

# DIGITAL GERMAN ONLINE UNIVERSITY - DIGITALE JUNIORUNI

The German Digital JuniorUniversity (JuniorUni) is a free online learning platform from the Goethe-Institut for teenagers. The project enables students to learn German and study interesting topics in robotics, space, energy, sustainability, nature, and technology. The JuniorUni will launch on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Planet Word Museum in Washington, D.C., starting at 10 AM EDT. The event will be live streamed, allowing schools from North America to take part in the festivities. There will be live lectures from noted German physicists and science journalists along with digital workshops by the German Aerospace Center.



September 2nd, 2021

[Register for the online launch @ goethe.de/junioruniusa](https://goethe.de/junioruniusa)

## Background Information

In 2019, the Goethe-Institut USA launched an innovative project in North America, the KinderUni (children's university), which aims to arouse children's curiosity about the world around them and their interest in the German language. Over the past two years, the KinderUni has become the most popular Goethe-Institut project for children in North America. Building on the KinderUni's success, the Goethe-Institut USA is launching the JuniorUni on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The JuniorUni will be launched live from Washington D.C. with lectures and workshops focusing on astrophysics, climate change, space exploration, and technology.

## Program Description

Similar to the KinderUni, the Junioruni project has three components:

- **JuniorUni- Online**  
JuniorUni is based on the Goethe-Institute's online educational platform, which allows you to study from anywhere with a computer and internet connection. The online platform is free and available to all.
- **JuniorUni- At School**  
For teachers of German or subject teachers who would like to diversify their lessons or make them more interdisciplinary, the JuniorUni offers didactic materials and virtual workshops (starting late 2021) to help faculty realize their goals.
- **JuniorUni– Live Events**  
The JuniorUni itself will also be offering live events in 2022 and takes part in partner events in the STEM field. It's a great opportunity to get to know JuniorUni "live" and learn something new and useful.

**JUNIORUNI Online**

Goethe-Institut  
Washington  
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The JuniorUni lectures are held on the “JuniorUni space station.” The young students are accompanied by a familiar character from the KinderUni - the JOWO drone. JOWO also has its own team of young scientists - Tessa, Florian, and Mira –with whom he communicates during the broadcast to hold the lectures. Lectures are available in the following fields: robotics, space science, nature studies, technology, energy, and sustainability. From them, students learn how astronauts prepare for spaceflight, how robots recognize human faces, whether cars can ride on water, how energy is extracted from algae, and more. The lectures are based on episodes of Germany's most popular science show, "Sendung mit der Maus" (“The Show with the Mouse”).

### **How do you learn?**

Just like in the KinderUni, JuniorUni students have to catch German words and expressions as they appear on the screen during the lectures. If all the words are caught, a section with lecture assignments is activated. The exercises help the students learn the content of the lesson and memorize new German words and expressions from the lecture. The platform is built using the method of gamification. For successful completion of the tasks, students receive thematic badges corresponding to their new academic titles, thus moving up the academic career ladder. Students can download a diploma in the user's profile, which indicates they successfully completed the lectures.

### **What language does the JuniorUni use?**

You can use the JuniorUni in German or English. The Goethe-Institut has already translated the JuniorUni into over thirty languages. Students who do not speak German can choose the English platform interface and the English audio track of the lecture. Assignments are also offered in English, with the exception of those German words that students have “caught” during the lecture.

German language students can select the German interface of the platform and the lecture. To make it easier to understand the lecture in German, subtitles can be included - both in German and in English. The assignments in this interface are offered in German. The tasks include new German words and expressions for the lecture but at a more advanced level.

### **JUNIORUNI AT SCHOOL**

For those who want to work with the JuniorUni at school, experts from the USA and Germany have developed special didactic materials for video lectures. They help teachers to implement the CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) method - integrated subject and language learning. The method involves the work of foreign language teachers with authentic content, methods, and concepts of subjects such as physics, biology, music, art at two possible levels: A1/A2 or A2/B1. German teachers can work with the CLIL modules independently: the materials help them observe the correctness of the taught subject content. Even more productivity can be achieved by working with a subject teacher. Teaching together or developing joint projects - the materials contain appropriate guidelines for this approach.



## Partners

- Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln (WDR)
- German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V. (DLR))
- Calliope
- Schulen: Partner der Zukunft (PASCH)



**CALLIOPE**