a higher TestDaF level.
- Some institutions of higher education accept a TDN 3, if it can be balanced out by a TDN 5.
- For many programmes even lower results are sufficient (e.g. 4 x TDN 3).

Find out as early as possible about the language requirements of your chosen study programme. You can find this information on the website of the university where you wish to study.

You can also use the TestDaF certificate for your profession. Prove your German language skills to research institutions or future employers by producing a TestDaF certificate.

The TestDaF certificate is highly valued:

- It is valid indefinitely.
- It is accepted by all institutions of higher education.
- It gives precise information on your language proficiency.

What does the TestDaF assess?

The TestDaF consists of four components assessing language proficiency that you need for your studies and research.

Amma Alabdo (22) from Syria studies medicine at the University of Hamburg:

TestDaF didn't only help with the language, it also prepared me for my studies. What I found particularly good about TestDaF is not only does it contain the kind of information and situations that you find in lectures in seminars, but also things which you encounter in student life. For example, looking for somewhere to live or basic everyday conversations with friends and fellow students. On top of that, there are the methods and strategies about exactly what you should write during a talk or a lecture. These are the things which TestDaF simulates and which gave me an idea about what it would be like to study.

4 Components of the TestDaF

What you need to be able to do in the TestDaF:

Reading Comprehension

3 written texts, 30 items, 60 minutes

You can read short texts of everyday university life and assign them to given statements: lecture timetables, advertisements, or book reviews. You are able to read and understand longer texts on general and academic topics and can answer questions referring to the main ideas as well as to details.

Listening Comprehension

3 audio texts, 25 items, 40 minutes

You can understand spoken texts: short dialogues, interviews, or lectures. You are also able to understand the overall context and main ideas of longer spoken texts and can answer questions referring to them.

Written Production

1 writing task, 60 minutes

You can write a coherent and clearly structured text on a given topic. You can extract information from diagrams, describe details, and summarise them. You are also capable of making comparisons and stating your own well-founded opinion.
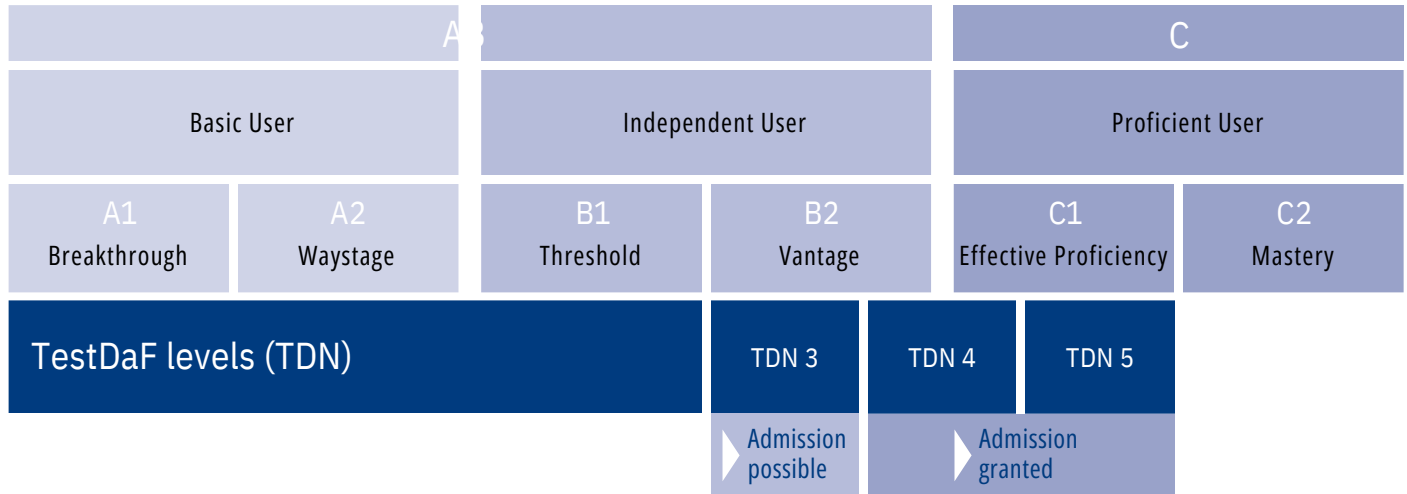
Spoken Production

7 speaking tasks, 35 minutes

You can verbally express yourself in typical situations at university. You are able to state your opinion in a seminar, give fellow students an advice, or take part in a discussion.

TestDaF Levels

The three TestDaF levels (TDN 3, 4, and 5) reflect the language proficiency that you need for your studies. The TestDaF levels are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages of the Council of Europe. They allow you and the institutions who receive your TestDaF certificate to compare your language skills on an international basis.

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

A B				C	
Basic User		Independent User		Proficient User	
A1 Breakthrough	A2 Waystage	B1 Threshold	B2 Vantage	C1 Effective Proficiency	C2 Mastery
TestDaF levels (TDN)			TDN 3	TDN 4	TDN 5
			Admission possible	Admission granted	

The TestDaF is Fair...

Fairness and quality are the reference principles of the TestDaF-Institut.

The standardised format of the TestDaF provides assurance for test preparation. You know exactly what is expected from you. The TestDaF-Institut guarantees fairness during the test administration and scoring of your performance.

The TestDaF remains the same in

- stucture
- task formats
- requirements
- test administration
  - scoring procedures

TestDaF for candidates with special requirements

Taking the TestDaF is no problem, if you have physical disabilities (e.g. visual or hearing impairments) or learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia or attention deficits). The administration of the TestDaF will then be accommodated according to your needs. Please contact the test centre of your choice well in advance.
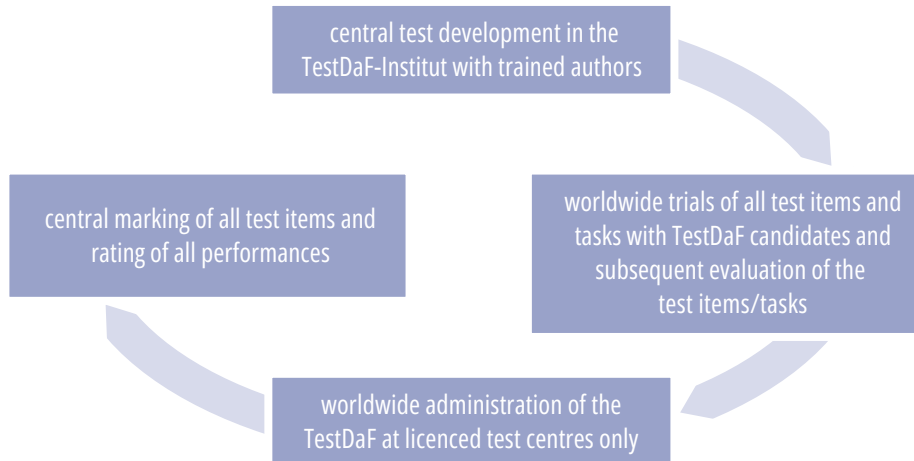
... and Reliable.

We guarantee international quality standards in each test.

The TestDaF follows clear and coherent principles

central test development in the TestDaF-Institut with trained authors

worldwide trials of all test items and tasks with TestDaF candidates and subsequent evaluation of the test items/tasks

central marking of all test items and rating of all performances

worldwide administration of the TestDaF at licenced test centres only

Assuring Quality, Proving Quality

The TestDaF-Institut is a scientific institution. Due to continuing research the quality of the TestDaF can be assured, improved and be made transparent.
You benefit from this: The test requirements remain the same, the test is fair.

Quality Seal: Q-Mark

The Association of Language Testers in Europe has evaluated the TestDaF's compliance with the Code of Practice as very good and certified the test with its 'Q-Mark':

Association of Language Testers in Europe: www.alte.org

ALTE
Q217
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Seven Steps to Success with the TestDaF

www.testdaf.de ➡ for candidates

1 Are you ready for the TestDaF? Find out and take the placement test on the TestDaF website.

2 Prepare for the TestDaF thoroughly:

- with sample tests: you can download our two sample tests (Modellsätze) including audio files from the TestDaF website for free
- our 'Tips' („Hinweise und Tipps") provide information on how to solve the TestDaF items
- with preparation materials from several publishing houses – you will find a list on the TestDaF website
- with preparation courses, e.g. at test centres, institutions of higher education, and Goethe-Institut locations
- with Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO) your preparation is supported by tutors

3 Choose a test centre near you.

4 Select a TestDaF examination date.
Plan in advance and keep the university application deadlines in mind.

5 Register online for the TestDaF.
Keep your user name and password. You need them to manage your data.

6 Get familiar with the test procedure.
Read the FAQs on the website and find out what has to be considered before, on, and after the exam day.

7 Look forward to your results and your certificate!
You can see your results 6 weeks after the exam day in the test takers' portal. Keep your user name and password ready to log in. You will receive your printed and signed certificate from the test centre.

Our Test Centres Worldwide

- about 500 test centres in almost 100 countries
- TestDaF test takers from 150 countries
- with more than 50,000 test takers per year the most important and largest test of German on these levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Afghanistan	Dänemark	Kanada	Pakistan	
Ägypten	Deutschland	Kasachstan	Palästina	
Äthiopien	Ecuador	Kenia	Paraguay	
Albanien	Estland	Kirgisistan	Peru	Tadschikistan
Algerien	Finnland	Kolumbien	Philippinen	Taiwan
Argentinien	Frankreich	Kosovo	Polen	Thailand
Armenien	Georgien	Kroatien	Portugal	Togo
Aserbaidschan	Ghana	Lettland	Republik Moldau	Tschechien
Australien	Griechenland	Litauen	Rumänien	Tunesien
Bangladesch	Großbritannien	Luxemburg	Russische Föderation	Türkei
Belarus	Guatemala	Madagaskar	Schweden	Uganda
Belgien	Hong Kong	Malaysia	Senegal	Ukraine
Benin	Indien	Marokko	Serbien	Ungarn
Bolivien	Indonesien	Mazedonien	Singapur	Uruguay
Bosnien und Herzegowina	Iran	Mexiko	Slowakische	USA
Brasilien	Island	Mongolei	Republik Spanien	Usbekistan
Bulgarien	Israel	Neuseeland	Sri Lanka	Venezuela
Burkina Faso	Italien	Niederlande	Südkorea	Vereinigte Arabische Emirate
Chile	Japan	Nigeria	Südafrika	Vietnam
China	Jordanien	Norwegen		Zypern
Côte d'Ivoire	Kamerun			

contact:

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und Testentwicklung e. V.
TestDaF-Institut, Bochum

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presented by:

Member of ALTE and EALTA
Associate Member of ITC and EAQUALS