

TYPES OF COURSES & STUDY ORGANISATION



Modules usually combine several courses, which can include different types of courses. The most important and most frequent types are briefly described below.

TYPES OF COURSES



- ➔ Propaedeutic or introductory course
- ➔ Lecture
- ➔ Exercise
- ➔ Tutorial
- ➔ Undergraduate seminar
- ➔ Seminar
- ➔ Graduate seminar
- ➔ Internship
- ➔ Repetitorium

EXPLANATIONS OF THE COURSE TYPES

Introduction/
Propaedeutic
course/
Basic course

A propaedeutic is offered at the beginning of studies and is often considered a prerequisite for the participation in an undergraduate seminar. It provides basic knowledge that is important for further studies. Some subjects use different terms for their basic or introductory courses. The form of examination is usually an exam, a term paper or a presentation.

Lecture

A lecture provides a systematic overview of a larger topic and is often held by a professor. A discussion between the teacher and the students does not usually take place, but questions to the audience and a short exchange may occur. In very large lectures - especially in compulsory courses – as many as

	several hundred students may attend. Lectures are often followed up with a written exam.
Practical exercise	A practical exercise serves as an in-depth follow-up to a lecture or seminar. It conveys special skills by working on and discussing exemplary tasks and materials. The number of participants is usually limited to 20.
Tutorial	A tutorial accompanies a basic course, a seminar or a lecture, in which contents are reviewed and analysed further. In addition, tips are often provided on exam content. Upper level students, known as tutors, often carry out the tutorials. The number of participants is limited and the atmosphere is more informal, so that students are encouraged to ask more questions. Participation in a tutorial is usually voluntary, but can also be required.
Undergraduate seminar	Undergraduate seminars are provided to undergraduate students as an introduction to academic queries and techniques. Students actively participate in the teaching process by discussing course content, participating in group work and providing presentations. Proseminars usually require a term paper or a presentation in order to earn credit.
Seminar	A seminar provides an in-depth discussion of materials and methods to a limited number of students who have already acquired basic knowledge and competencies in prior courses. It deals with more complex academic topics and is often accompanied by self-study. Active participation in discussions, group work and presentations are standard.
Advanced seminar	Advanced seminars provide more in-depth course content to students in the final phase of their studies, often when completing the Master's degree. Participation may be obligatory for students writing their final thesis (known as colloquiums), but may also be optional or by invitation only. Often times, student theses and their results are presented as part of the course.
Internship	An internship provides subject-related, practical knowledge and skills, in which experimental work is carried out by students under supervision. They can take place at universities if the study and exam regulations provide for them (for example, within a lab), or within companies, as well as in public or private institutions in Germany or abroad.
Repetitorium	A repetitorium is a course that reviews teaching and learning contents during the course of one's studies in order to prepare students for a (final) exam.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

1. Use the worksheet provided below together with the module list from your degree programme to work on the content tasks

CONTENT-RELATED TASKS FOR COURSE TYPES:

1. What types of courses and examinations are included in your curriculum?
2. How much course attendance is required and how much self-study time is prescribed according to the study and exam regulations?
3. What types of examinations does your degree programme prescribe? When are the examinations for your current courses? When are lectures to be held? What are the deadlines for the submission of papers? Which subtasks are required? When will you start to prepare for your examinations?

INTERCULTURAL TASKS FOR COURSE TYPES:

1. Why are there so many different types of courses and for what purpose? Is it useful to provide students with different types of courses? Which courses do you prefer and which courses do you find less satisfactory?
2. Some courses teach through lecturing while others require active participation on behalf of students. What is your experience with these different teaching styles? How do they contribute to your learning experience?
3. Comparing countries and cultures of origin: Which course types are you familiar with and which less so? What do the different types of courses and teaching methods in Germany say about German students? Why does teaching at German universities rely on student participation? Which competencies are developed through student participation?

EXERCISE SHEET COURSE EVENT TYPES & STUDY ORGANIZATION

[illegible]