

Berlin Consortium for German Studies



STUDY ABROAD

Overview

The goal of the Berlin Consortium of German Studies (BCGS) is to support advanced language students in direct enrollment courses at the Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin) and other academic institutions in Berlin.

Those with special interests may enroll in courses at other local institutions such as Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität, Universität Potsdam, Universität der Künste Berlin, Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weissensee, and Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler." (Please note that students may take only theoretical or historical classes at the art schools.)

Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin has 15 departments and central institutes offering over 160 degree programs across a wide range of subjects. Natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and medicine are the largest faculties. Smaller, more specialized disciplines are particularly well represented, ranging from religious studies and ethnology to studies in Asian culture, the antiquities, art history, and musicology. More than 39,000 students, including 5,500 international students, make up FU's student body.

The Setting

Primarily located in Dahlem (part of the southwestern Berlin borough of Steglitz-Zehlendorf), the FU Berlin campus includes offices and classrooms housed in villas, some large lecture halls, parks, and wooded areas. Berlin is a vibrant city of around 3.5 million people. A city of great historical significance, it offers many cultural attractions, including theater, cabarets, art museums, and galleries.

Academic Program

Students enroll in a six-week German language intensive course (20 hours per week) appropriate to their proficiency level. After completing this course, students are required to take the FU Berlin German language exam and may be required to enroll in an FU Berlin German course for foreign students and reduce the number of non-language courses they may take.



After completing the language practicum, students normally enroll in three university/BCGS courses in the first semester and four courses in the second semester. All course selections must be reviewed by the Office of International Programs and any relevant department to ensure credit transfer.

IN BRIEF

WEBSITE: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/>

SEMESTER AVAILABLE: Full year or spring semester

PROGRAM DATES: late August to mid-July for full year; late February to late July for spring

ELIGIBILITY: Spring-term sophomores and juniors with a B average in the fall and spring preceding the semester abroad and at least two years of college German or the equivalent.

COURSES: Six-week German language practicum, followed by courses offered by FU Berlin and other universities in Berlin and by the academic and resident director. Courses available in humanities, social science, science, and engineering.

HOUSING: Homestay for the first four weeks, after which there is an option of program-arranged housing or finding one's own housing in private apartments.

FINANCIAL AID: Students who attend the Berlin Consortium program for Princeton credit may use university financial aid to meet expenses. Students must complete a budget form, available from the Undergraduate Financial Aid Office. The budget should include tuition, room, board, travel, books, and personal expenses.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15 for the year; early October for spring

Students will receive assistance in selecting and registering for courses from the 2014-15 Academic Director, Mark Anderson, professor of Germanic languages at Columbia University, and the Resident Director, Dr. Carmen Müller. Students will also receive assistance from Princeton's Office of International Programs in making preliminary course selections that complement work already completed at Princeton. Comments about courses from past participants are also helpful in selecting courses and can be found in the OIP.

Student Life

Princeton students have full access to FU Berlin's large library system, computer facilities, center for recreational sports, and student organizations. Each semester, BCGS students have the opportunity to participate in two- or three-day program-sponsored excursions. Such excursions add a unique dimension to the classroom experience. Many full-year BCGS students participate in internships during the five-week break between semesters. Past students have held internships with local government offices, banks, consulting firms, cultural centers, and political organizations. These positions are not for academic credit and are usually unpaid. Although the Resident Director makes every effort to assist interested students in finding internships, positions are not guaranteed.

Housing

Upon arrival in Berlin, students spend the first weekend in a student residence where they meet each other and the resident and academic directors. For the following four weeks, students live with a host German family. The intensive language practicum is conducted during this time and living in a German household provides the ideal setting for students to make practical use of what they learn in classes. All host families have been personally screened and interviewed by BCGS staff. Following the homestay, students may choose to live in program-arranged housing or find their own housing in private apartments. Students who opt for private housing may share apartments with other BCGS students or with German students.

Application Process

Complete applications are due by **March 15** for the year and **early October** for the spring. A completed online application consists of the following (you may access the online application at www.bcgs.columbia.edu/):

The online application consists of the following:

- Application
- Official Transcript
- German Writing Sample and Language Test.
Note: Please take the language exam very carefully as this will affect your admission.
- Faculty recommendation
- Language recommendation
- Study Abroad Approval Form

Please note: While students can submit hardcopy materials (letters, transcripts, etc.) after September 30, they must complete and submit all electronic materials (including the language exam) by September 30 (midnight).

In addition to the BCGS application and BCGS study abroad approval form, you must submit the Princeton approval form (<http://www.princeton.edu/oip/sap/process/academicyear/forms/approval>), due on **November 1** for the spring and **May 1** for the academic year. The approval form requires upperclass students to secure the approval of their departmental representative for departmental courses and independent work that they plan to undertake as part of the departmental program. Elective courses are approved by the Office of International Programs.



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