

Information for International Students

Teacher education at the University of Bonn

The teacher education in Germany is governed by the different federal states. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the teacher training consists of a three-year Bachelors- and a two-year Masters-programme and 18 months of practical training. During this time, the prospective teachers are supervised by a Centre for Practical Teacher Training (ZfsL).

In Bonn two different types of teaching degrees for two different kinds of schools can be obtained, these are namely:

A degree for teaching at a *Gymnasium* or *Gesamtschule* (high school / comprehensive school) and a teaching degree for the *Berufsschule* (vocational school).

The Bachelors-degree at Bonn University is polyvalent and offers the opportunity to continue with a Master of Arts/Science instead of a Master of Education.

The teacher education requires you to study two subjects. In addition to subject specific contents, which represent the bulk of the Bachelors-programme, the students acquire educational and didactically-orientated knowledge and complete different practical phases.

The Bonn Centre for Teacher Education (BZL) is responsible for the coordination of the academic parts of the training, that is the Bachelor's and the Master's degree.

The BZL coordinates and develops the teacher education programmes, acting as a central institution connecting faculties, units for subject-specific didactics, educational science and external partners. The Centre is also responsible for the practical elements during the Bachelors- and Masters-programme and supports the promotion of young researchers.

The educational science unit including the modules "diagnosis and promotion of learning" and "German language for pupils with migration history" is allocated to the BZL.

For further information about BZL please consult:

www.bzl.uni-bonn.de

Teaching degree for *Gymnasium* (High School) and *Gesamtschule* (Comprehensive School)

In the table below you can see which subject-combinations are possible: Subjects from Group 1 are freely combinable (except for the two types of religious education). Subjects from Group 2 require the combination with a subject from Group 1. Please be advised that in some of the combinations classes can overlap, which may lead to an extended length of studies.

Possible combinations

Group 1		Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • German • English • Religious Education (Protestant) • French • History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Education (Catholic) • Latin • Mathematics • Philosophy • Physics • Social Sciences • Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography • Greek • Computer Science • Italian

Teaching degree for *Berufskolleg* (Vocational School)

For the vocational training degree there are two main subjects (see below) that can be combined with one of the following related subjects.

Subject 1	Subject 2 (choose one of the following)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Science • Animal Science (cattle breeding) • Economics and Social Sciences of agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional Science and Home Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition and Food Technology • Market and Consumption

Practical elements during the Bachelor's degree

School internship (*Eignungs- und Orientierungspraktikum*)

Typically completed during the first year of your studies, this mentored internship allows you to find out if teaching is the right career for you. The internship provides you with the opportunity to critically analyse the practical elements of teaching.

Duration: 25 work days

Work placement (*Berufsfeldpraktikum*)

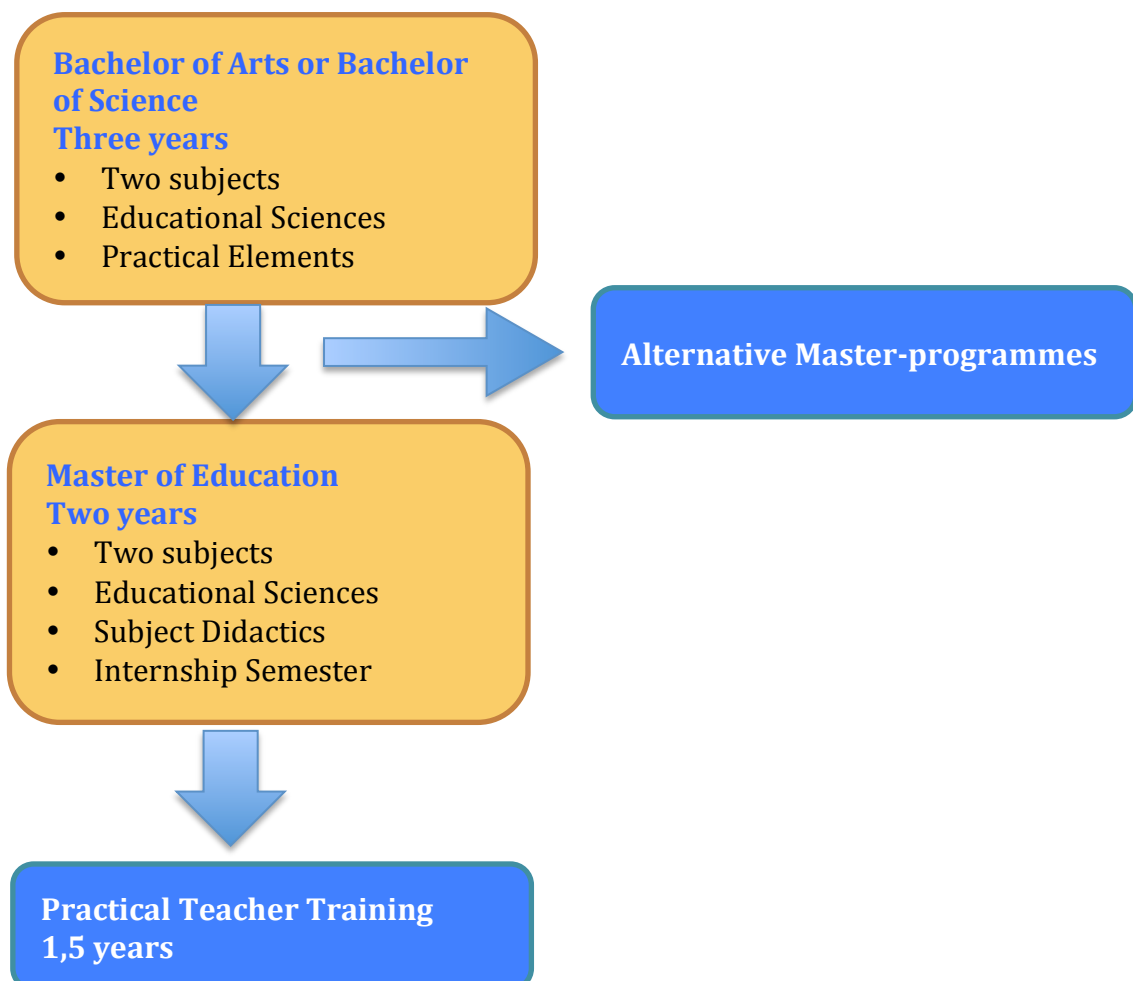
This is usually not a school internship. Rather, it should give you an insight into other areas of employment related to the subjects you study or open up perspectives in different kinds of jobs related to the teacher occupation.

Duration: either a minimum of four weeks in full-time or 120 hours in part-time throughout your semester.

Internship during your Master's degree

During your Master's degree you will spend a whole semester as an intern at a school related to your study programme. In the course of this semester, students are supervised by school teachers, seminar instructors from a centre for practical teacher training and the university. During this internship, students are able to experience the professional life of a teacher, gather experience in teaching, and transfer their theoretical knowledge into practical experience. Students are expected to conduct small research projects in educational sciences. This will help them to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical elements of the teaching occupation.

Teacher training at a glance



Language requirements

The language requirements are regulated in the examination rules (*published on the BZL website*). They list specific language requirements you have to fulfil in order to be eligible to enter the Master's programme. You can acquire these during your Bachelor-studies at the University of Bonn.

The language requirements are:

Subject	Requirements
History, Philosophy	Knowledge in Latin > kleines Latinum
Latin, Greek	Qualification in Latin and Greek > Latinum und Graecum
Religious Education (Protestant)	Qualification in Greek and Latin or Hebrew > Graecum > Latinum or Hebraicum
Religious Education (Catholic)	Qualification in Latin; Knowledge of Greek and Hebrew > Latinum > Knowledge of Greek and Hebrew

For more information about the acquisition of languages at Bonn University, see:

→ www.sprachen.uni-bonn.de

German language

There is one exception to the language requirements, however: You have to have a level of C1 in German according to the standards specified by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) **prior to your Bachelor's application**. In order to be eligible to study at the University of Bonn you have to pass the DSH (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber*), a test to assess your language proficiency. For further information regarding preparations for the exam and application procedures, please see:

→ <https://uni-bn.de/dbruJFPbfh>

Programme orientation and suitability

Website programme orientation: → www.studienorientierung.uni-bonn.de

Online-Self-Assessment: → www.selbsttest.uni-bonn.de

Application procedure

For current information about the subjects and the admittance procedures, please see:

→ www.studienangebot.uni-bonn.de

→ www.bewerbungsportal.uni-bonn.de

Career prospects

A teacher's tasks are diverse and complex. Preparing and performing school lessons is the main activity but the range of tasks also includes collaboration with the teaching staff, solving social conflicts in class and further individual training.

Teachers promote social relationships and support pupils solving their conflicts. They meet the specific needs of children with learning difficulties or disabilities and consider the pupils' individual cognitive and sociocultural preconditions. Apart from that, teachers also communicate and collaborate with parents and colleagues regarding e.g. educational issues or organizational responsibilities.

The teacher profession demands social skills, such as empathy, assertiveness and particularly the willingness to do more than just a job.

Degree	Study opportunities	Standard study period	Beginning of the course
Bachelor teacher education (B.A.)/(B.Sc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnasium (High School) Gesamtschule (Comprehensive School) Berufskolleg (Vocational School) 	6 semester	Winter term
Master of Education (M.Ed.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnasium (High School) Gesamtschule (Comprehensive School) Berufskolleg (Vocational School) 	4 semester	Winter term

Contact information

Bonner Zentrum für Lehrerbildung (BZL)

Bonn Centre for Teacher Education

Poppelsdorfer Allee 15

D-53115 Bonn

Germany

Phone: +49-228 – 73 600 50

Email: bzl@uni-bonn.de

Student advisory service

For study guidance for educational training and the different profession subjects see:

www.bzl.uni-bonn.de/studium/ansprechpartner/beratung

BZL Exam Office

Poppelsdorfer Allee 15

D-53115 Bonn

Germany

Phone: +49-228 – 73 600 50

Email: bzl@uni-bonn.de

www.bzl.uni-bonn.de/organisation/pruefungsausschuss-1

BZL Student Body

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Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service

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D-53115 Bonn

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Phone: +49-228 – 73 7080

zsb@uni-bonn.de

www.zsb.uni-bonn.de

Fast-track entry into teacher-training in Germany

Your Situation

- You have studied one or several subjects and worked as a teacher before.
- You have completed your teacher-training course for a single or for several subjects with a university degree.
- You have started a teacher-training course for a single or several subjects but not completed it.

Your Goal

You would like to work as a teacher in Germany and/or finish your studies here.

1. Teacher-training in Germany

- In Germany, teacher-training consists of a three-year bachelor’s and a two-year master’s programme and an 18-months postgraduate traineeship (*Referendariat*). You can obtain different degrees for the different school forms in Germany, namely *Gymnasium/Gesamtschule* (high school/comprehensive school), *Berufsschule* (vocational school), *Grundschule* (primary school), *Realschule/Hauptschule/Sekundarschule/Gesamtschule* (different kinds of secondary schools) and *Lehramt für sonderpädagogische Förderung* (special needs education).
- Teacher-training in Germany requires you to study, and later teach, **two** subjects. In addition to subject-specific contents, students are requested to study **educational sciences**.
- Furthermore, the degree contains different practical elements that are completed in and outside of the educational sector.
- The language of instruction during teacher education is mostly German. Therefore, a certain level of the German language is required (see 5.).

2. Teacher-training at the University of Bonn

In Bonn two different types of teaching degrees for two different kinds of schools can be obtained, these are namely: A degree for teaching at a *Gymnasium or Gesamtschule* (high school/comprehensive school) and a teaching degree for the *Berufsschule* (vocational school).

Teaching degree for *Gymnasium or Gesamtschule*: In the table below you can see which subject-combinations are possible: Subjects from Group 1 are freely combinable (except for the two types of religious education). Subjects from Group 2 require the combination with a subject from Group 1. Due to the variety of subjects, classes may overlap.

Group 1		Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biologie • Chemie • Deutsch • Englisch • Evangelische Religionslehre • Französisch • Geschichte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katholische Religionslehre • Latein • Mathematik • Physik • Philosophie • Sozialwissenschaften • Spanisch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographie • Griechisch • Informatik • Italienisch

Teaching degree for *Berufskolleg*: While the two subjects for the degree for *Gymnasium* or *Gesamtschule* are equal in terms of their workload, the degree for Vocational Schools requires you to select a major and combine it with a minor. You can choose between the following major-minor combinations:

Major	Minor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant Science Animal Science (cattle breeding) Economics and Social Sciences of agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritional Science and Home Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition and Food Technology Market and Consumption

3. Your Entry into Teacher-training

Depending on how far you have progressed in your studies, you can either enter the bachelor's or the master's programme.

- If you have studied only one subject so far, you have to enter the bachelor's programme in the first semester. However, it might be possible that achievements from your first degree can be recognised for the teacher-training degree here in Bonn. This would mean that you would have to complete only parts of the subject already studied, the courses for your second subject, educational sciences and the practical elements.
- If you also have completed courses in your second subjects it is possible to start your bachelor's degree in a higher semester.
- If you can prove that you have completed internships, it could also be possible to recognise these as the internships required for the degree in Bonn.
- The following link will lead you to further information about the application process for the bachelor's programme:
https://www.uni-bonn.de/studying/vor-dem-studium/bewerbung-zulassung-en?set_language=en
- If you have completed the bachelor's degree with both of the subjects, you might be able to start with the Master of Education directly.
Information about the conditions of admission are available at:
<https://www.bzl.uni-bonn.de/studium/studiengaenge/masterstudiengang/zugangsvoraussetzungen>
Information about the application process for the Master of Education are available at:
<https://www.bzl.uni-bonn.de/studium/studiengaenge/masterstudiengang/bewerbung>
- If you already have completed a master's degree, achievements might be recognised for the Master of Education.

4. Recognising study achievements from your former studies

For the possible recognition of achievements from former studies, please contact the student counsellors from your respective subjects. You can find the contact details here:

<https://www.bzl.uni-bonn.de/studium/ansprechpartner/beratung/beratung#Fachstudienberatung>

5. German Language requirements

Please note that all subjects are taught in German. That is why you need advanced language proficiency in German before you start your studies.

Applicants to the bachelor's programme, who have not obtained their higher education entrance qualification in German, have to certify a language proficiency in German according to the C1-level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The language proficiency needs to be documented upon enrolment.

Applicants to the master's programme that have not gained their university entrance qualification or

their first university degree in German have to prove a language proficiency in German of C2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. You can prove this for example by completing the „Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang“ ([DSH](#)) offered by the university. The language proficiency needs to be documented when applying.

More information about learning German and the DSH test can be found via:
<https://www.uni-bonn.de/studying/international-students/german/learning-german>

6. Admission of foreign teacher-training degrees

Teaching is a regulated profession in Germany, which means that it requires a state-governed admission in advance. You can find information about admission procedures for foreign degrees here:

https://www.bezreg-arnsberg.nrw.de/bildung_schule/schullaufbahn_pruefungen_abschluesse/index.php
https://www.bezreg-detmold.nrw.de/400_WirUeberUns/030_Die_Behoerde/040_Organisation/040_Abteilung_4/060_Dezerat_46/index.php

The University is not responsible for a general admission of the qualification of teaching degrees. It deals only with the recognition of single completed study achievements and the admission to a master's degree in teaching.

If you are looking for a job as supply teacher in NRW you can search on the database "VERENA":
<https://www.schulministerium.nrw.de/BiPo/Verena/online>