

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Sprachzentrum

< sprachbote >

EDITION 1 | Summer Semester 2024



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Editor

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1 Greeting

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to bring to life a long-anticipated idea this semester: the launch of our bi-annual magazine, <sprachbo(ote)>. This publication offers a summary of our work over the past semesters, a reflection on our achievements, challenges, successes, and outstanding contributions, and a glimpse into what you can expect from us in the future.

As a Language Centre, it is particularly important for us to highlight how our international team, comprised of staff from 15 different nations, contributes to the University of Erfurt's internationalization efforts. We are proud of the wonderful projects that benefit the university, its staff, students, and the city. For instance, the "Erfurt Jazz Project," initiated by Christopher Forlini, aims to bring international jazz greats to Erfurt, spark German-American research projects, and provide unforgettable musical moments for all listeners.

A distinctive feature of the Language Centre at the University of Erfurt is the courses we offer for the university's departments of English, Romance and Slavic Languages. Unlike other universities, where language instructors within the respective departments typically conduct such courses, our dedicated staff take on this role. Béatrice Giribone-Fritz, for example, enriches her cultural studies courses through an exchange with Vilnius University, our Russian instructors motivate their students to participate in the international Pushkin Competition, and Jesús Álvarez Fernández contributes to the development of Spanish textbooks.

We are also very active within the university itself. Through the university's health management programme, all staff members have had the opportunity to participate in voice training sessions. Others have improved their English skills through courses tailored to their specific needs. In the "Voice and Speech in Podcasts" project, students from the University of Erfurt, together with international students, produced several exciting episodes for the Campus Compass in both German and English, aiming to make starting university life in Erfurt easier and more memorable.

We plan to expand this programme in the future. Starting in winter semester 2024/25, the German as a Foreign Language section will offer a German course for international staff. Additional podcasts about studying and living in Erfurt are also in the works. You can read more about what we offer, our mission, and what inspires us in the following pages and in the sections "Absurd and Amusing," "People," and "Further Educated" at the end of this first issue.

We wish you an engaging read and look forward to your feedback and suggestions!

On behalf of the Language Centre,

Susanne Hoppe

2 News and Novelties

Guest Lectureship in Vilnius – Béatrice Giribone-Fritz Shares Her Experience



In April 2024, Béatrice Giribone-Fritz from the French section of the Language Centre visited the Faculty of Philology at Vilnius University for a one-week guest lectureship. She was welcomed by her colleague, Vitalija Kazlauskienė. During her stay, Béatrice conducted four sessions that combined cultural and linguistic approaches.

The Erasmus partnership with Vilnius University dates back to the days of the teacher training college (PH), though contact with colleagues in Romance Studies had been put on hold for several years. Béatrice recounts: "I met Vitalija by chance at a congress of French teachers in Tunisia. We had breakfast together and realised that we were from Vilnius and Erfurt. The idea to revive our relationship was born over breakfast and was

put into practice very smoothly. "(...) I was warmly welcomed by all the colleagues, the head of the Department of French Philology, and the head of the university library at a celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the country's NATO membership."

The goals of the guest lectureship were to establish personal contacts with academic colleagues and to learn about the study content and teaching methodology of the partner university. Additionally, the guest lectureship was intended to enrich the programme so that Vilnius University students could benefit from Béatrice's expertise in *Francophonie* (a focus of the curriculum in Vilnius). The collaboration between both universities will continue, with plans for joint online events for intercultural exchange, a guest lectureship by Kazlauskienė in Erfurt in summer semester 2025, and a tandem project to develop short videos on French overseas regions as part of a seminar.

News from the Russian Section

International Pushkin Competition

Students from the University of Erfurt participated in the IX International Pushkin Competition titled "What's in a name?..." in May 2024. They submitted their works, which they created during the COVID-19 pandemic, to the Pushkin Institute in Moscow. These works will soon also be published on the Language Centre's website.

Pushkin Day or Russian Language Day

Every year on Pushkin Day (also known as Russian Language Day) on 6 June, the Russian section holds an event where University of Erfurt students recite Pushkin's poems or perform his fairy tales. At the end of the event, the best recitals and acting performances are awarded a prize.

New Stall at HIT 2024

This year, we presented new materials at the University Information Day (HIT). In the cafeteria, the Language Centre stall was equipped with two roll-ups, a new vinyl poster, and new business cards. Besides the stall in the cafeteria, we also had a small stand in the KIZ to advise potential students interested in the programmes of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Education, as these faculties' module plans include courses from the Language Centre.

Visitors could look forward to bookmarks and small giveaways

here as well. Prospective students received small giveaway bags filled with international treats. Interest was high, with only a few of the 100 packed bags remaining. Our sincere thanks go to our student assistants who supported us energetically in the preparation of and during HIT.



Language Centre Picnic Summer Semester 2024



In June, the Language Centre colleagues once again gathered for the annual picnic, which has become a regular event of the summer semester. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the picnic could not take place at the university's barbecue area as planned and was instead moved to the Language Centre premises in building C03. Traditionally, each colleague brings food or drinks typical of their home country. The colleagues enjoyed the gathering immensely, as it has become more

challenging to meet due to the move from C12 and the resulting dispersion of offices across the campus. The picnic fostered informal conversations in a relaxed atmosphere with international delicacies.

In the winter semester, we look forward to a Christmas party with typical pre-Christmas treats and some artistic performances, such as songs and poems. The joint singing of Christmas carols, preferably in all languages taught at the Centre, is an annual highlight.

Tandem Programme Summer Semester 2024

This semester, the Language Centre once again offered a tandem programme for international students spending a semester abroad at our university. A total of 32 students registered, and eventually, eight tandems were formed, including the languages Spanish, English, Chinese and German. An initial meeting for successful tandems and interested participants took place in November 2023. Students had interesting conversations and played fun games in a relaxed atmosphere.



The tandem programme is coordinated by student assistants from the Language Centre. These students review applications, form tandem pairs, and organise regular exchanges. "The tandem programme is generally very well received, with regular tandem requests throughout the semester," reports Paula Seidel, a student assistant at the Language Centre. "The matches mostly work very well, as we rarely receive feedback about partners not responding or incompatible tandems." The tandem programme is a fixed part of the Language Centre and offers opportunities for international contacts, friendships, and diverse experiences.

English Writing Centre – Limited Usage This Semester

The English section offers a Writing Centre and Grammar Lab where students can enhance their English skills in 20-minute one-on-one sessions with tutors. Students can register for a session on Moodle. Together with their tutor, they work on improving their writing and pronunciation as well as their presentation skills. In the English Grammar Lab grammar questions can be addressed and useful tips and materials are provided.

In summer semester 2024, only the "English Writing Centre" was available. Unfortunately, only 15-20 students took advantage of this service.

Course Registration Continues via Moodle

As in previous semesters, course registration for language courses was conducted on Moodle in summer semester 2024. The registration process went smoothly, thanks to the now well-established workflows and the valuable support of the student assistants who update the registration pages for the major languages and coordinate the registration periods. Registration for the Language Centre's courses begins about three weeks before the semester starts.

News from the Language Centre Service Team

The Language Centre Service Team welcomed a new member this summer semester – Joaquin Criales Jiménez. We are pleased to have him join us, especially as six of our student assistants will be leaving at the end of September. Our thanks for a successful collaboration, engaging conversations, and diverse assistance go to: Henriette, Mariana, Emilia, Polina, Rabea, and Paula. We greatly appreciate your outstanding work at the Language Centre. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours, whether in further studies or during your semester abroad, and we hope to see you again.

The support provided by the student assistants ranges from assisting instructors with placement tests or exams, managing room allocation and technical difficulties to coordinating language course registrations on Moodle, and serving as contact persons for instructors and students on a variety of issues. They also oversee the tandem programme, support the English Writing Centre, and regularly update the information on the notice boards and the website. Additionally, they help with copying teaching materials for freelance instructors or assist with events such as the Language Centre's celebrations, HIT, or STET. Future assistants can look forward to not only university-related tasks but also fantastic team activities, such as group picnics, Christmas market visits, or occasional dinners.

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Voice Consultations for University of Erfurt Staff



For the first time, individual voice consultations were offered to staff at the University of Erfurt during summer semester 2024. As part of the university's health management programme (organised by Mr. Panse and Ms. Kretschmer), Sophie Laufer from the Speech Training section conducted a total of 30 consultations with staff members from various departments. The participants were particularly interested in how to maintain a healthy voice and how to use it effectively in public speaking. The consultations addressed questions about breathing, posture, voice, and speech, and included individual exercises and advice on vocal health. Participants were provided with a personalised exercise plan. The feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive: "...thank you very much for the truly insightful meeting, your expertise, and the materials. I will incorporate your exercises into my daily routine, and even after our short time together, I noticed a positive effect" (participant feedback). We hope to continue these consultations as part of the university's health programme.

3 Projects and Events

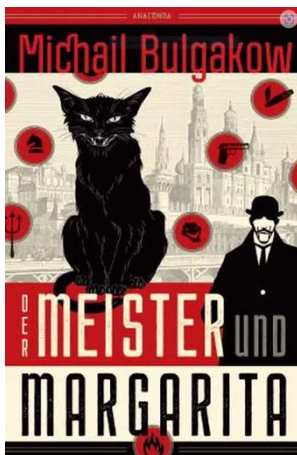
New DaF Course in Summer Semester 2024: Poetry Slam

For the first time, a DaF (German as a Foreign Language) course on the topic of "Poetry Slam" was held during summer semester 2024.

Why Poetry Slam in a DaF Course? Poetry Slam not only enhances linguistic intuition and creative expression but also boosts learners' confidence and presentation skills. The course also provided a platform for intercultural exchange, as the diverse backgrounds of the participants were naturally reflected in their texts. The focus was on learning German not through memorisation or grammar exercises but through creative engagement with the language. The course included a mix of receptions of German-language slam poetry artists, such as Bas Böttcher, Julia Engelmann, Nora Gomringer, and Paulina la Petite and the creation of original texts, with the help of a scaffolded approach. Some of the highlights of the course included a visit to the Hörsaal-Slam and the course's own Poetry Slam as a final event.

"I never thought I could express my thoughts so creatively in German. Finally, German had something to do with my feelings," commented one participant. Some of the students' texts can be read in the display case in the Service Centre in building C03.

"The Master and Margarita" – Bulgakov Reinterpreted



(Bildquelle: <https://www.buecher-koenig-nk.de/shop/item/9783730609125/>)

In these challenging times, it is especially important for teachers of Russian to keep students' interest in the Russian language alive. One means that particularly lends itself to supporting this is Russian literature. In summer semester 2024, Dina Kirchner launched a special project with her B2-level students: *The Master and Margarita* by Bulgakov. This masterpiece provided the perfect foundation for deepening students' language skills while also exploring various themes. The aim of the project was to translate well-known quotes from the novel and creatively interpret them in the context of modern life. The work was compared with Goethe's *Faust* and the Bible. It was enjoyable to see that the students not only engaged with the aphorisms they chose but also read the entire book and became enthusiastic about other Russian literature. Dina noted: "...some of them shared what other Russian authors they have read, some memorised and recited poems, and one student even sang a song during the exam based on a famous poem by Pushkin." Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, similar projects are planned for the coming semesters to further promote interest in the Russian language.

Uni & Erfurt – The Campus Compass



As podcasts have become an important medium for many young adults, the Speech Training section decided to offer a student project (StuFu) on the topic of "Voice and Speech in Podcasts" during the summer semester. In collaboration with University Communications, the podcast *Uni & Erfurt – The Campus Compass* was created. The podcast covers topics, such as studying at the University of Erfurt, life in the city, and tips and tricks to make the university experience both memorable and manageable. Six entertaining and interesting weekly episodes were produced during the summer semester and started being released on 1 July on the [university website](#), [Spotify](#), and [Apple Podcasts](#). Two additional English-language episodes were produced by Susanne Hoppe and her course "English in International Contexts" to reach international students and provide them with useful information about studying in Erfurt. Due to the positive feedback, the podcast will be continued as part of two Speech Training courses led by Sophie Laufer. Stay tuned for more engaging and insightful episodes.



Performance of the English Drama Group



The English Drama Group, a C1 English course, run by our freelance instructor Timothy Bell, captivated around 60 spectators on 15 July with particularly creative, short, English-language plays. Four plays were written, directed, and staged by the students themselves. A total of nine students participated in the performance, which took place at the Great Hall of the Johannes Lang House. The following pieces were performed: *Office Ceremony* by Sophie Holzhaus, *Next Stop: Depression!* by Alexandra Hähnlein, *One Last Goodbye* by Chris Hilbeck, *Count Greenbeard's Castle* by Timothy Bell (Instructor), and *Tea's Inferno* by Tea Oeschger. The performers were: Sophie Holzhaus, Viktoria Lamp, Louise Hartmann, Alexandra Hähnlein, Isabelle Helmann, Donata Hille, Carolin Adolph, Chris Hilbeck, and Tea Oeschger. We thank them for a wonderful, entertaining evening and hope that more students will join the course and produce many more delightful performances.

Virtuoso Concerts by the Erfurt Jazz Project



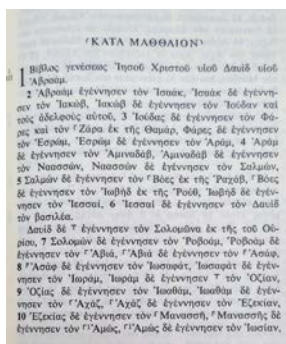
Two concerts featuring top-tier jazz musicians were organised by Christopher Forlini as part of the Erfurt Jazz Project. The “Lawrence Clark Trio” came together for the first time in April at Café Nerly. Christopher pointed out the trio’s virtuosity: "Lawrence Clark from Camden, New Jersey, developed a love for music at an early age, beginning with the saxophone. (...) Over the course of his career, he has collaborated with many great jazz musicians from all over the world, playing in legendary jazz clubs (including the Blue Note, Smalls, and the Apollo Theater) and at festivals. Two top musicians, whose skill makes his music truly come alive, complete the trio: Russian piano virtuoso Sammy Lukas, who has won prestigious awards such as the Yamaha Jazz Piano Competition and the Young Munich Jazz Prize, and drummer Wieland Götze, who has played with Nina Hagen and many European jazz greats."

In June, Markus Burger and Jack Cooper performed at the Kaufmannskirche in Erfurt. "The duo’s concept reflects the versatility and origins of the two musicians”, said Christopher. They played a series of original compositions that incorporated influences from classical music, jazz standards, and jazz fusion. Markus Burger is a German pianist, composer, music producer, and professor who has lived and worked in California for 20 years. His work includes explorations of Bach and chorale music, composing music for film and television. Jack Cooper, Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Memphis, is an award-winning saxophonist from Los Angeles and a versatile musician whose work spans chamber music, film and television scores, jazz, and pop music.



The Erfurt Jazz Project is an association of musicians and researchers which aims to explore the connection between German and American jazz music. It has organised several concerts of this kind since November 2023, showcasing the historical breadth of jazz music. We look forward to more!

Women of the Bible at Katholikentag in Erfurt and beyond



In the summer of 2023, students and staff recorded texts under the supervision of Uta Wallraff for an exhibition titled "Marginalized Yet Strong" featuring four strong women -Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba - which ran in Freiberg (Saxony) from November 2023 to January 2024. This StuFu course was led by Cornelia Aßmann (University of Erfurt). The exhibition was subsequently displayed at the Augustinian Monastery during Katholikentag (30 May - 1 June 2024). It will now move to the cathedral in Zeitz and open in November 2024.

Intensive Language Courses in German as a Foreign Language

The German as a Foreign Language (DaF) section offers intensive language courses twice a year at the levels A1, A2.1, and B1.1. The courses start four weeks before the beginning of the lecture period and take place daily from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. They are designed for international exchange students, students enrolled in English-language master's programmes, and doctoral candidates at the University of Erfurt. The next intensive courses will be held from 16 September to 11 October 2024.



German Picnic

German picnics are organised during the summer semester and the lecture-free period. Interested DaF learners meet to enjoy each other's company with snacks, drinks and games. Look out for the German flag on the campus lawn for the next German picnic in the second half of September 2024.

4 Further Training

Russian Section

Advanced Training “Innovative Technologies for Foreign Language Teaching”

Colleagues from the Russian Section plan to participate in “Innovative Technologies for Foreign Language Teaching”, the 15th International Advanced Training Seminar for University Instructors. During the seminar, participants will exchange experiences and ideas about how to integrate the results of the work of leading methodologists in media and digital technologies into the educational process. The event will take place at the University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna in September 2024. The event will be attended by Slavists from various European countries, united by their interest in the Russian language and culture as well as in their ambition to make Russian language teaching at universities engaging and effective.

AI Training for Instructors

The Russian Section participated in “Introduction to the AI Toolbox cornelsen.ai – Utilising the Potentials of Artificial Intelligence” in May 2024. This one-day training provided an illustrative overview of AI tools, as well as the possibilities and risks associated with using artificial intelligence, offering suggestions for foreign language teaching.

Spanish Section

Multimodal Technologies in Foreign Language Teaching – Lectures by Jesús Fernández Álvarez

Practical teaching with digital resources in a simple and straightforward manner? This was the focus of Jesús Fernández’s work in 2024. In collaboration with Ernst-Klett-Sprachen/Difusión and AKS, Jesús delivered lectures and workshops this year on the topic of Multimodal Technologies in Spanish Language Teaching. The workshops explored the implementation of multimodal portfolios, visual literacy, and the simplified comprehension and retention of information through media-supported teaching.

Here is a list of the talks:

Halle (AKS): ELEmental – Practical Workshop for Teaching Spanish in the University Context: Workshop: Digital Resources in the Classroom: How and to What Extent? in ELEmental – Practical Workshop for Teaching Spanish in the University Context

Vienna (Ernst-Klett-Sprachen/Difusión): Workshop: Cajón desastre or Cajón de sastre? Organising Multimodal Comprehension and Production in the ELE Classroom

Munich (Ernst-Klett-Sprachen/Difusión): Workshop: PanopllA Visual: Integration of AI Tools and Visual Literacy in ELE Teaching

Innovative Teaching Concept for Language Courses – María del Rocío del Río Miguel

Spanish instructor María Rocío del Río Miguel also presented an innovative teaching concept during the AKS Workshop Week in Halle, introducing a format for the course “Política, Cultura y Sociedad, B2/C1” in winter semester 2023/24. Rocío explains: “It is a dynamic and adaptable teaching project aimed at students at B2-C1 levels who wish to engage with topics such as politics, culture, and society in the Spanish-speaking world.”



By combining elements of the 'flipped classroom' with a task-based approach, students are given the opportunity to collaboratively create various visualisations (presentations, infographics, posters, etc.) that make up the course content. Thanks to its flexible approach and the reuse of standard starting points at each stage, the concept can be expanded from semester to semester depending on the interests of the teachers, participants, and current events in Hispanic countries, gradually creating a library of interconnected elements."

14–16 March 2024 – Participation in the German Association of Spanish Teachers Conference

Rocío attended "XXVII. Jornadas Hispánicas 2024. Ready, Set, #Action! Spanish Language Teaching in the 21st Century" in March 2024.

The event was hosted by the University of Potsdam, in cooperation with the German Association of Spanish Teachers (DSV). This is the largest national conference for Spanish teachers, with ca. 300–400 participants from Germany and abroad. The XXVII. Jornadas Hispánicas addressed central issues of the 21st century and their relevance to Spanish language teaching. Topics such as globalisation, migration, diversity and the climate crisis have significantly influenced foreign language teaching, and pedagogical questions like intercultural understanding, identity formation, and the reduction of inequality have come into greater focus. With an increased emphasis on digital task formats and open teaching methods, the understanding of the teacher's role is also changing. Despite these developments, the focus remains on fundamental language learning methods and the promotion of communicative competences.

Universität
Potsdam

DSV
Deutscher Spanischlehrkräfteverband
Asociación Alemana del Profesorado de Español

**XXVII JORNADAS
HISPÁNICAS 2024** | ¡Preparadxs, list@s, #acción!
Spanischunterricht im 21. Jahrhundert
14.–16. März 2024

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5 Absurd and Amusing Miscellanea

A New Secondary School Teaching Degree – Without Voice and Speech Training?



In winter semester 2024/25, the University of Erfurt will launch a new and unique teacher training degree programme: the Dual Secondary School Teaching Programme. Fifty students will be trained in subjects such as German, Mathematics, English, Economics/Technology, and Physical Education while already actively teaching their primary subject at schools from their second year of study. Whether they are adequately prepared for this first teaching experience remains to be seen, at least as far as their voice

and speech development is concerned. Since teachers convey knowledge primarily through their voice rather than through posters or written instructions in the classroom., it begs the question: why has voice and speech training once again been overlooked in this degree programme, especially when vocal and speech training for teachers is legally required? Integrating the 3 ECTS credits for this into the module catalogue seems to be a significant challenge, as the problem already exists in the regular Secondary School Teaching degree program, where students are also inadequately trained in voice and speech. It is unfortunate that at a university that prides itself on training a large number of teachers, voice training is given such low priority, especially since the voice is a crucial professional tool for their daily work.

Kafka Worship

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the writer Franz Kafka which is commemorated at our humanities-oriented university. However, how far should this go? At the University of Erfurt, there are certain procedures that seem Kafkaesque: certain departments insist on emails being printed out and sent to them via internal mail instead of merely being forwarded. While Kafka never wrote emails, this procedure would certainly have amused him.

The Trials of Course Planning

Every year, shortly after the start of the lecture period, we at the Language Centre carefully plan the courses for the upcoming semester. Three principles must be considered:

Mandatory Courses: How can we schedule course times to meet the requirement of efficiency and accommodate as many participants as possible? Prioritisation is key: first come the students for whom practical language training is mandatory, then the International Relations students, who have a language course embedded in their curriculum. We naturally consider the mandatory slots of the various disciplines, but once the semester begins, these disciplines show a creative use of their slots. These last-minute changes render our careful planning obsolete and so it is back to square one.

Learning Success: According to widely accepted didactic principles, four-hour courses should not be held on two consecutive days. The learning effect would be significantly higher and the workload for students lower if we could adhere to this. However, we are often told to reschedule our courses to free up rooms for lecturers who seem to only teach from Tuesday to Thursday.

Family-Friendliness: The Language Centre also has staff members with school- and kindergarten-aged children. They prefer teaching times that are compatible with their family obligations. As soon as we finish planning, we are the first to be told to move our courses to fringe hours due to room shortages. Yet, why are so many rooms in building C03 empty at core times?

The Labyrinth of Vilnius – Béatrice, Where are you?

Béatrice Giribone-Fritz describes the University of Vilnius as follows: "Founded in 1578, the university has 14 maze-like courtyards with many staircases and narrow passages that make you feel like you are in a labyrinth. Daedalus couldn't have built it better, but I always managed to find my way." Lucky for Béatrice, as it would have been very difficult to find her in one of the hidden corners. The University of Erfurt, on the other hand, is more straightforward in its layout. However, one still has to get used to the new navigation system, especially when building plans fail to label certain rooms, leaving staff and students wondering if their office is located in the small, unmarked broom cupboard at the edge of the corridor. Harry Potter would feel right at home!



The So-Called „Scaredy-duck“



A speech-thinking exercise in the StuFu course "Voice and Speech in Podcasts," was briefly interrupted by a fit of laughter from all participants and is likely to be remembered by everyone. During the game "Taboo", one participant was supposed to explain the word "cat" without using any related words. She began her explanation with, "If I'm afraid of a small thing, then I'm a scaredy..." — and with full conviction, another participant shouted, "DUCK!" Of course, who has not heard of the so-called "scaredy-duck"? The game had to be paused for some time due to laughter-induced hyperventilation. In the following weeks, the "scaredy-duck" became a constant companion in the course, joining the ranks of the scapedog and the Guinea goat.

6 Personnel

Speech Training Section

Marie Seeliger will join the Speech Training Section as a part-time instructor with four class contact hours per semester (4 LVS) on 1 September 2024. She completed her Master's degree in Clinical Speech Science at the University of Halle-Wittenberg in 2022, and received the 2022 MDVS e.V. award for her master's thesis and related research. Since then, Marie has worked as an academic speech therapist in an ENT practice and a practice for speech therapy and developmental support in Erfurt. The Speech Training team is looking forward to welcoming Marie on board and adding her expertise to the team's portfolio for speech training courses.



Spanish Section

The Spanish Section welcomes a new part-time language instructor, Sofía Boscá Cortés. Starting in winter semester 2024, she will be teaching six class contact hours per semester (6 SWS) of primarily A1-B1 level Spanish courses. Sofía has been working as a lecturer for the University of Erfurt since 2017 and has held positions at various institutions including the University of Rostock, the University of Applied Sciences Brandenburg, the European University Viadrina Frankfurt O., the Volkshochschule Jena, and the Instituto Cervantes in Beijing. Originally from Denia on Costa Blanca, Sofia speaks Spanish and German as well as English.



SPZ Service Team

Since summer semester 2024, Joaquin Criales Jiménez has been part of the SPZ Service team. He comes from La Paz, Bolivia, and is studying Social Sciences and Management at Erfurt University. He originally came to Erfurt for the "International Relations" BA programme, as he could not study anything similar in his home country due to the current political situation. He is particularly interested in international politics and human rights and hopes to work in this field in Bolivia in the future. He took up the position at the SPZ to support the lecturers and "do something meaningful alongside studying." From October, Sofia Orefice will also join the SPZ Service team. Sofia says: "I am studying International Relations and History. I would describe myself as a very open and communicative person. I enjoy engaging with people and discussing all kinds of topics. As I speak several languages and am very interested in other cultures, I decided to work at the Language Centre Service Desk. I think this could be a great opportunity to meet people from other countries and become more involved in university life."



7 Outlook

New Student Assistants in the SPZ Service Team

As mentioned in the previous articles six student assistants will leave us at the end of the summer semester 2024, having completed their studies or embarking on a semester abroad. In addition to Sofia Orefice, we will be welcoming more new members to the SPZ Service team. Victoria de Dios Oviedo has already conducted some promising interviews and noted: "We are happy to welcome another multinational team and look forward to seeing them in October."

Russian Section

Evaluation of the Cultural Studies Competition "Typically Russian" The organisation "Russian Society for Friendship with Austria" is hosting the Fourth Cultural Studies Competition "Typically Russian" (<http://www.odamoscow.ru/2024-0701>). The competition is open to residents of Austria and Germany of all age groups and is supported by the Russian House in Vienna, the Austrian Association for the Promotion of the Russian Language and Culture, and the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum. Students from our university also participated in this competition.

Continued Voice Consultations as Part of University Health Management

Voice consultations for university staff will also be offered by the Speech Training Section in the upcoming winter semester. Appointments can be made via the Moodle course "Voice Consultation within the Framework of University Health Promotion". The consultations will mainly take place online although face-to-face appointments can be arranged upon request. They are expected to be held every Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 2:45 PM, with specific dates available on Moodle.

Contact: Sophie Laufer (sophie.laufer@uni-erfurt.de)

New Campus Presence for the Introduction Days

For the university's Student Orientation Days (STET), 7-11 October 2024, we will set up a stall as a first port-of-call for new students who will be able to ask both language instructors and student assistants about course registration, placement tests and the SPZ programme.

Further lecture by Jesús Fernández Álvarez

08.11.2024: JORNADAS DE FORMACIÓN de PROFESORADO ALCE, ESCUELAS EUROPEAS Y SECCIÓN ESPAÑOLA

Embajada de España en Alemania / Consejería de Educación – Acción Educativa Exterior

Taller: Paisajes de la Memoria: Combinando el futuro y el pasado en el aprendizaje de ELE/2

The increasing digitalisation of education and communication has led to a rapid increase in the use of multimodal texts such as infographics, podcasts, and videocasts, both in face-to-face and virtual classes. The aim of this workshop is to introduce basic principles and tools of visual/multimodal literacy to teachers to enable their students to understand and produce meaningful multimodal texts in Spanish competently. We will explain step by step how to design a didactic learning sequence for ELE/2 (course book for Spanish) on the topic of historical memory, starting from more traditional multimodal texts such as comics and graphic novels to creating a multimodal project using the currently available AI tools.

German course of international employees

For the first time in the winter semester of 2024/2025, a course in German as a foreign language will be offered to University of Erfurt employees. The course runs from 23 October 2024 to 5 February 2025 and takes place on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Academic and non-academic employees of the University of Erfurt can participate in this B1-level course.

The course aims to promote the German language skills of international employees. The topics are adapted to the employees' needs and discussed at the beginning of the course. Topics and scenarios from everyday academic work may include writing emails, small talk in the office, communication in a work team, presentation techniques for presenting a research project, and many more. Registration is open until 1 October 2024 at daf@uni-erfurt.de. The contact person is Theres Werner.

Information on German as a foreign language can be found at:

<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/sprachenzentrum/sprachen/sprachen-a-f/deutsch-als-fremdsprache/>



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Paula Seidel
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Susanne Hoppe
Christopher Forlini
Uta Wallraff
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Theres Werner

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Ella Schramm
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Sophie Laufer
Susanne Hoppe
Susanne Hoppe
Sophie Laufer
Sophie Laufer

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Speech Training Section
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Sophie Laufer
Sophie Laufer
Joaquin & Sofia

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German course of international employees

M. Victoria de Dios Oviedo
Ella Schramm
Sophie Laufer
Sophie Laufer
Jesús Fernández Álvarez
Theres Werner