CONSTRUCTOR UNIVERSITY

Study Program Handbook

English Foundation Year

Program Handbook 2026

constructor.university/programs/pre-degree-programs/english-foundation-year

Contents

Basic Information

Program Name:	English Foundation Year (EFY)
Type:	Pre-Degree
Level:	Level 0 (Pre-university)
Exit award:	English Foundation Year Certificate (EFYC)
Award notes:	The Program is offered in three subject areas: Technology, Science and Society at Level 0. Successful completion of the EFY program within the two different pathways Qualification and Orientation is recognized by Constructor University as an element in securing progression to several specified undergraduate degree programs. Students within the Qualification pathway are also required to pass the TestAS exam with a minimum combined standard score of 190 for progression into undergraduate degree programs.
Modes of study:	All students will be full-time students. Teaching language is English, and no German knowledge is required for the studies.
Age requirements:	All students must be at least 16 years old when entering the program.

Award	Standard entry requirements
English Foundation Year Certificate (EFYC)	CEFR A2/3.5 IELTS (or equivalent)
	Minimum academic requirement is a High School Diploma/Certificate recognized as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany. Recognition is determined following guidance of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany ("Kultusministerkonferenz", KMK) and the State of Bremen.

Program Overview

The Constructor University Educational Concept

Constructor University Bremen (CU) aims at educating students for both an academic and a professional career, putting an emphasis on four fundamental objectives: academic quality, self-development, internationality, and employability. Hence, undergraduate study programs at CU offer a comprehensive and structured approach to prepare students for graduate education as well as career success by combining disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary breadth, supplemented with skills education and extra-curricular elements.

In this context, it is CU's aim to educate talented young people from all over the world, regardless of nationality, religion, and material prerequisites, to become citizens of the world who can take responsible roles for a democratic, peaceful, and sustainable development of the societies they live in. This is achieved by implementing high levels of teaching quality as well as manageable study loads and supportive curricular conditions. Undergraduate study programs including study abroad components convey academic knowledge as well as the ability to interact positively with other individuals and groups in culturally diverse environments. The ability to succeed in the working world is a core objective both in terms of the actual disciplinary subject matter and social skills coupled to intercultural competence. Study-program-specific and specialization modules provide the necessary knowledge, interdisciplinary offerings and minor options provide breadth, while university-wide general methods modules, German language courses, and an extended internship period strengthen the employability of students. The concept of living and learning together on an international campus with many cultural and social activities supplements this education. Additionally, CU offers professional advising and counselling as part of its guidance services.

CU's educational concept is acclaimed both nationally and internationally. While the university has consistently achieved top marks over the last decade in Germany's most comprehensive and detailed university ranking by the Centre for Higher Education (CHE), it has also been listed by the renowned Times Higher Education (THE) as the top private university in Germany, and within the top 10% young universities worldwide. The THE Ranking is considered as one of the most widely observed university rankings. It is based on five major indicators: research, teaching, research impact, international orientation, and the volume of research income from industry.

Program - Specific Educational Aims

The English Foundation Year (EFY) is a pre-degree preparatory program, enabling students from all over the world to enhance their academic capabilities, develop study and language skills appropriate to a Higher Education environment, and acclimate themselves to studying in English in another country, where cultural context is very different from their own. Along-side language and skill development, students working towards the EFY Certificate are also able to reach the CEFR B2 English level needed to study at CU. They are therefore able to move into first year degree studies with increased confidence in their university study skills and subject knowledge. Students will also be exposed to the fundamentals of computer and software literacy as an important aspect of the modern job market. The TestAS (www.tes-tas.de) entrance exam is taken during the English Foundation Year if needed.

Program Aims

The EFY program aims to help students:

- reach the needed English language level for university studies
- develop academic reading, writing, and reasoning skills through academic English literacy;
- improve mathematical competence through intensive mathematics and statistics training;
- acquire fundamental knowledge required for their academic discipline of choice;
- train for the TestAS exam;
- develop computer literacy and coding skills;
- develop knowledge and understanding of specialized subject areas;
- accommodate themselves to study various topics in English;
- recognize what is expected of them in a university environment;
- experience student life in a university campus.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- accustom themselves to an international university environment;
- choose and prepare for a study direction they would like to pursue;
- apply their English skills in critical thinking, reading and writing in an academic context;
- use improved mathematical skills to solve applied problems;
- use digital devices to create, gather, analyze and present information;
- learn and work in an intercultural and diverse environment;
- reflect on their personal and academic development.

Program Structure

All EFY students study a combination of CORE and SUBJECT modules. CORE modules include English and Academic Literacy, Mathematics, and Computer and Software Literacy. Furthermore, the EFY students follow one of two pathways, depending on their academic status:

A | Qualification Pathway

Students who want to pursue an undergraduate program of choice at CU but need national qualification are guided onto the Qualification Pathway. The EFY program offers three subject areas: Technology, Science and Society, and qualification students will be placed in the subject area corresponding to their undergraduate program of choice. The Qualification pathway includes two SUBJECT modules within one subject area (one module per semester) which prepare students with the academic knowledge needed for their direction of study. As the students will need to take the qualifying TestAS exam, they will also receive extensive training sessions to improve their exam preparation. They will be guided by the academic staff to work towards the qualification requirements within their individual study direction to ensure guaranteed admission to CU's undergraduate programs. These subject areas will provide students with a route to a degree at Constructor University.

B | Orientation Pathway

Students who have national equivalency for admission to undergraduate studies at CU and would like to explore one or more subject areas to get insight into the right undergraduate study program choice are guided to the Orientation Pathway. The EFY program offers three subject areas to choose from: Technology, Science and Society. The Orientation Pathway allows the selection of two SUBJECT modules from two different subject areas (one module per semester), with adequate preparation of needed academic skills alongside the opportunity to explore different subject directions. These subject areas will provide students with a route to a degree at CU guided by the academic staff to assist them in their decision of study direction.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

The EFY program implements a range of adaptive and innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment. Students and their personal development are at the heart of these strategies:

A | The EFY program offers an interactive, intensive English curriculum to bring students to the needed B2 English level for university studies. Our curriculum follows the renowned Pearson® MyGrammarLab© and Longman Academic series complemented by the versatile platform MyEnglishLab©.

Pearson's Academic English curriculum is an interactive ecosystem designed to bridge the gap between general English proficiency and the rigorous demands of higher education. It focuses on mastering the "Global Scale of English" by integrating the four core language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) with a heavy emphasis on critical thinking and research literacy.

B | EFY students are provided with a highly supportive and academically challenging environment to develop their university language and study skills. The EFY program provides not only core, but also subject-specific modules related to the students' intended degree choices.

C | Students will benefit from a less formal teaching approach, involving greater interaction within classes and between students and instructors. Their confidence as independent learners is enhanced through working in discrete and small teaching class sessions where student participation is supported and encouraged, while reinforcing the studied material in parallel.

D | Cultural acclimation to the university's international environment is facilitated through encouragement to participate in the wider community of both CU and Bremen itself.

E | The EFY program aims to cater for both students who are sure of the subject they wish to follow and those who want to explore their academic orientation. For the first group, each

subject area offers subject-focused modules over two semesters, which provides direct preparation for the chosen degree program. The second group has the opportunity of taking EFY modules from two different subject areas during the two semesters of the academic year.

F | Alongside subject and skill modules, students will benefit from complementary modules on computer and software literacy and coding, reflecting CU's vision of technologically adept student body.

G | Regular tutorial and study sessions provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their study progress, and for instructors to monitor this progress and provide any additional support the students might need to strengthen weaker knowledge areas.

H | A range of modes of assessment are applied including assignments, group and individual presentations, projects, and interim tests, to replicate the wider university experience. Midterm and final module assessments contribute to the final module grade.

I | Policies governing EFY modules are included in the 'Rules and Regulations' presented to the students at the beginning of the academic year during the orientation period. 'Academic Policies' and 'Entrance policies' govern the EFY program which are published and can be found on the CU website under 'Registrar Services'.

Regulations

EFY students follow a set of regulations appropriate to a Level 0 program but modelled to CU's undergraduate students. Variations are only introduced to cover the requirements of a pre-degree program, particularly around reassessment opportunities.

To progress from the EFY program directly into CU's undergraduate programs, students will need to pass all EFY modules with a minimum of 45%. Students enrolled on the Qualification Pathway will also need a cumulative standard TestAS score of 190 points. The TestAS exam will be offered on campus for three rounds during the academic year. EFY students who do not achieve the required standard score of 190 in the TestAS will not be eligible for admission into CU's undergraduate programs. Constructor University does not accept an SAT certificate as a replacement to the TestAS certificate for EFY students. Additionally, the final examination of the second semester subject module within each subject area will serve as the "Entrance Examination" for Admission to CU according to the Bildungsausländerhochschulzugangsverordnung (BAHZV).

Admission Requirements

All students who obtain a high school diploma or local equivalent prior to the start of the academic year and who possess English language skills equivalent to the A2 level of the European Framework may apply for the EFY program. The application process is selective and seeks out motivated students who show both the intellectual and social potential to thrive in a diverse international study environment.

A complete EFY application consists of the following:

- Online Application Form including a Personal Motivation Statement
- Recommendation Letter from a counsellor or teacher
- Certified Copies of School Transcripts of the last 2-3 years and a Certified Copy of the High School Certificate
- Educational History Form
- Proof of English Language Proficiency (minimum score of 3.5 on the IELTS (UK) / 30 on the Pearson PTE Academic / 120 on the Cambridge Certificate (FCE) / 2.5 on the new TOEFL / 40 on the Duolingo English test)

Please note for the Fall 2026 intake: Students who require a visa for Germany should apply by June 15th since the visa process can take up to two months. The application deadline for EU students is August 1st. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis.

More Information and Contact

Pre-Degree Team at Constructor University Bremen

Email: pre-degree@constructor.university

Meet the EFY Team

The English Foundation Year Team at Constructor University

The core team will support students throughout the academic year with both academic and co-academic concerns.

EFY Core Team

Hanri Landers
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Psychometrist for career
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office

Prof. Dr. Bassem Bassil
Head of
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The EFY Faculty will support students throughout the academic year by means of academic advising, teaching, tutoring and guidance within their specific subject field.

EFY Faculty

Tamara von Drathen

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer and Academic
Advisor for subject area
Society

Holm Hofmann

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer of Pre-degree
Academic English

Muhammad Khalid

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer and Academic
Advisor for subject area
Technology

Lecturer of Computer
Literacy

Stephanie Rahi

Pre-Degree Faculty

Trainer and Administrator
of TestAS

Lecturer of Biology

Dr. Tanya Keni

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer of Pre-degree Academic English

Lecturer and Coach of Career Development

Dr. Sadegh Noroozi

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer of Science and Technology subject area

Lecturer of Mathematics and Computer Literacy

Dr. Jodi Szarko

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer of Science subject area

Lecturer of Mathematics

Mariya Petkova

Pre-Degree Faculty

Lecturer of Pre-degree Academic English

Curricular Structure

Overview

The EFY program offers CORE as well as SUBJECT modules. The students will follow one of two pathways according to their academic status: Qualification or Orientation Pathway.

In the Qualification Pathway, the students take all CORE and SUBJECT modules belonging to the same subject area over two semesters while training for the TestAS external exam which will be offered on campus over three rounds. In the Orientation Pathway, the students may change subject areas between semesters and take the respective CORE and SUBJECT modules. Their chosen first semester modules do not postulate any restrictions for the second semester choices unless they involve prerequisites. The subject areas in the EFY program are Technology, Science and Society. The module's credit load in the EFY program ranges from 2.5 to 5 credit points (CP). A total of six core modules and two subject specific modules in each pathway can be achieved.

All these modules are delivered and assessed within each semester and are available for compensation and re-assessment in line with the regulations covering studying at Level 0.

Core Modules

Fall Semester

English Literacy (7.5 credit points)

The first-semester module will focus on building essential English language skills with the students to bring them to a B1 CEFR level. Listening and reading comprehension skills will be developed, alongside advanced grammatical and vocabulary knowledge. At a later stage,

students will learn how to progress from a sentence to a paragraph to a basic essay structure. They will also be engaged in oral communication drills and exercises.

Basic Mathematics (5.0 credit points)

Students within the Society subject area will go through an overview of introductory algebra and arithmetic in order to gain the needed knowledge for further modules within the EFY and future UGE programs. Topics include number operations, equations and notion of functions. The interactive module further prepares students to solve mathematical problems in an applied fashion.

Advanced Mathematics (5.0 credit points)

The module is intended for students within the Science and Technology subject areas and prepares them for the consecutive Spring semester module Pure Mathematics. This module reviews essential topics in introductory Algebra and Calculus, with focus on linear and quadratic equations and functions as well as concepts in trigonometry and vector operations. These topics are an integral part of the preparatory curriculum for the students concerned.

Computational Thinking and Coding (2.5 credit points)

This module allows 'Science' and 'Technology' students to analyze problems through engagement in computational design and thinking. Students will identify, explore, and clarify technological information and use that knowledge in various applied situations. They will get informed about modern and in-demand programming languages in the world. The module further helps with experimental modelling and working with digital tools and includes basic concepts of Python.

Applied Excel Literacy (2.5 credit points)

The use of Microsoft Excel is integral in the different disciplines within the Society subject area. Hence, this introductory module aims to expose students to the main functionalities needed of Excel within the area of data analysis and visualization. In addition, the students will apply their learned knowledge of the software to different types of examples.

TestAS Training

TestAS Training is offered in both Fall and Spring semesters and is designed to prepare EFY students enrolled in the Qualification pathway for the TestAS external exam. During the EFY program students have three opportunities to take the TestAS qualifying exam on campus. Attendance is mandatory for this module; missing training sessions may result in denying registration for the following TestAS exam round on campus.

Spring Semester

Academic Literacy (7.5 credit points)

The second-semester module will focus on developing students in applying English for university studies, especially in academic writing and presentation skills. Students will learn the different types of essays, how to read critically from different source texts and properly cite

them in an academic manuscript. Oral communication is further developed in the academic context through preparation and delivery of a topic-based presentation.

Pure Mathematics (5.0 credit points)

This second semester module is a follow-up to the Advanced Mathematics module for students in the subject areas Science and Technology. Since developed mathematical skills are essential for students in these subject areas, Pure Mathematics provides them with the needed knowledge and tools to be properly prepared for the respective undergraduate degrees at CU. The course covers essential topics in college-level algebra and calculus, and the complementary tutorials and study sessions provide extensive practice on problem solving skills.

Foundation Statistics (5.0 credit points)

This second semester module is mandatory for students continuing their studies within the subject area 'Society', particularly in the areas of business and management, logistics, and social sciences and humanities, as fundamental knowledge in statistics is essential for degrees within these areas. The module covers main topics in statistical analysis and probability, sampling, and confidence limits. The study sessions include extensive practice of applied statistical concepts and models.

Fundamentals of C and C++ (2.5 credit points)

In this module students within the Technology subject area will understand and apply fundamental programming concepts in C and C++ for their high importance as programming languages. They will learn how to write, compile, and debug simple programs in both languages by developing and managing basic projects as well as demonstrating problem-solving skills. Analysis and optimization of simple code for efficiency and performance will also be tackled. Students will also collaborate on introductory projects.

Python for Science (2.5 credit points)

This course introduces students within the Science subject area to the scientific disciplines in programming using Python, focusing on foundational computational skills that support problem solving, data handling, and analysis in scientific contexts. No solid prior programming experience is required, and the module emphasizes practical exercises, clarity, and gradual skill development. It aims to prepare students for applying programming in the disciplines of physics, chemistry, and biology.

Introduction to R and SPSS (2.5 credit points)

This module introduces students to data analysis for Social Sciences and related disciplines, using SPSS and R in parallel. It develops fundamental data literacy, statistical reasoning, and the ability to manage, analyze, and interpret real-world datasets. The course is designed for beginners and combines graphical and coding-based analytical methods.

Modules by Subject Area

Subject Area TECHNOLOGY

Computer Systems (5.0 credit points)

This module introduces students to the essential concepts of computer science and computer systems. The primary objective is to provide students with a thorough understanding of how computer systems function, encompassing both hardware and software components, as well as the fundamental principles of computing. Students will gain insights into the structure and operation of computer systems, which will serve as a critical foundation for their subsequent studies in relevant undergraduate programs.

Fundamentals of Programming with Python 3 (5.0 credit points)

Students applying to CS, RIS, SDT or MMDA are introduced to programming through the Python 3 language. The module aims to develop foundational programming skills that are essential for further academic pursuits in computer science and related disciplines. Through this module, students will learn the core principles of programming, gain practical coding experience, and build a strong basis for more advanced studies in the field. Fundamentals of Programming with Python 3 is the entrance module to undergraduate programs at CU for qualification students within the Technology subject area.

Foundation Physics (5.0 credit points)

For students applying to ECE, physics is an essential part of their knowledge, and a basic knowledge of relevant topics in physics is a requirement for students to start their undergraduate studies at CU within an Engineering-based program. This second semester module provides the students with such knowledge and covers areas within mechanics and optics. The study sessions and tutorials complement the module with extensive problem-solving practice. Foundation Physics is the entrance module to undergraduate programs at CU for qualification students within the Technology subject area.

Subject Area SCIENCE

Foundation Chemistry (5.0 credit points)

Chemistry is an essential discipline for any student wanting to continue their studies in natural, physical, and biological sciences at CU. The first semester module Foundation Chemistry hence provides the students within the subject area 'Science' with an overall and basic knowledge of the various fields within chemistry. Topics covered include fundamental aspects of general, analytical, inorganic, and physical chemistry. The study sessions and tutorials complement the module with extensive problem-solving practice.

Foundation Biology (5.0 credit points)

This course offers for students applying to BCCB, CBT, or MCCB an introduction to the fundamentals of human biology starting with cell structure, heredity, diversity, and energy transfer. It focuses on chemical foundations such as macronutrients and metabolism. The course

discusses the maintenance of the human body by examining the cardiovascular, respiratory, and lymphatic systems. It also discusses reproduction and development, in addition to basic genetic concepts.

Foundation Physics (5.0 credit points)

For students applying to ESSMER or PHDS, physics is a complementary discipline in science, and a basic knowledge of relevant topics in physics is a requirement for starting their undergraduate studies at CU. The second semester module Foundation Physics provides the students with such knowledge and covers areas within mechanics and optics. The study sessions and tutorials complement the module with extensive problem-solving practice. Foundation Physics is the entrance module to undergraduate programs at CU for qualification students within the Science subject area.

Subject Area SOCIETY

Foundation Economics (5.0 credit points)

This module introduces students to the core principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics, providing a solid foundation in economic theory and its practical application. It examines how individuals, firms and governments make decisions under conditions of scarcity and how these decisions influence markets and overall economic performance.

Foundation Business and Management (5.0 credit points)

The module introduces students applying to IBA, GEM, IEM, or MDDA to the internal and external context of business practice and management. It delves into key business aspects including strategic management, marketing, human resources, crisis management, globalization, and social responsibility. It also aims to provide students with the appropriate foundation of business theory and concepts that will enable them to be successful in their later related undergraduate studies in the fields of business and management.

Introduction to Social Sciences (5.0 credit points)

The overall aim of this module is to provide students with a general introduction to social sciences with a focus on the areas of sociology, economics, politics, and international relations. It aims to provide students with the appropriate foundation in social sciences theories and concepts as well as their applicability in relation to relevant fields of social sciences. Introduction to Social Sciences is the entrance module to undergraduate programs at CU for qualification students within the Society subject area.

Schematic Study Plan

English Foundation Year Qualification Pathway – Choose one specific subject area				
	Technology	**Science**	**Society**	
Fall Semester	English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	
	Advanced Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Advanced Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Basic Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	
	Computational Thinking and Coding — m, 2.5 CP	Computational Thinking and Coding — m, 2.5 CP	Applied Excel Literacy — m, 2.5 CP	
	TestAS Training I — m, 0.0 CP	TestAS Training I — m, 0.0 CP	TestAS Training I — m, 0.0 CP	
	Computer Systems — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Chemistry — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Economics — m, 5.0 CP	
Spring Semester	Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	
	Pure Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Pure Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Statistics — m, 5.0 CP	
	Fundamentals of C and C++ — m, 2.5 CP	Python for Science — m, 2.5 CP	Introduction to R and SPSS — m, 2.5 CP	
	TestAS Training II — e, 0.0 CP	TestAS Training II — e, 0.0 CP	TestAS Training II — e, 0.0 CP	
	Fundamentals of Programming with Python 3 — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Biology — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Business and Management — me, 5.0 CP	
	Foundation Physics — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Physics — me, 5.0 CP	Introduction to Social Sciences — me, 5.0 CP	

(Abbreviations: m = mandatory, me = mandatory elective, CP = credit points)

English Foundation Year Orientation Pathway – Choose up to two subject areas		
Technology	**Science**	**Society**
English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	English Literacy — m, 7.5 CP
Advanced Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Advanced Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Basic Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP
Computational Thinking and Coding — m, 2.5 CP	Computational Thinking and Coding — m, 2.5 CP	Applied Excel Literacy — m, 2.5 CP
Computer Systems — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Chemistry — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Economics — m, 5.0 CP
Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP	Academic Literacy — m, 7.5 CP
Pure Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Pure Mathematics — m, 5.0 CP	Foundation Statistics — m, 5.0 CP
Fundamentals of C and C++ — m, 2.5 CP	Python for Science — m, 2.5 CP	Introduction to R and SPSS — m, 2.5 CP
Fundamentals of Programming with Python 3 — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Biology — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Business and Management — me, 5.0 CP
Foundation Physics — me, 5.0 CP	Foundation Physics — me, 5.0 CP	Introduction to Social Sciences — me, 5.0 CP

Fall Semester (rows 1–4), Spring Semester (rows 5–9)

(Abbreviations: m = mandatory, me = mandatory elective, CP = credit points)

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