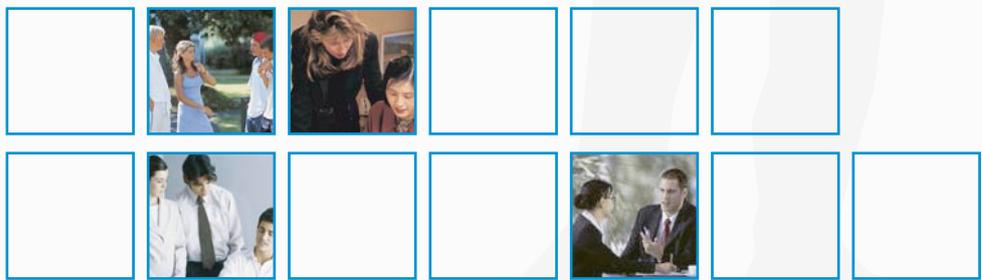




# Ascensus

the language experience



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# German Learning Immersion Retreats

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## Overview

To promote and facilitate the use of German in a social context, gain awareness and additional understanding of inter-cultural interaction. The Programme is aimed at the acquisition of grammar, language techniques, and the soft linguistic skills of real usage and vocabulary.

## Mission Statement

German Immersion Retreats offer real world access and conversations with native speakers from Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Our purpose is simple: to provide real social interaction with real people in a real setting.

Our speakers come from many backgrounds and have many interests. Our interest is to assist our clients to gain a real understanding of the workings of German in daily settings.

Participants will take away an enhanced awareness of real German, and an increased ability to communicate effectively in German situations.

Participants will interact in German from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave. During the day, participants will be in constant contact with Native Speakers, whether it is one-on-one conversation or social activities.

## Programme

The daily Programme begins with breakfast and ends with dinner. Mornings are devoted to individual conversations, with partners changing every ninety minutes.

There are planned activities to suit most interests. The Programs are held off-site, away from the distractions of daily life. We recommend that you maximise your Immersion experience by minimising external inputs - you could even leave your laptop at home! There are planned activities to suit most interests. While every day is the same-German from waking to sleeping; each day is unique, with varied discussions, experiences and contacts.

## Unique Experience in German Language Learning

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Did you know that immersion in a language results in retention of the language three times longer than comparable hours in a classroom?

Stay in beautiful Switzerland for a period of 3, 5 or 7 days in a spectacular surrounding.

- \* Hotel Fürigen \*\*\*\* 6363 Fürigen am Bürgenstock
- \* Schloss-Hotel \*\*\*\* Swiss-Chalet 6402 Merlischachen
- \* Seminarhotel Sempachersee \*\*\* 6207 Nottwil
- \* Paradieshotel Rotschuo \*\*\*\* 6442 Gersau

In the 7-day Programme, a one and a half day trip inside Switzerland, to Germany or Austria is included.

Participate in a wide variety of activities. Talk to native German speakers, one-to-one, all day and every day.

Our Programme will immerse you in a German environment for a period of three, five or seven days. During this time you will be conversing in German only.

Social German is the most difficult aspect of fluency for most native English and other language speakers who would like to start or carry on their life in a German society or environment.

During our Programme, you will carry on social interactions on a wide range of topics with German speakers.

You will be exposed to German accents, dialects and daily speech. You will refine your own comprehension and ability to communicate more effectively in German.

Mornings are devoted to individual conversations, with partners changing every ninety minutes. After lunch, a series of various activities will encourage group interaction

Evenings are for social diversions. But the ratio of German speakers to seminar participants will always remain balanced.

You will not be left on your own. We will always be there, ready to guide and assist you to obtain your objectives.

### Type of Programme and Costs:

- 3 days CHF 4.000.–
- 5 days CHF 6.000.–
- 7 days CHF 8.000.– (including a trip in Switzerland, Germany or Austria)

Costs include:

- Programme
- Single room
- Meals
- Activities

## Modules:

### One to One (1:1)

Participants receive individual tuition in German. Content will be tailored directly to participant needs according to the information given to Ascensus in the application questionnaire.

### Functional Language

Participants meet in small groups to practice the language necessary for everyday life. Higher level groups will focus on business language in this module. Content may include topics such as:

- At the Station
- Going to the doctor/ dentist
- Telephone skills
- Shopping
- Small talk and coffee
- Making presentations etc.

Classes will concentrate on both language structure and vocabulary.

### Small Group Discussions

Participants get a chance to talk with other participants and trainers to use the target language in a more natural environment.

### Culture

Language learning success is maximised by a better understanding of the culture of the target country. Content will include areas such as:

- Business and general etiquette
- Visiting colleagues and friends
- Roles of men and women
- Food and drink
- Enjoying free time

### Accent Training

Understanding different accents can be a problem even at higher levels. Accent training will give a wider exposure to different accents through listening exercises as well as working on the participant's own pronunciation.

## Language Outings

Participants take a lesson in a sport or hobby in German. Alternatively the language trainer may take the participant into the community to practice the target language. It is important for participants to get out of the hotel in the afternoons.

## Guest Speakers

Each course will have a number of speakers who come to discuss issues relevant to expatriate life covering topics such as:

- Personal experiences on international assignments
- Tax and social security issues
- International business practices
- Case studies

Participants will be prepared for the speakers by their language trainers and will have another session with the trainer following the speaker's address. This will allow participants to recycle vocabulary and ask further questions as necessary.

## Sample Courses

|             | Day 1                  | Day 2               | Day 3                                     | Day 4               | Day 5                  |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| 08.00-09.00 | <i>Breakfast</i>       | <i>Breakfast</i>    | <i>Breakfast</i>                          | <i>Breakfast</i>    | <i>Breakfast</i>       |
| 09.00-10.30 | One to One             | One to One          | One to One                                | One to One          | One to One             |
| 10.30-11.00 | <i>Coffee</i>          | <i>Coffee</i>       | <i>Coffee</i>                             | <i>Coffee</i>       | <i>Coffee</i>          |
| 11.00-12.00 | Small Group Discussion | Functional Language | E<br>X<br>C<br>U<br>R<br>S<br>I<br>O<br>N | Functional Language | Small Group Discussion |
| 12.00-12.30 | Speaker Preparation    | Outing Preparation  |   | Speaker Preparation | Outing Preparation     |
| 12.30-14.00 | <i>Lunch</i>           | <i>Lunch</i>        |   | <i>Lunch</i>        | <i>Lunch</i>           |
| 14.00-15.30 | Speaker and Q+A        | Accent Training     |   | Speaker and Q+A     | Culture                |
| 15.30-16.00 | <i>Coffee</i>          | <i>Coffee</i>       |   | <i>Coffee</i>       | <i>Coffee</i>          |
| 16.00-17.00 | Speaker Feedback       | Language Outing     |   | Speaker Feedback    | Language Outing        |
| 17.00-19.00 | <i>Free Time</i>       | <i>Free Time</i>    |   | <i>Free Time</i>    | <i>Free Time</i>       |
| 19.00-20.30 | <i>Dinner</i>          | <i>Dinner</i>       |   | <i>Dinner</i>       | <i>Dinner</i>          |
| 20.30-22.00 | Ice Breakers           | Games Evening       |   | Movie Evening       | Games Evening          |

## Excursion

To tie in with cultural aims, the excursion will include trainers and will culminate in participants preparing their own meal, either a BBQ in the forest, or fondue in a traditional setting, with support from the trainers.

## Ascensus Immersion: Course Needs Assessment

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Help us to provide you with the most effective course by completing the following questionnaire.

Which areas are most important to work on during the course?

Tick (x) the appropriate box. 1 = not useful / 5 = very useful

### 1 General Language Skills

|                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Speaking Skills      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Reading Skills       |   |   |   |   |   |
| Listening Skills     |   |   |   |   |   |
| Writing Skills       |   |   |   |   |   |
| Vocabulary Extension |   |   |   |   |   |
| Grammar              |   |   |   |   |   |

### 2 Functional Language

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Introductions  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Saying goodbye                                       |   |   |   |   |   |
| Wishing people well, responding to social situations |   |   |   |   |   |
| Small talk   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Giving instructions                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Making requests                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Making appointments                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Talking on the telephone                             |   |   |   |   |   |
| Travel: airports, train stations etc                 |   |   |   |   |   |
| Shopping   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Giving and asking for directions                     |   |   |   |   |   |
| Making reservations                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Food and restaurants                                 |   |   |   |   |   |
| Intercultural aspects                                |   |   |   |   |   |
| Leading a meeting                                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Expressing opinions                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Asking for opinions                                  |   |   |   |   |   |

|                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Interrupting politely        |   |   |   |   |   |
| Agreeing and disagreeing     |   |   |   |   |   |
| Discussions: for and against |   |   |   |   |   |
| Negotiation Skills           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Presentation Skills          |   |   |   |   |   |
| Other: (please specify)      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Other: (please specify)      |   |   |   |   |   |

### 3 Culture

a) Which country are you moving/have you moved to?

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b) How long is the assignment?

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c) Which family members are with you?

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### 4 General Learning

a) Consider the training Programs that you like. What makes them appealing to you?

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b) Consider the training Programs that you don't like.

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c) What are your personal learning goals for this course?

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### 5 Visiting Speakers

How interested would you be in guest speakers on the following themes?  
1 = not so interested / 5 = very interested

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal experiences on international assignments |   |   |   |   |   |
| Tax and social security issues                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| International business practices                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Case studies                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Other: (please specify)                           |   |   |   |   |   |

## 6 Language Outing

a) Would you be interested in learning a skill or sport in German?

If so, please give examples of sports and/or skills you would be interested in learning.

## 7 Language Ability

Please circle the level that best describes your current language ability. e.g. **B1**

|                  |           |   |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Proficient User  | <b>C2</b> | Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.  |
|                  | <b>C1</b> | Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.                                       |
| Independent User | <b>B2</b> | Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. |
|                  | <b>B1</b> | Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.                   |
| Basic User       | <b>A2</b> | Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.                          |
|                  | <b>A1</b> | Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.   |

## Registration

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Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Zip Code / Town: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Participants:

1) First Name / Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

2) First Name / Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

3) First Name / Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

4) First Name / Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

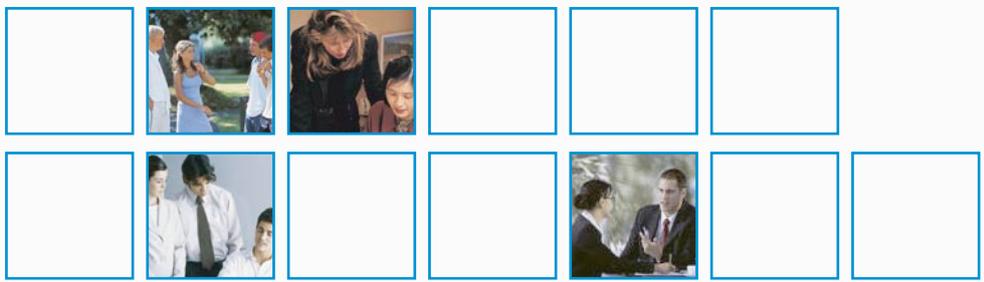
5) First Name / Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Placement Test: <http://e-learn.teservices.ch>

### \* Programme Type:

- German
- English
- 
- 3 Days
- 5 Days
- 7 Days

\* These Fields are required



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