

English for Social Work (ESW) | FAQs (JG 2016)

What is English for Social Work?

English for Social Work (ESW) is a four-semester voluntary course (24 hours per semester) that will help you to use English effectively at work. You will improve your fluency and confidence in English, and develop professional communication skills in activities such as conducting counselling sessions, giving interviews, telephoning, and writing (emails, letters, case reports). You will also become familiar with social work terminology through the discussion of texts on social welfare issues.

Can anyone join the course?

The course is designed for students of *Sozialwesen* and *Sozialwirtschaft*, but students from other departments are welcome if places are free. Please contact Stephanie Ashford (ashford@dhbw-vs.de) for more information.

I had good grades at school. How will this course help me?

You will benefit from skills training that you probably did not get at school, while developing the social work vocabulary for your career. Students who do not take this course usually regret their decision later, so don't miss this opportunity!

When does the course run?

For your cohort (*Jahrgang* 2016), the course runs as follows: *ESW 1* (April-June 2017), *ESW 2* (October-December 2017), *ESW 3* (April-June 2018), *ESW 4* (January-March 2019). The classes take place regularly on **Thursday afternoons**, starting on **13.04.2017 at 14:00 in Room D009** (Campus of the *Fakultät Wirtschaft*). The last class is on 08.06.2017.

How do I apply?

Please register by email to Stephanie Ashford (ashford@dhbw-vs.de) or directly with the lecturer, Anita Namyslo on the first day of class (13.04.17, Room D006, 14:00).

What are levels B1, B2, C1 etc?

These are levels on the scale of the Common European Reference Framework (CERF). You can get an idea of your level by referring to the European Language Portfolio Self-Assessment Grid:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portfolio/self-assessment-grid> (*Raster zur Selbstbeurteilung*)

Is there an exam?

Yes. There is a 90-minute written examination at the end of the course. Assessment of oral competence is on a continuous basis and can take a number of different forms, for example project work, oral presentations, role-plays and simulations. Your teacher may also give quizzes, 'spot checks' and mini-tests. The purpose of this assessment is to help you and your teacher to monitor your progress and to determine your CERF level (e.g. B2 or C1) for the certificate. For this reason, it is important that you participate actively throughout the course.

Does everyone get a language certificate?

It depends. Certificates are only awarded to students who have taken the exam, attended *ESW 1-4* regularly (minimum 80% of the classes with any absences excused) and have satisfied their teacher's assessment criteria for oral competence. Details in German about language certificates at the DHBW-VS are on the university website: <http://www.dhbw-vs.de/hochschule/zentrale-einrichtungen/sprachenabteilung/faq-zertifikate.html>.

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