



**Study
Program
Handbook**

Gateway Year

Program Handbook 2026

constructor.university/programs/pre-degree-programs/gateway-year

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Basic Information

- Program Name:** Gateway Year (GY)
- Type:** Pre-Degree
- Level:** Level 0 (Pre-university)
- Exit award:** Gateway Year Certificate (GYC)
- Award notes:** Successful completion of the GY program is recognized by Constructor University as an element in securing progression to several specified undergraduate degree programs. Students within the Academic 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
Gateway Year Certificate (GYC)	English Qualification Pathway: CEFR B1 (or equivalent) Academic Qualification Pathway: CEFR B2 (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 Gateway Year (GY) is a pre-degree program directed towards students with strong educational background in need of language or academic qualification for admission into the undergraduate program of choice. The program allows students to transfer up to 40 ECTS to their first-year undergraduate studies, gaining the opportunity to start their major early while

in GY program. Students within the English Qualification pathway will take interactive academic English modules to reach the required CEFR B2 English level for university studies. Students with the Academic Qualification pathway will enhance their mathematical skills and prepare for the TestAS (www.testas.de) as well as CU's entrance exam for university admission.

Program Aims

The GY program aims to help students:

- start with their undergraduate studies from day one;
- transfer up to 40 ECTS to their major of choice upon successful program graduation;
- achieve the required academic qualification for university entry;
- achieve the English CEFR B2 level for university studies;
- learn beginner- or advanced-level German;
- improve mathematical competence through intensive mathematics and statistics training;
- train for the TestAS exam;
- 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:

- study and transfer undergraduate modules to their major of choice;
- achieve the needed academic qualification for university studies;
- apply their learned English knowledge to presentation skills and academic writing;
- use improved mathematical skills to solve applied problems;
- accustom themselves to university studies;
- learn and work in an intercultural and diverse environment;
- reflect on their personal and academic development.



Program Structure

All GY students study a combination of undergraduate and CORE modules. CORE modules include Academic English and/or Mathematics depending on the following two pathways:

A | English Qualification Pathway

Students with a strong educational background and national qualification to study in Germany but lack the English B2 level for university studies will be registered in the English Qualification pathway. The pathway includes 30 ECTS of mandatory CHOICE modules from the undergraduate program of choice. Additionally, students have the option to choose the following additional module combination:

- 2 x Methods modules (5 ECTS each)
- 2 x undergraduate German modules (2.5 ECTS each)
- 2 x CORE Pre-Degree Math modules (5 CP each)

To gain English language qualification, students will need to successfully pass the two mandatory Academic English modules (5 CP each) for Fall and Spring semesters.

B | Academic Qualification Pathway

Students with strong educational and English background but lack the needed national qualification for studying in Germany will be registered in the Academic Qualification pathway. The pathway includes 30 ECTS of mandatory CHOICE modules from the undergraduate program of choice in addition to 5 ECTS of undergraduate German language modules. Students within the pathway will also improve their mathematical skills with two CORE Pre-Degree Math modules. Intensive training for the qualifying TestAS exam is also be offered.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

The GY program implements a range of adaptive and innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment. Students and their academic need and goals lie at the heart of these strategies:

A | The GY 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 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 |** GY students are provided with a highly supportive and academically challenging environment to get the academic and language qualifications needed. The GY program provides the needed customized curriculum with CORE modules for successful completion and progression to the undergraduate program of choice.
- C |** Students will benefit from a less formal teaching approach in their CORE modules, involving greater interaction within classes and between students and instructors. Their confidence in assimilating the class material and improving the skills needed for a smooth transition through undergraduate education is enhanced.
- 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 GY program's versatile curriculum aims to cater for both student targets through the two pathways and ensures access to their future program modules for credit transfer, students are starting their undergraduate education from the first day in the GY program.
- F |** Policies governing CORE modules are included in the 'Rules and Regulations' presented to the students at the beginning of the academic year during the orientation period. Policies governing Undergraduate modules are included the 'Academic Policies for Undergraduate Students' as well as 'Academic Integrity', which can be found on the CU website under 'Registrar Services'.

Regulations

The GY program follows 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. The program follows the 'Pre-Degree Academic Policies' published on the CU website under 'Registrar Services'. Progression from the GY program into CU's undergraduate programs depends on the student's Qualification Pathway.

Students within English Qualification need to pass the two Academic English modules in Fall and Spring semester to ensure B2-level English knowledge for university studies.

Students within Academic Qualification will need to pass all assigned CORE modules with a minimum of 45% and a cumulative standard TestAS score of 190 points to be eligible for admission into CU's undergraduate programs. The TestAS exam will be offered on campus for three rounds during the academic year. Constructor University does not accept an SAT certificate as a replacement to the TestAS certificate for GY students. Additionally, Academic Qualification students need to pass the "Entrance Examination" (Zugangsprüfung) 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. 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 GY 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

English Qualification Pathway

- Proof of English Language Proficiency (minimum score of 3.5 on the new TOEFL / 4.5 on the IELTS (UK) / 43 on the Pearson PTE Academic or 140 on the Cambridge Certificate (FCE) / 65 on the Duolingo English test)

Academic Qualification Pathway

- Proof of English Language Proficiency (minimum score of 4.5 on the new TOEFL / 6.5 on the IELTS (UK) / standard score of 600 SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (New SAT) / 59 on the Pearson PTE Academic or 160 on the Cambridge Certificate (FCE) / 110 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

Curricular Structure

Overview

The GY program offers a combination of undergraduate modules with transferable ECTS credits in addition to preparatory CORE modules for language or academic qualifications needed. Depending on the pathway, students will choose modules according to the following curricular structure:

English Qualification Pathway

- 2 Undergraduate CHOICE modules per semester
- 1 additional elective module per semester:
Undergraduate Methods or
Undergraduate German Language or
CORE Mathematics
- 1 Academic English Module per semester

Academic Qualification Pathway

- 2 Undergraduate CHOICE modules per semester
- 1 German Language module per semester
- 1 CORE Mathematics module per semester
- Training module for the TestAS qualification exam

The Pre-Degree administration may change the registration of GY students in Spring semester if they fail to successfully pass their undergraduate modules in Fall semester.

CORE Modules

Fall Semester

Academic English I (5.0 credit points)

The module focuses on building a strong foundation of English proficiency, including listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students are expected by the end of the module to possess the proper basis for studying English in an academic setup.

Basic Mathematics (5.0 credit points)

Students applying to programs in the school of 'Business, Social and Decision Science' will go through an overview of introductory algebra and arithmetic to gain the needed knowledge for further modules within the GY and their 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 applying to the schools of 'Science' and 'Computer Science and Engineering' 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.

TestAS Training

TestAS Training is offered in both Fall and Spring semesters and is designed to prepare GY students enrolled in the Academic Qualification pathway for the TestAS external exam. During the GY 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 English II (5.0 credit points)

The module focuses on greater fluency in English language and improved academic literacy skills. Students are introduced to the scientific approach of studying English with an emphasis on higher-level skills such as analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, and evaluation.

Pure Mathematics (5.0 credit points)

This second semester module is a follow-up to Advanced Mathematics. Since developed mathematical skills are essential for students in the areas of science and technology, 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.

Introduction to Statistics (5.0 credit points)

This second semester module is essential for students continuing their studies within 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.



Undergraduate Modules

CHOICE (7.5 ECTS per module)

During the GY program, students will be taking, per semester, two undergraduate CHOICE modules from their program of choice for credit transfer after successful completion. The modules are taken according to the table shown below. GY students need to pass the Fall CHOICE module to be eligible for registration of the following module in Spring. The descriptions of the modules are provided in the individual study program Handbooks that can be accessed from Constructor University's website.

School of Computer Science and Engineering

Program	Fall	Spring
CS	Programming in C and C++	Algorithms and Data Structures
	Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science	Digital Systems and Computer Architecture
RIS	Mathematical and Physical Foundations of Robotics I	Mathematical and Physical Foundations of Robotics II
	Programming in C and C++	Algorithms and Data Structures
ECE	General Electrical Engineering I	General Electrical Engineering II
	Classical Physics	Foundations of Communications and Electronics
SDT	Programming in C and C++	Algorithms and Data Structures
	Industrial Programming with Python	Development in JVM Languages

School of Science

Program	Fall	Spring
BCCB	General Biochemistry	General Cell Biology
	General and Inorganic Chemistry	General Organic Chemistry
CBT	General and Inorganic Chemistry	Introduction to Biotechnology
	General Biochemistry	General Organic Chemistry
MCCB	General Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology	General Organic Chemistry
	General Biochemistry	General Cell Biology
PHDS	Classical Physics	Modern Physics
	Scientific Programming with Python	Mathematical Modelling
ESSMER	Fundamentals of Earth Science	Environmental Systems and Global Change
	Microeconomics	Macroeconomics
MMDA	Analysis	Linear Algebra
	Scientific Programming with Python	Mathematical Modelling

School of Business, Social and Decision Science

Program	Fall	Spring
IBA	Introduction to International Business	Introduction to Finance and Accounting
	Microeconomics	Macroeconomics
GEM	Microeconomics	Macroeconomics
	Introduction to International Business	Introduction to Finance and Accounting
IEM	General Logistics	General Industrial Engineering
	Introduction to International Business	Introduction to Finance and Accounting
MDDA	Introduction to International Business	Introduction to Finance and Accounting
	Essentials of Cognitive Psychology	Essentials of Social Psychology
IRPH	Introduction to International Relations	Introduction to Modern European History
	Own Selection*	Own Selection*
ISCP	Essentials of Cognitive Psychology	Essentials of Social Psychology
	Own Selection*	Own Selection*

* To be chosen from a Minor option

Methods (5.0 ECTS per module)

GY students on the English Qualification pathway have the option to take an additional Methods module from their undergraduate program per semester. The modules are taken according to the table shown below. GY students need to pass the Fall module to be eligible for registration of the follow up module in Spring. The descriptions of the modules are provided in the individual study program Handbooks that can be accessed from Constructor University’s website.

School of Computer Science and Engineering

Program	Fall	Spring
CS / RIS	Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I	Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II
ECE / SDT	Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus I	Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus II

School of Science

Program	Fall	Spring
BCCB / CBT / MCCB	Mathematical Concepts for the Sciences	Physics for the Natural Sciences
PHDS / MMDA	Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus I	Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus II
ESSMER	Mathematical Concepts	Statistics with R

School of Business, Social and Decision Science

Program	Fall	Spring
IBA	Applied Calculus	Applied Statistics with R/SPSS
GEM / MDDA	Applied Calculus	Applied Statistics with R
IEM	Applied Calculus	Finite Mathematics
IRPH	Academic Writing and Academic Skills*	Applied Statistics with R/SPSS
ISCP	Academic Writing and Academic Skills*	Applied Statistics with R

*For Academic Qualification pathway only

German Language (2.5 ECTS each)

German language abilities foster students’ intercultural awareness and enhance their employability. They are also beneficial for securing mandatory internships (between the 2nd and 3rd year) in German companies and academic institutions. Constructor University supports its students in acquiring basic as well as advanced German Skills. The descriptions of the language modules are provided in the “Language Module Handbook” that can be accessed from Constructor University’s website.

Humanities (2.5 ECTS each)

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (Fall)

The course aims to give students an understanding of how science produces knowledge, and some of the various contexts and issues which mean this process is never entirely transparent, neutral, or unproblematic. Students will gain a critical understanding of science as human practice and technology; this will enable them both to better understand the importance and success of science, but also how to properly critique science when appropriate.

Introduction to Philosophical Ethics (Spring)

This course will introduce students to some of the key aspects of philosophical ethics, including leading normative theories of ethics as well as some important questions from metaethics and moral psychology. The course will describe ideas that are key factors in ethics and indicate various routes to progress in understanding ethics, as well as some of their difficulties.

Introduction to Visual Culture (Spring)

The purpose of this course is to explore multiple ways in which images and the visual in general mediate and structure human experiences and practices from more specialized discourses, e.g., scientific discourses, to more informal and personal day-to-day practices, such as self-fashioning in cyberspace. Social and historical contexts affect how we see, as well as what is visible and what is not.

Schematic Study Plan

English Qualification

Fall	Undergraduate 2X CHOICE (15 ECTS)	Optional Undergraduate (2.5-5 ECTS) or CORE Mathematics I (5 CP)	Academic English I (5 CP)
Spring	Undergraduate 2X CHOICE (15 ECTS)	Optional Undergraduate (2.5-5 ECTS) or CORE Mathematics II (5 CP)	Academic English II (5 CP)

Academic Qualification

Fall	Undergraduate 2X CHOICE (15 ECTS)	German Language (2.5 ECTS)	CORE Mathematics I (5 CP)	TestAS Training
Spring	Undergraduate 2X CHOICE (15 ECTS)	German Language (2.5 ECTS)	CORE Mathematics II (5 CP)	TestAS Training + Entrance Exams

Entrance Exams

Students on the Academic Qualification pathway will sit for CU's entrance exams following the university's entrance policy for Pre-Degree students. The entrance exams are distributed according to program clusters and Pre-Degree modules as follows:

Program Cluster	Entrance Exam*
BCCB + CBT + MCCB	Foundation Biology
PHDS + ESSMER + ECE	Foundation Physics
CS + RIS + SDT + MMDA	Fundamentals of Programming with Python
IBA + GEM + MDDA	Foundation Business and Management
IRPH + ISCP	Introduction to Social Science

*The corresponding module descriptions will be published in due time



↑ Campus Center
Research II, III
E.ON Energy
Laboratory
Laboratory II
Alfried Krupp College
E, F
East / West Hall
South Hall
BIGSSS
Student Activities
Center
Colleges
Sports Facilities

← TheaterSpace
Cinema
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