


BMI Module Information Sheet

1. General Information

 UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE	Faculty of Arts and Humanities Department of English I
Module title: Basic Module (BM) I Sprachpraxis – Sprachgebrauch	
Semester: WiSe 24/25	
For questions about the content of the classes and exam contact your instructor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shona Allan (shona.allan@uni-koeln.de) • Cleopatra Goularas (kgoular1@uni-koeln.de) • Kate Maye-Saidi (katherine.maye-saidi@uni-koeln.de) • Kirsten Waters (kwaters@uni-koeln.de) 	
For questions about the procedure, administration and technical issues contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Astrid Gabel (mapbm1-esl@uni-koeln.de) 	
Department of English I homepage: https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/	
Module homepage: https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27604	

2. Module Description

BMI consists of three elements:

- 1) the Rhetorical Skills I (RSI) course
- 2) the Academic Writing I (AWI) course and
- 3) the end-of-module exam (*Modulabschlussprüfung*, MAP).

After successfully completing the three elements, you receive 6 Credit Points (CP), which amounts to 180 hours of preparation, class participation, revision and exam preparation.

RSI focuses on developing students' oral and aural skills – skills which are essential for academic study as well as in teaching and other professional contexts. Emphasis will be placed on analysing and practising different types of prepared and spontaneous oral presentation to enable students to appreciate the techniques appropriate to speaking and listening in diverse contexts. As well as increasing their self-confidence when speaking and leading discussions, students will learn how to tailor their spoken English to a particular group of listeners; use techniques to emphasise points; manage the time at their disposal and respond effectively to questions. The course will not only give students the opportunity to assess their own performance, but also to give constructive feedback and feed-forward to other students.

AWI will help students develop strategies for writing a variety of academic texts. At the same time as improving written accuracy and learning useful phrases, students will practise key transferable writing skills such as creating outlines, developing a concrete thesis, using helpful topic sentences, and editing and redrafting. Students will not only hone their own writing skills in this class, but will also practise evaluating and giving feedback on others' writing.

The end-of-module exam predominantly covers the contents of AWI and is a digital exam that takes place at university. You will have to answer computerised questions and do a handwritten composition. You must register for the exam on KLIPS with your AWI teacher. For details, see below.

3. Module Concept

Attendance is mandatory in all seminars taught in the English department. A rate of absence higher than 20% will result in deregistration from class. For details and further information, see:

<https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/studium-pruefungen/teilnahmeverpflichtung>

Assignments: To receive credit for the classes, you must complete the mandatory assignments as indicated below (section 5 & 7).

Mock exams: Practise for the exam with the help of the mock exams (*Probeklausuren*). The type of questions that you find in the in the mock exams will be used in the final exam. The link to these mock exams can be found in the AWI ILIAS folder.

4. Main learning outcomes

By the end of the RSI course, students should be able to...

- tailor their spoken English to a particular context and audience;
- use rhetorical devices and techniques to emphasise points;
- manage the time they have been given;
- formulate a research question and thesis for a specific topic;
- create a clear and structured handout;
- conduct independent research on a specific topic and identify reliable sources;
- create a compelling visual aid;
- give engaging presentations;
- respond effectively to questions.

By the end of the AWI course, students should be able to...

- employ formal, academic English at CEF level B2;
- identify, summarise and evaluate the ideas of others;
- create structured plans for longer pieces of writing;
- compose core elements of argumentative texts, (e.g. thesis statements, topic sentences);
- present a clear argument in answer to a specific question;
- proofread and rewrite texts to conform to academic writing standards;
- reflect on the writing process and their learning progress.

5. Mandatory course assignments (*Studienleistungen*)

Assignments		Deadlines
RSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one 10–15 min presentation, including a research question, a thesis statement and a presentation handout • additional mandatory assignments, cf. course schedule 	cf. course schedules
AWI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one introduction and/or one other written exercise (e.g. summary) • mock exam on ILIAS (computerised items) • additional mandatory assignments, cf. course schedule 	

Use of AI: unless a task explicitly asks students to employ an AI tool (such as ChatGPT) in order to solve a task and practise skills related to the use of generative AI tools, the

use of any such systems is prohibited. Please note that any use of AI outside its requested use is plagiarism, see: https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/anglistik1/Geschaeftsfuehrung/pdf/Merkblaetter/MB_plagiat.pdf

6. End-of-module exam

The BMI end-of-module exam is a digital exam taken at university which comprises 5% of your final grade in English.

	Date/Time	Place	Registration Period
1st Exam	03.02.2025, 10:15	S 89/91/93	11.11.24 – 23.12.24
2nd Exam	28.03.2025, 10:15	S 89	03.01.25 – 14.03.25

Please note: Register for the exam with your **Academic Writing I** instructor.

We suggest you take the exam in the first exam phase as if you fall ill or fail, you can take the exam again in the second one. If you cannot take the exam in the second phase or fail, the next opportunity to take the exam is the following semester. In this case, please contact your AWI teacher in due time to inquire about any new topics or texts.

Further Information:

Format:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> computerised i.e. multiple choice, single choice and gap-fill (text gap "Textlücke" and select gap "Auswahlücke") questions (50 points) + handwritten free composition (30 points; short piece of academic writing e.g. an introduction, a conclusion, a summary, a paragraph on a topic from your AWI course).
Duration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 hours in total: 90 minutes to complete the exam + 30 minutes for admin.
Grading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To pass, you need to attain 48 points from a possible total of 80 points (60%).
Before the exam:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register for the exam on KLIPS with your AWI instructor. Ensure you know your ILIAS name and your ILIAS password as they are both required to log into the exam server.
On the day of the exam:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please arrive 15 minutes in advance and wait at the glass doors at the end of the corridor. Switch off mobile phones and smartwatches and store them in your bag. After you enter the room, leave your jackets and bags at the front of the room. Take only a pen, your student ID and primary texts (see below) to your seat. You cannot take the exam without a valid picture ID. You may also bring a bottle of water to your seat but it may never be placed on the desk.

During the exam:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot leave the room except to go to the restroom once the exam has started. • If you finish before the allotted 90 minutes, remain seated until the exam is over. • Use a blue or black pen and the exam sheet provided by us. • Primary text(s) for the free composition with notes on content in the margin are permitted (no full sentences). • Plagiarised exams will not receive a grade.
In the event of illness:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a doctor's note along with the "<i>Außerordentliche Abmeldung von Modulprüfungen</i>" form to your AWI teacher/examiner within seven days.
Nachteilsausgleich:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are eligible for academic accommodations ("<i>Nachteilsausgleich</i>"), please inform us as early as possible and follow the instructions indicated here: "<i>Vorgehen bei Modulprüfungen mit Nachteilsausgleich</i>" https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/studium-pruefungen/modulpruefungen
Further information / all forms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27604

7. Course Schedule

Please go to the ILIAS group that accompanies your specific course and access the course schedule.