

INFO SHEET - German



Why you should study German

Our German classes will truly engage you with the language. Role play, presentations and interactive classroom activities are commonly used to help you to discover German in context, while homework, listening exercises, and readings provide you with a clearer understanding of vocabulary, pronunciation, and language structures.

Besides...guess what...if you already speak English, you may already recognize many words in German. Why? Because German shares deep historic and linguistic roots with English dating back almost 1500 years...seriously! Take a look:

- **trinken** = drinking
- **Freund** = friend
- **Haus** = house
- **blau** = blue
- **Hund** = dog (i.e. as in "hound")

Of course, there are also some exceptions that you might want to take note of in order to avoid any unpleasant misunderstandings:

- **Fahrt** means "trip or journey"
- **Gift** means "poison"
- **Die** means "the"
- **Bald** means "soon"
- and an **Angel** is a "fishing rod"

In terms of the usefulness of German as part of your degree program, while it is true that many Germans have studied at least a bit of English (it's required as part of their school system), having some measure of German proficiency is still a valuable asset. Here's why:

- Germany is the largest economy in the EU and, in 2013, was Canada's 2nd most valuable EU trading partner with two-way trade of almost \$19 billion.¹
- Interested in an exchange? Carleton has agreements with 15+ institutions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.²
- Studying opera, literature, politics, or philosophy? German has a rich literary history. Many influential thinkers – Hesse, Nietzsche, Goethe, Heidegger, Kafka - wrote in German. And, if you want to see philosophical thought in action, watch the 2012 biopic of German-born political theorist Hannah Arendt.³
- Also, check the Canadian government for information on embassy internships in Germany.

Bottom line: German is the most widely spoken language in the European Union and one of the most influential voices in the European economy. Learning it may open doors if you have an interest in working globally.

carleton.ca/slals/languages/

¹ tinyurl.com/ptbpm3j

² sprott.carleton.ca/blogs/students-abroad/

³ imdb.com/video/imdb/vi1473357337