



FAQ



1. What is the Tandem Program?

Two people with different mother tongues form a language partnership or tandem, who meet regularly to learn each other's languages and at the same time get to know each other's culture better. Language learning in tandem can, for example, complement a language course, but it can also take place completely independently.

2. Is a tandem also possible via Skype etc.?

Yes, this is possible. If you are explicitly looking for a tandem via Skype, it is important to note this in brackets directly on your language request.

3. Who can participate in the Tandem Program?

Anyone can participate in the Tandem Program.

4. When can I register?

You can register at any time. There is no registration period.

5. With which language skills can I participate in the Tandem Program?

The language you offer should be your mother tongue. The language level of the language you are looking for may be assessed by yourself. A minimum level is not required.

6. When is a language a mother tongue?

A language is considered a mother tongue from level C1/C2 onwards.

7. Can I search several languages / offer several native languages?

Yes, for each language you are looking for or offering you have to fill out an extra form. Example: You want to learn Spanish and Chinese? Then first fill in a form for the language Spanish. In a second form you register for the other language, in this example, Chinese. Keep in mind that you would potentially get a Tandem-Partner for each language for which you register. Therefore, you should only register for the number of tandems that you can manage in terms of time.

8. Can I have several tandem partners?

Yes, you will need to fill out a form for the number of tandem partners you are looking for. Please keep in mind, however, that you can potentially get a tandem partner for each application. Therefore, you should only register for the number of tandems that you can manage in terms of time.

9. Will I receive a confirmation e-mail after the online registration?

No confirmation e-mail is sent after the online registration. You are automatically registered in the system.

10. How long do I have to wait for a tandem partner?

Of course we will try to find a suitable tandem partner for you as soon as possible. The waiting time varies depending on the language you select, as well as your additional selected preferences such as gender or age. Furthermore, a regularly updated supply-demand list can be found in front of the Information Office and is available online here: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/1088>

11. How are the tandem partners allocated?

After your registration we will review all tandem applications and match your mother tongue to that of someone with your desired language. For these potential tandem partners we do our best to ensure the matching also includes your preferences for a language tandem regarding gender and age. If we find several potential tandem partners, we will put you in touch with the person who has been waiting the longest - i.e. is at the top of the waiting list. If there are still no suitable tandem registrations for your language preference, we will put you on the waiting list.

12. Can I get more information about my tandem partner (for example hobbies)

An allocation based on other factors besides gender and age leads to considerably longer waiting times. Furthermore, we do not collect such personal information.

13. I'm leaving Tübingen... and now?

Even if you leave Tübingen, you can continue the tandem. Via Skype, Zoom or various other messenger services such as FaceTime, WhatsApp or LINE you can still make appointments and talk to each other!

14. What happens if my tandem partner is no longer there?

If the group separates because, for example, a partner moves away or leaves the country, please inform us by e-mail. We update the tandem in our database and (if desired) re-register you for a new tandem partner. We will then look for and select a new partner for you.

15. What if I don't want to or can't participate anymore?

Please let us know by e-mail if you no longer wish to participate in the program. We will then remove you from our files.

16. What can I do if I do not get along with my tandem partner?

If there are any difficulties between you and your partner, you can contact us by e-mail. We will try to find a new partner for you. You do not have to give a reason why.

17. What can I do if my tandem partner no longer has time for me?

If the tandem partner has no more time for you, please let us know by e-mail. We will remove the tandem in our database and (if desired) place you back into the language partner search process again. Then a new tandem partner will be selected for you.

18. What if the language level between my tandem partner and me does not match at all?

Differences in level are usually no obstacle in a language tandem. If there are problems that cannot be solved, you can always contact us.

19. My stated deadline has expired and I have not yet been placed. What can I do?

Write us an e-mail or come personally to our office hours.

20. How can I withdraw my request?

Write us an e-mail or come personally to our office hours.

21. What do I do about cultural issues?

If you have cultural questions, you are welcome to come to our intercultural consultation hours.

22. Do I get ECTS points or a certificate?

No, the tandem program is voluntary and independent of university credit or certificates.

23. What happens with my data/personal info?

Your data and personal information will be kept and treated in strict confidence. Further information on data protection can be found on the University's homepage: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/336>

24. I still have questions about the execution of the tandem...

You can send us a mail (info@daf.uni-tuebingen.de) or come to our office hours. The office hours and the tandem guide can be found on the homepage.