



Statement of Language Proficiency on Completion of BA in English at the University of Basel

This statement confirms that on successful completion of the BA in English at Basel University, a graduate is a proficient user of English and has attained the C2 Council of Europe¹ level of competence in English:

- Students can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read.
- Students can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.
- Students can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.

The BA English is taught entirely in English, providing an immersive environment in all courses and all interactions with staff. Its curriculum is built on three pillars (75 credit points in total): Anglophone literary and cultural studies (26 cp), English linguistics (26 cp) and academic communication in English (9 cp). This program also entails writing in the form of formative papers, seminar papers (5 cp) and a written exam (5 cp) as well as courses in other philologies (4 cp). The credit points in English entail 61 cp classroom interaction, which total to 1525 hours of work, thus providing students with more than the suggested 1000-1200 hours of guided learning.²

Students of the MA English are expected to fulfill the C2 level at the beginning of their studies as they are required to provide an equivalent of the BA English in Basel to start their studies.

Prof. Dr. Philipp Schweighauser, Head of English
Basel, October 2023

¹ See, for example:

- North, Brian (2007). Descriptors for C2, C1 (and B2+): Calibrated / Non-calibrated / Qualitative Analysis. Accessed 01.10.2023
<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680492f8d>
- Appendix 2 Self-assessment checklists from the Swiss version of the European Language Portfolio. accessed 01.10.2023
<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680492f8e>

² Cambridge ESOL estimates that C2 level requires between 1000-1200 hours of guided learning (see, e.g., <https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/hc/en-gb/articles/202838506-Guided-learning-hours>; accessed 01.10.2023). As the students are expected to have a Swiss Matura in English in order to start their BA English at the University of Basel, the total number of hours of guided learning at the end of the BA English is even higher than the 1525 hours provided by the university itself.