

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GOETHE-INSTITUT EXAMINATIONS

Examinations offered

Exams and dates

Every month (except July and December) we offer Goethe exams at all levels (A1-C2) in Winterthur and Zurich. → [Dates](#)

Exam locations

The exams take place at two centrally located, barrier-free [ZHAW locations](#) in Zurich and Winterthur.

Costs

The costs vary depending on the level. You can find an overview of [prices](#) on our website.

Online or computer

All examinations are paper-based and held on site. The ZHAW does not offer computer-based examinations. Electronic tools are not permitted. Further information on the examination procedure can be found [here](#).

Exam registration

Registration

Register online for available examination dates. Places and dates can be found on our website. → [Dates](#)

Registration for admission to higher education

If you need your exam result within less than three weeks of the exam date (e.g. for admission to a university, ETH or PH), please select the “Zulassung Studium” option when registering.

Registration for an examination with specific needs

Please contact us by telephone or at goethe@zhaw.ch in advance, but at the latest before you register, if you require an examination with specific needs. We will check your request and endeavor to find a suitable solution. Further information can be found on our website.

Confirmation of registration

Immediately after your registration you will receive a confirmation by e-mail. Please also check your SPAM folder. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact us at: goethe@zhaw.ch



Exam information, invoice and payment

Approximately 3 weeks before the exam you will receive your personal exam invitation including invoice by post. Pay the invoice within 10 days, at the latest before the exam.

Credit card payment

Payment by credit card is not possible. Please use the QR code on the invoice.

Exam preparation

Language courses and exam training

No course is required for exam admission. However, our course center offers German courses and targeted exam training for levels B1 to C2 - both on-site and online. Further information can be found [under ZHAW German courses](#).

Individual preparation

You can prepare for the exam on your own. You can find a list of [suitable materials](#) on our website.

[Model exams](#) can be found on the website of the Goethe-Institut.

It is also advisable to familiarize yourself with the [exam regulations](#) and the [exam day schedule](#) in advance.

Exam times

You can find a timetable for each part of the exam on the information pages for each level. You will receive your personal exam invitation with the exam times and invoice around 3 weeks before the exam date.

Allow sufficient time for your commute. Once the exam has started, admission is no longer possible.

Spelling

The examinations are based on the spelling rules from August 2006, which are "DUDEN- Die deutsche Rechtschreibung" (from 24th edition) and "WAHRIG- Die deutsche Rechtschreibung" (since 2006).

Your exam day

Exam times

About 3 weeks before the exam date, you will receive the necessary exam information with the timetable and the invoice. You will find a [timetable](#) for each part of the exam on the information pages for each level.

Allow sufficient time for your commute. Admission is not possible once the exam has started.

What to bring to the exam

Bring your valid identification documents with a picture. Your identity will be checked at the entrance.

Bring your pens with you. You must write with a ballpoint pen; pencils and erasable pens (friction pens) are not permitted. See also: [Your exam day](#).

Arrival and start of the exam

Allow sufficient time for your arrival - you will not be admitted once the exam has started. Be in the examination room at least five minutes before the start of the examination, have your ID ready and follow the supervisor's instructions.

Permitted aids

We provide all written materials. Dictionaries, notepads and electronic aids are not permitted. Please only use ballpoint pens. Further details can be found on our [website](#).

Catering during the exam

Food is not permitted during the exam. A neutral water bottle without a label may be placed on the table. During the breaks, you can eat in the immediate vicinity or use the cafeteria on the first floor.

Problems during the exam

If problems occur during the exam, raise your hand and inform a supervisor.

Cancellation

Cancellation in writing

Cancellations (even at short notice) must always be made in writing to goethe@zhaw.ch.

Deadlines and fees

The deregistration fees depend on the time of deregistration (see also our [General Terms and Conditions](#)):

Up to 8 weeks prior to the exam: free of charge

8 to 4 weeks prior to the exam: 50% of the fee

Less than 4 weeks prior to the exam: 100% of the fee

Illness or other medical reasons

For a free postponement, please send us a medical certificate to goethe@zhaw.ch within 10 days. We will then contact you regarding the next steps.

Exam result

Reception of examination results

Examination results will be sent by post within 3 weeks of the examination date. Please note that it is not possible to obtain information on examination results by telephone or e-mail before the examination date.

Do you need results earlier, e.g. for admission to a university, ETH or PH? Select a special date for university/ETH/PH when registering or contact us at goethe@zhaw.ch.

Repeating the exam

You can retake the exam at any time and as often as you like:

- A1 and A2: entire exam must be taken again.
- B1 to C2: individual modules can be repeated (modular exam).

A new registration is required for each repetition.

Certificate validity and replacement

Validity of the certificate

Goethe certificates are valid for lifetime. Please note, however, that authorities or licensing offices require a certificate that is not older than a certain number of years.

Overall certificate / individual certificates

If you pass all 4 modules at our examination center within one year, you will automatically receive an overall certificate (see [examination regulations](#), 14.7.4). Four individual certificates are equivalent to one overall certificate.

Loss of certificate

According to the examination regulations, no duplicates will be issued. Within 10 years of the examination date, you can request a replacement certificate for a fee of CHF 50. To do so, please send an e-mail to goethe@zhaw.ch stating the examination date and your current address.

Change of name

The certificate will be issued with the details from the application. Subsequent name changes will not be processed and no new certificate or replacement certificate will be issued.

If necessary, an official document (e.g. birth or marriage certificate) can be submitted as proof of the name change.