

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- students of **Natural Sciences** and **Engineering** at Ruhr-Universität Bochum

### PREREQUISITES

- **proficiency in the foreign language:** at least level **B1** of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR); for typologically distant languages (e.g. Chinese, Russian or Arabic): level **A2**
- **proficiency in the primary language:** **native speaker** or at least level **C1**
- **German or English** must be *either* the native / primary language *or* the target language

### STEM faculties of RUB

Engineering	Natural Sciences
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Biology and Biotechnology
Electrical Engineering and Information Technology	Chemistry and Biochemistry
Mechanical Engineering	Geosciences
	Mathematics
	Physics and Astronomy



## HOW DO I APPLY?

The Tandem.MINT-programme runs over the course of one semester. For **winter semester**, you can apply until **September 15<sup>th</sup>**; the application deadline for **summer semester** is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The application form and further information are available online:

<http://internatural.blogs.rub.de>

### QUESTIONS?

Contact us: [tandem-mint@rub.de](mailto:tandem-mint@rub.de)



### RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

#### Project inSTUDIESplus

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#### Project ELLI2 (Engineering)

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#### University Language Centre (ZFA)

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[internatural.blogs.rub.de](http://internatural.blogs.rub.de) | [www.rub.de/tandem](http://www.rub.de/tandem)

# TANDEM.MINT

## TANDEM LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAMME

for students of Natural Sciences & Engineering



## ABOUT TANDEM.MINT

### WHAT IS TANDEM LANGUAGE LEARNING?

In Tandem Language Learning, you practise a foreign language, e.g. German, in interaction with a tandem-partner who is proficient in your target language as a native speaker or on a comparably high level (C1 at least) – in return, you support your tandem-partner in learning your native language.

In contrast to a language course, it is up to you which skills you would like to improve specifically, what you want to focus on, and which approach and resources you would like to use. Thus, learning in a tandem is geared towards the individual objectives and capabilities of both tandem-partners.

### WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT TANDEM.MINT?

That your tandem-partner also studies in the field of STEM allows you to pursue a specialised focus and establish connections to your studies. For example, you can discuss subject-specific topics or work with specialised texts.

In doing so, you may learn technical terms and practice describing specific matters and processes or writing typical texts (e.g. lab reports or papers) in the foreign language. This gives you the opportunity to test your language skills even for a specialised context and to acquire technical vocabulary.

Of course, you can also simply „get into talking“ with your tandem-partner about topics of your choice and gradually adjust the level.

### HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING?

In the tandem, you improve the foreign language with a hands-on approach, and in an authentic, social context. This way, you become more confident to speak the language in everyday life and in academia. Besides advancing your language skills, you get to know local and international fellow students of similar fields of study and can thus enhance your intercultural competence. The tandem can therefore be useful to prepare for a (study-related) stay abroad. Moreover, you can practise working together in multilingual and multicultural teams – and thus acquire transferable skills for an increasingly globalised working environment in the sector of Engineering and Natural Sciences.



### HOW IS THE PROGRAMME SCHEDULED?

After registration is closed, we will try to find a matching tandem-partner for you. After that, you establish contact with your tandem-partner independently. At the beginning of the semester, you participate in an introductory session at the University Language Centre (ZFA). As needed, you may also register for an individual coaching session in order to develop your personal learning objectives.

Throughout the semester, you arrange and plan the individual meetings with your tandem-partner independently. A Tandem-Portfolio provides you with guidelines and impulses for your tandem-sessions.

### DO I RECEIVE CREDIT POINTS?

You can choose between the certificate-variant and the CP-variant. In the **certificate-variant**, you will obtain a participation certificate at the end of the semester based on regular participation. If you want to obtain credit points, it is possible to complete Tandem.MINT as a module (**CP-variant**). Whether these credit points can be transferred towards elective modules depends on the individual regulations of your degree programme and is subject to individual agreement with the academic advisors or examination board.

Please note that no graded exam can be administered. Likewise, an assessment of performance or language proficiency is not possible.

## BACKGROUND

■ **Tandem.MINT** is a joint venture of the projects **inSTUDIESplus** and **ELLI2** in cooperation with the **University Language Centre (ZFA)**. It is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The programme was launched in summer semester 2018 as a **pilot-project**.



### What does STEM mean?

STEM is short for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (equivalent in German: MINT). The term mostly refers to the complete range of Natural Sciences and technical disciplines.

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