

Refugees impact on Bologna reform – Recognition of Prior Learning and inclusion in the light of increased migration, 12-13th June 2017

Recognition of Prior Learning in practice –TestAS, a test for access to Higher Education in Germany

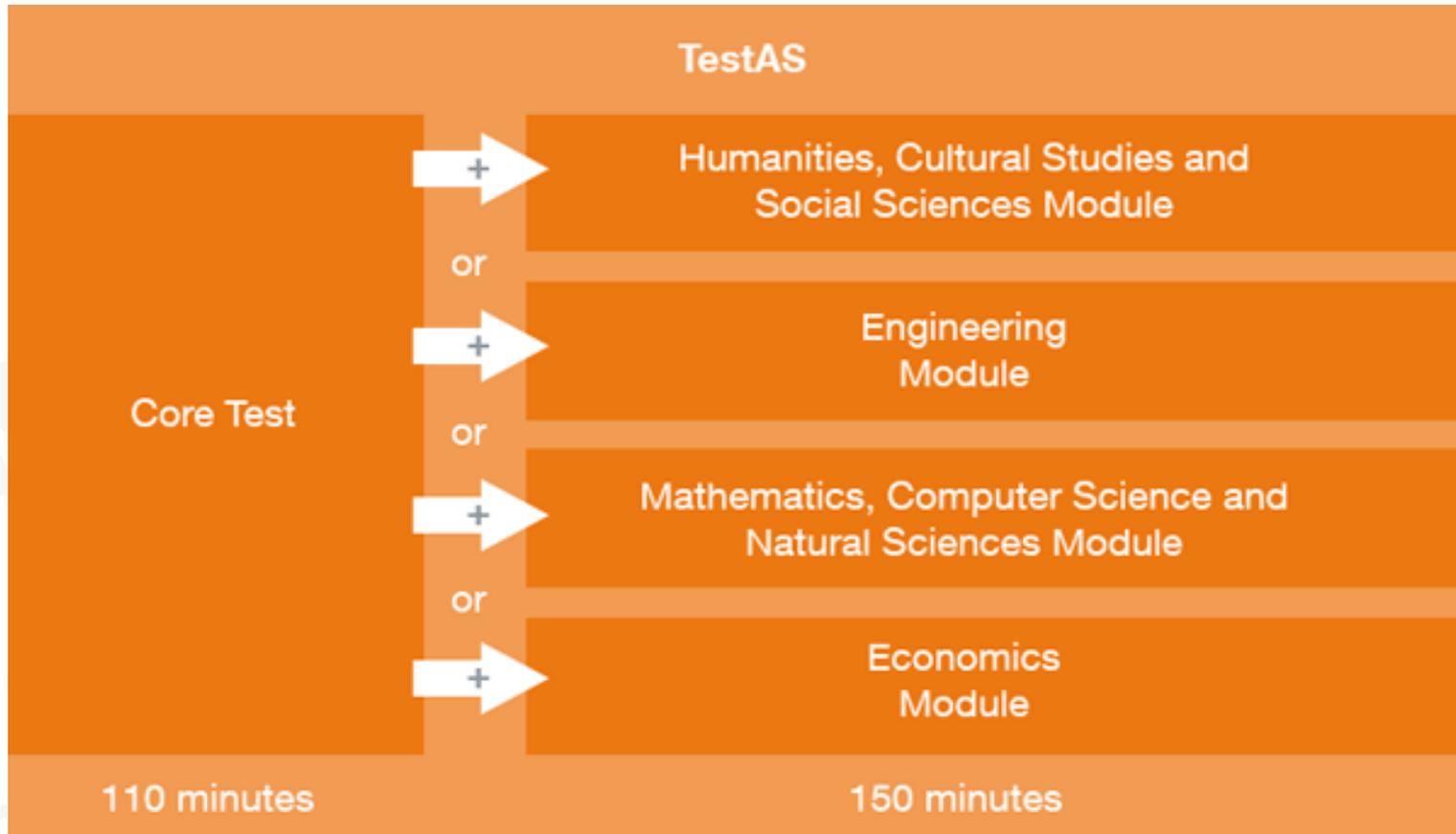


Hanna Reuther, Dipl.-Psych., MBA, International Office
Director International Student Advisory Services, International Office

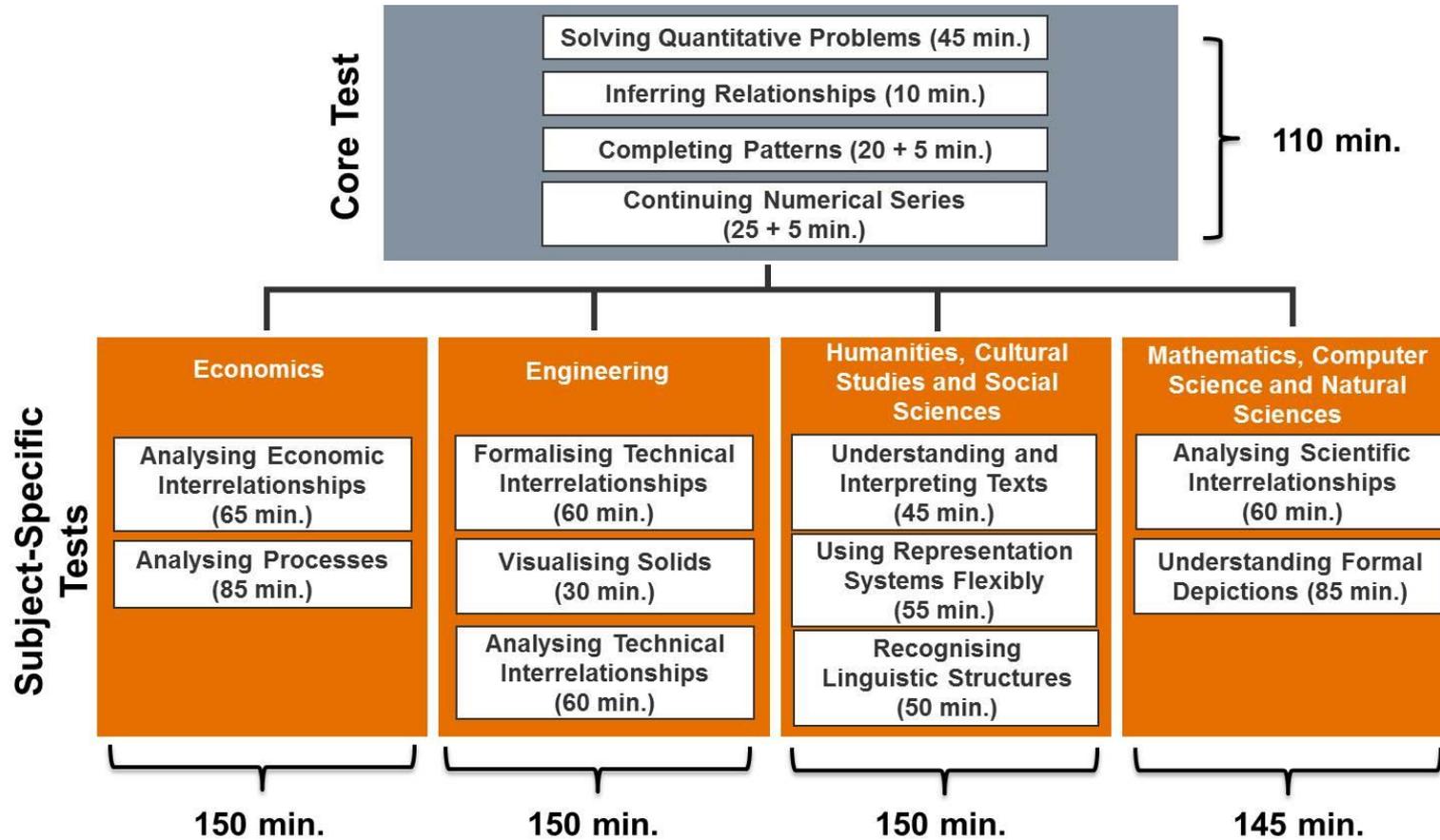
Test for Academic Studies TestAS www.testas.de

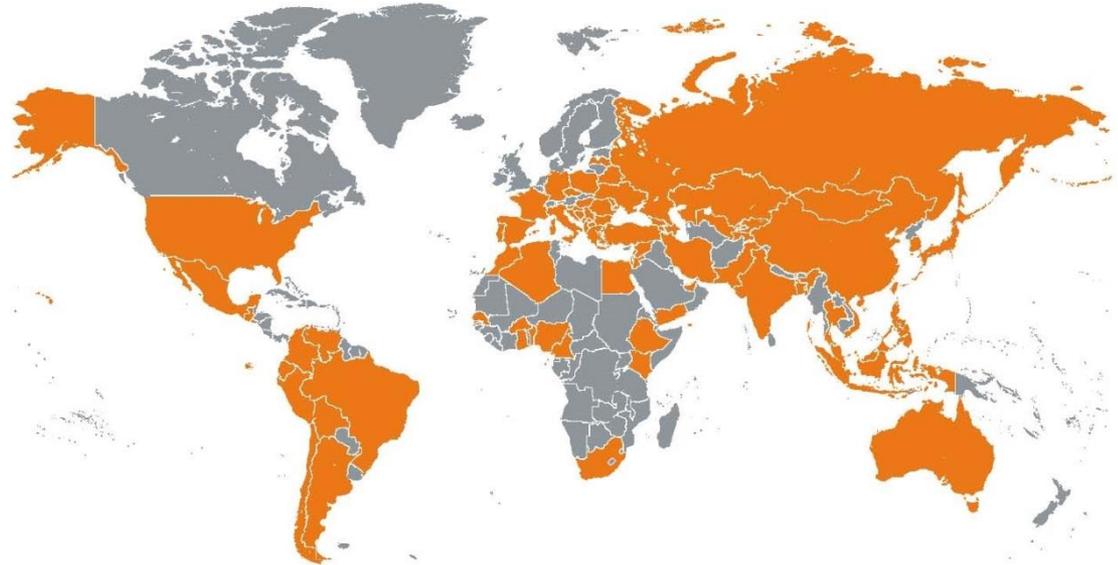
- Is a cognitive aptitude test: measuring people's general and subject-specific study aptitude
- Is assisting universities to select applicants with a good fit
- Is standardised, transparent, fair, efficient and valid
- Is available since 2007 (general programme line)
- Is available as TestAS for Refugees since 2016
- Can be taken in English and German (general programme) and additionally in Arabic (refugee programme, May 2016)
- Requires language skills from A2 to B2 CEFR





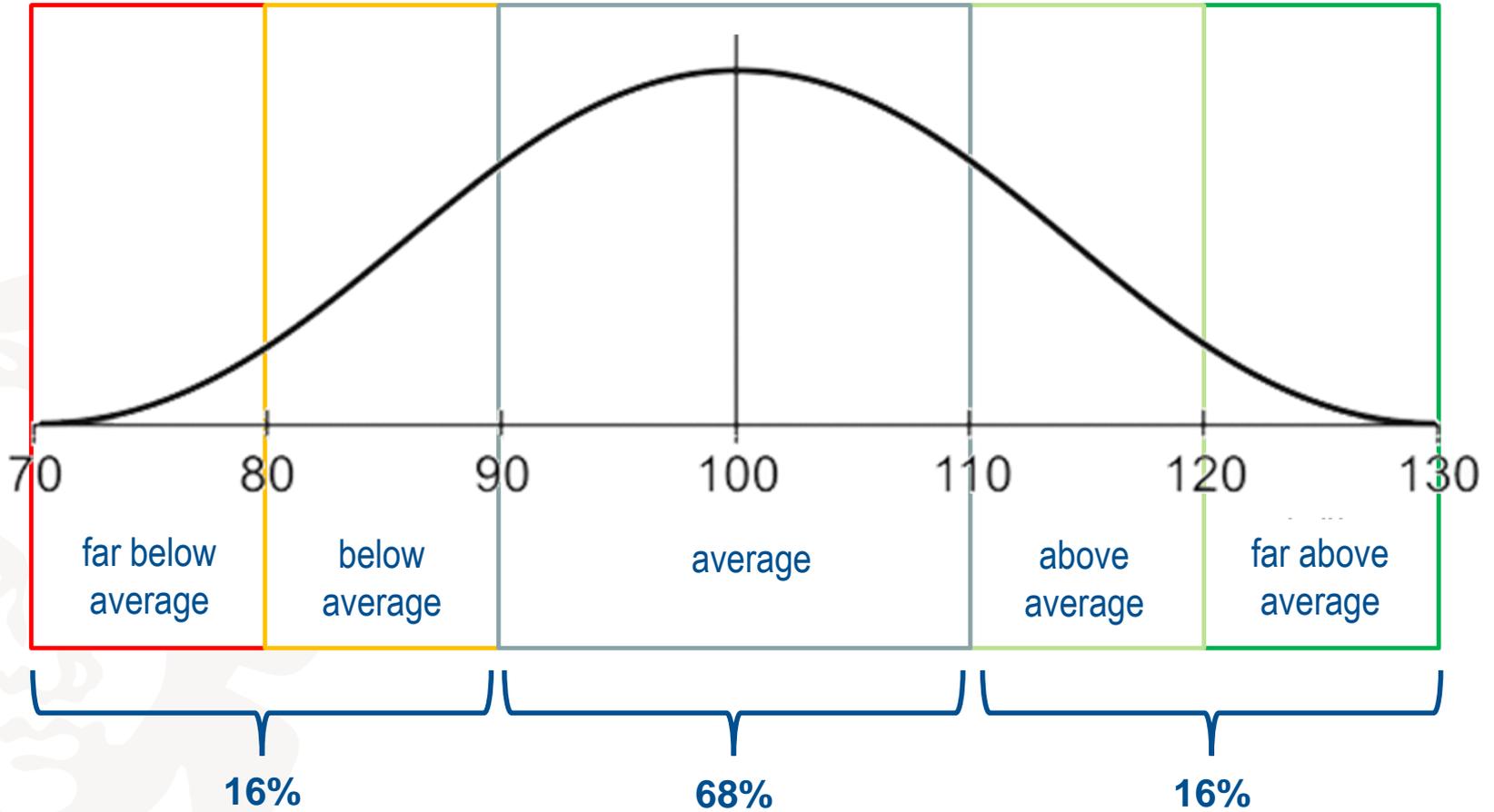
Core Test is mandatory for all participants. Subject-specific module can be chosen according to preference or study programme intended.





- More than 300 test centres in more than 80 countries
- Minimum 3 tests per year world-wide (general programm) plus on demand testing
- Refugee programme: app. 1 test per month plus on demand
- 50 universities require or take into account the TestAS
- App. 6.000 participants per year (regular programme)

Scale 70-130



Percentage of the TestAS 007
(about 50.000 Tests)

- HEIs in Germany to select suitable students (non-EU quota in BA programs)
- HEIs in Germany to enrol refugees in preparatory programs (one of the selection criteria)
- One option for refugees: examination of school/university certificates via uni-assist without charge (the University Application Service for International Students www.uni-assist.de)
- One optional tool for HEIs when documents of refugees are missing (KMK resolution)

Furthermore:

- Universities in the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen and Brandenburg are enrolling using the TestAS (open admission process for international students without direct university entrance qualification)
- Vietnamese-German University as *Entrance Examination for Bachelor Programs*
- Academic Evaluation Centre (APS) in China and Vietnam
- DAAD: for the candidate selection in the DAAD-scholarship programs (PASCH etc.)
- Some HEIs recommend TestAs as a tool for orientation: to know the typical requirements of the field of study / to better assess the chances of successfully completing one's studies at a German university

- 4136 participants (since January 2016): 82% M / 18% F
- Core test + modules: 1. Mathematics, Computer & Natural Sciences (43%)
2. Engineering (23%) 3. Humanities & Social Sciences (20%) 4. Economics (13%)
- Arabic: 75%, English 13%, German 11%
- Age: 17-24 Y. 59%, 25-29 Y. 26%, 30-34 Y. 9%, 35+ Y. 5%
- Countries: Syria 79%, Afghanistan 5%, Iran 5%, Irak 3%, Pakistan, Eritrea, Palestine, Ethiopia – each up to 1%

**Refugees (except Syrians):
slightly below average score
(GU: Ø 94-95)**

KMK-Resolution for missing documents

Dezember 2015

Access and Admission to Institutions of Higher Education for Applicants who are Unable to Provide Evidence of a Higher Education Entrance Qualification obtained in their Home Country on Account of their Flight

Three-step procedure



Determination of the personal premises

Plausibility check of the educational biography

Proof of the alleged higher education entrance qualification

1. **Acceptance of indirect proofs** (at least certified copy)
(e.g. study record, student identity card)
2. **Validation procedure**
 1. **Assessment tests:**
 - Acceptance into „Studienkolleg“ (1 year pre-course)
 - Assessment Test of Studienkolleg, possibly as external student
 - Aptitude Test for Access to HEIs due to vocational qualifications
 - Aptitude Tests or Exams
 2. **Assessment oral exams**
(esp. when CPs can be recognized)
 3. **Propaedeutic Pre-Study** (assessment of eligibility)
 4. **Test studies** (in non-restricted study programs)
 5. Aptitude Tests at **art colleges/universities**
 6. **case-by-case decision**
 7. **Further procedures of the Länder / HEIs**

Goethe-University Frankfurt

✓ (are checked)

✓ Document (uni-assist) „Explanation of Educational Path for Missing Documents“

Summer 2016



Version for Hessen (in preparation):
Working group of Hessen State Ministry
of Higher Educ., Research & the Arts

✓

(✓) (exception, since too few places available)

-- (low success)

-- (not apt)

✓ TestAS (min. 100/95. p. > direct/indirekt access)

(✓) in planning for access to MA & PhD (thesis + oral exams)

--

--

--

(✓) (if missing documents are tolerable)

--

Explanation of Educational Path for Missing Documents



Please describe your educational path for which you cannot provide verifying documents:

Explanation of Educational Path for Missing Documents

Surname, first name:

uni-assist applicant number:

1. My documents are only available as simple copies (uncertified)

I can submit the following educational certificates/report cards only as simple copies:
(Description of the document, may require separate sheet)

.....
.....

Please explain why you can only submit simple copies:
(May require separate sheet)

.....
.....

2. My documents are missing

I am unable to submit the following educational certificates/report cards:
(Description of the document, may require separate sheet)

.....
.....

Please explain why these reports cannot be submitted:
(May require separate sheet)

I. Secondary schooling

1.	Country	
2.	Location of the school	
3.	Name of the school	
4.	Duration of secondary school attendance	from(month/year) until(month/year)
5.	Type of secondary school certificate	
6.	Specialization	
7.	Results/final grades	
8.	Graduation date	
9.	Can you provide information about the grading scale of your school? If so: a) What was the best grade that one could receive for your secondary school certificate? b) What was the minimum grade required for obtaining a secondary school certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

II. University entrance exam

1.	Have you taken a university entrance exam?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.	Country	

Direct /Indirect Access
 (including proof of school/university certificates without charge for refugees)



KMK-Resolution for missing documents: Examples of Applications at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

1. Syria, no Secondary School Certificate, presumably scientific section, 98%, 2015, region: Idlib, 1. exam period



> Direct access (all subjects) with full documents

- TestAS: 95 core test (<100!), 102 subject-specific test (MIN = Mathematics, Informatics & natural sciences)
- wants to study Medicine
- „Documents lost in sea on flight“?



> not found on highscore list in Syria? (KMK/ZaB)
> Subject-specific direct access to natural sciences
Grade TestAS 95=2,8 / 102 = 2,4

2. Eritrea, no Secondary School Certificate, Admission Card 2007 (without grades), Enrolment certificate: 2 Semesters Medicine



> Direct access (subject-specific!) with full documents if:
1 successful year of study + Eritrean Secondary Education Certificate:
Ø grade of min. 5 subjects (Englisch, Mathematics obligatory) is C (= 2,00)

> Indirect access (all subjects)

- TestAS: 91 core test, 93 subject specific test (MIN)
- wants to study Physics



> Direct access: to low scores (TestAs)

> indirect access Studienkolleg (all subjects > Engineering) due to indirect proofs
> Grade TestAs 91 = 3,1 / 93 = 2,9

- refugees enrolled in preparatory programs at Goethe University which have been selected – besides other things! - by TestAs scores (and not only by grades from their school/university education):
more focused, higher motivation, better results in German languages classes
- Organization at campus time-consuming but manageable > alternative: students / refugees register at official testing centres in Germany (no effort and costs at all)
- Advantage: Option to converse test scores into grades
- Standardized procedure > grades from home countries not comparable and low predictability (own analysis of grades from BA students from Germany / EU and Non-EU countries!)
- In Hessen (in process): consideration / recommendation to use TestAs as initial validation procedure for missing documents of refugees (besides further or other instruments)
- Different procedures in different states/HEIs of Germany, however: after 2 semesters of successful studies > continuing studies at another HEI possible
- Lower test results for students from countries with less developed educational systems?
- Which minimum scores should HEIs require for direct/indirect access to HE?



Thank you very much for your attention!
Hanna.Reuther@em.uni-frankfurt.de