Study Abroad Program Evaluation

All students are required to submit a complete program evaluation via email to: studyabroad@northwestern.edu. The Study Abroad Office will forward your study abroad transcript to the Office of the Registrar only after we have received your evaluation.

Note: This is a formal document, used by various offices to improve future programming and also made available for prospective students to read. Please be candid and thoughtful, but constructive in your comments, and refrain from using foul language and sarcasm. If you have particular concerns, we encourage you to make an appointment to discuss it with your adviser in the Study Abroad Office.

Name:

Steven Montero

Program/University Name, including program, track, and location (if applicable):

Lewis and Clark College, Year of Study in Munich, Munich, Germany

Term/Year Abroad: 

NU School:

Full Year 2012-13

Medill

Major(s):

Journalism; History

Minor(s):

Certificate(s):

Race/Ethnicity:

Hispanic

Gender:

Male

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to make this evaluation available for others to read. Yes □ No □

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to quote anything...
written here in its publications and presentations, using my name. □ Yes □ No

PROGRAM SELECTION

1. What were your primary motivations for studying abroad?

I wanted to improve language skills I had been learning in college and experience a new culture.

2. Do you feel you met these goals?

Yes, I feel these goals were entirely met.

3. How did you find out about your program?

I looked it up on the NU study abroad website and found it as one of the only full-year programs in Germany.

4. What factors led you to select this program over others?
   Its length and location were above all else.

5. By choosing to go abroad do you feel you limited your opportunity to participate in another academic program while at Northwestern? If so, what adjustments to your academic plans did you make to accommodate study abroad?

I don’t feel like I missed any opportunities at Northwestern.

6. Were you satisfied with the length of time you studied abroad? Why or why not?

I was extremely satisfied with my stay and wanted to remain even longer.

NORTHWESTERN STUDY ABROAD SUPPORT

The Study Abroad Office provides support and information to students through the Online Guide to Study Abroad, student program evaluations, events, and in-person advising and front office assistance.

1. Which resources did you find the most useful and why? If you didn’t use them, indicate why you didn’t.
   I found talking to Francesca very helpful. I like talking to a real person about important issues, and studying abroad for an entire year definitely qualified. Information online was also very helpful and easy to reference. This pertains to both the NU study abroad website and the program website.

2. Please comment on the Pre-Departure resources: the required Pre-Departure Orientation Blackboard site and in-person Pre-Departure Orientation with your program (if applicable)?

The Orientation via Blackboard was somewhat of extra work piled onto what I already had but it was easy enough to get through. I am uncertain, however, if it was actually helpful.
3. What suggestions do you have for improvement?

I have no suggestions for this aspect because I honestly do not much remember what the orientation entailed.

4. Which individual(s) helped in making your decision if and where to study abroad? (Check if applicable)

- Study Abroad Adviser
- School Adviser (WCAS, SESP, etc.)
- Major/Minor Adviser
- Professor/Mentor
- Family
- Peers
- Other

X ☐ Describe ______________________

ON-SITE ("In-Country") SUPPORT

1. Did you receive adequate support and advising from the on-site program staff and, if applicable, from their U.S. counterparts, before and during your time abroad? Please explain.
   Yes. The staff was always available and easy to reach. I felt like we were a family unit while I was abroad.

2. Did your program/university provide an on-site orientation? X ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what did it involve? Comments:
   We had a three-week pre-semester before the actual beginning of classes to polish language skills and teach us about the city, which I found extremely helpful.

3. Did the orientation provide sufficient information and/or resources to help you understand:
   Yes = Provided sufficient information
   No = Did not provide sufficient information
   Y ☐ N
   - Cultural differences in language and concepts in regard to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation X ☐ ☐
   - Differences in academic structures, classroom expectations, assessment methods X ☐ ☐
   - Comments:

4. Did your program/university provide any program activities or excursions? X ☐ Yes ☐ No
   Please explain.
   There were two excursions in the year. One to Berlin at the beginning before the actual semester started and another in May to Vienna. Both included trips to museums and historical sites as well as guided tours in German.

ACADEMICS
1. List the courses you took abroad and evaluate each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Program Course or University Course? (specify the university)</th>
<th>Level of Difficulty (5 = very challenging, 1 = too easy)</th>
<th>Level of Satisfaction (5 = very satisfied, 1 = dissatisfied)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive German</td>
<td>Program Course</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary German Literature</td>
<td>Program Course</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth in rebellion in the USA and Germany 1950s-1970s</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Course</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentary Film as a historical source: The Spanish Inquisition</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation of Authoritarian Regimes</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Theater</td>
<td>Program Course</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews in Munich the Nazi time</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of the World Wars</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How was your work evaluated? Check all that apply.

☐ Written exams
☐ Oral exams
☐ Research papers
☐ Class discussion
☐ Field study reports
☐ Independent projects
☐ Attendance/participation
☐ Other:

4. Did you have a wide variety of courses to choose from? Please explain.

There was a very wide range of courses at the LMU, although the program courses were limited to 2-3 each semester.

5. What was the academic culture of your host country, including quality of instruction, expectations of professors, course structure, expectations for work outside the classroom, comparison with NU courses?

The academic culture in Germany was much healthier and better in comparison with NU. Stress exists to a much lesser extent and professors are not so strict with attendance or participation. There is no such thing as busy work and the instruction is paced, balanced and doable. Everything gets covered in each course. In addition, the workload is considerably lower than in the US. There is normally one major assignment for a course, typically an in-class 20 minute oral presentation, a written exam or final paper. There are also cases with mixes of the three. In Germany the expectation for students is to learn how much and what they wish to. Meaning the burden of coursework and how much you want to take on falls on the student and student alone. There is no help from an army of advisers, despite the program being there to ensure we got help when needed.
6. How would you characterize the academic expectations of your fellow students? Were they primarily students from the U.S., students from the host country, or international students?
   My fellow students in my university courses were mainly Germans, however, occasional classes taught in English attracted a larger international crowd. Their expectations were similar to my own. Many sought a fair amount of coursework and were genuinely pleased by the German academic system.

7. Did you do research or participate in an internship or service learning placement abroad? □ Yes □ No

   If yes, was this part of your study abroad program? □ Yes □ No

   Do you intend to petition for major, minor or distribution credit for this experience? Answer "no" if you intend to earn general elective credit only.

   Describe the experience/project.

LANGUAGE LEARNING (if applicable)

What was your highest language course prior to study abroad?
German 307: Current Events and Issues in Germany

2. Was this adequate preparation to succeed on your program? □ Yes □ No

3. Please rate the following:
   Your proficiency before the program:
   □ Reading □ Writing □ Speaking □ Listening Comprehension
   □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Poor

   Language instruction on the program □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Poor
   Your program’s commitment to language learning □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Poor

   Your proficiency after the program:
   □ Reading □ Writing □ Speaking □ Listening Comprehension
   □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Poor

4. I used the host country language outside of the classroom:
   □ On a daily basis
   □ Often
   □ Sometimes
   □ Almost never
5. If you took all or some of your regular subject courses (e.g. history, economics, etc.) in a foreign language, were you adequately prepared? Did your program provide tutors?
   I was adequately prepared. I have studied German for a very long time and felt comfortable speaking and writing on those subjects, especially after a couple months in Munich. There were no program tutors.

6. Do you plan to continue studying the language at Northwestern upon returning from abroad?  □ Yes  □ No  

7. Do you plan to use your acquired language skills in an academic or professional setting post-graduation? If yes, please explain in what context.
   Yes, I plan to work for either a German news organization or as a contributor to German-language media, including living and working in Germany.

HOUSING & MEALS

1. Where did you live? Please select one and rate.
   □ Host family  □ Very satisfied  □ Satisfied  □ Dissatisfied
   X□ Dorm/Residential College  □
   □ Apartment  □
   □ Other (please describe):  □

2. If you shared a room, your roommates were (check all that apply):
   □ Other program students (from American universities)
   □ International students (not from American universities and not from host country)
   □ Students from the host country
   □ Other:

3. If you lived in a dorm, residential college, or apartment, the other students were (check all that apply):
   X□ Other program students (Americans)
   X□ International students (not Americans and not from host country)
   X□ Students from the host country
   □ Other:

4. Describe your living situation. If applicable, how did your housing situation influence your language acquisition and your ability to experience the culture of your host country?
   We lived in the “Student city” of Munich. I shared a living space with approximately 20 people, while I had a room of my own with a sink. We shared two full kitchens, a large communal space, and gender separated bathrooms. I lived in one of the larger buildings with nine floors. Each floor had all of the amenities described above. The program houses students in many of the houses located within the student city.
   My housing situation did influence my language acquisition because some of my flatmates were German and we communicated in their language. Even other international students and I would speak in German at times when
possible. It really gave me a firm base of constantly being surrounded by the language.

5. Were meals provided?  
   Please describe:  
   □ Yes  □ No

6. How did your housing situation help or hinder your ability to experience the culture of your host country?  
   Living among other students in Germany definitely helped add to my cultural experience. In addition, the student city provided many opportunities to interact with Germans in the student-run restaurant, bars and common areas. There was a beach volleyball court behind my house, which we would use very often and compete against other students. It was there that we lived most of our lives and it is a spectacular way to experience the life of German students.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

1. What cultural and social adjustments did you make in your host country?  
   Being early for everything, not being unnecessarily friendly, talking directly and not wasting words, taking more of a listening approach to conversations and situations.

2. In what settings did you interact with locals?  
   □ Class  
   □ Housing  
   □ Service learning  
   □ Other  
   Please describe:  
   □ Errands  
   □ Extracurricular Activities  
   □ Internships

3. How might others best get to know the people and culture of your host country before going abroad?  
   While abroad?  
   Before going abroad it helps to just talk to someone German or someone who has lived there recently. They are the only ones who have an inkling of what the culture is like today and how society operates. Reading recent German history as well (the last 50 years) is also vitally important. It helps one realize why Germans act the way they do and how they view themselves as a people.
   While abroad, just go sit and talk with Germans for hours and hours. Grab a local brew at a beer garden and absorb the culture in every way possible. Attend cultural events like operas, plays, concerts. Have a potluck and see what dishes people bring. It is easy to learn a culture when you make yourself a part of it.

4. Did you travel? If so, where? How often?  
   Yes, I did travel very much. During our semester break, I traveled extensively through the Balkans from Munich to Istanbul, backpacking on my own. I also went to Morocco, had a roadtrip around Spain and Portugal
and met up with an NU friend in Paris during this period. During the academic sessions I only took short trips around me, for example to Salzburg and other German cities. However, there was the occasional long weekend when I ventured a bit further to London and Prague. Overall, I visited 20 countries in my time in Europe. It was fascinating and marvelous experience I dream of doing again.

5. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities? Which ones?

Check all that apply

Student Groups
Volunteering
Formal sport teams
Informal sport
Other

Comments:

How did you find out about these opportunities?

- Simply playing volleyball with other residents

6. What are the specific considerations relating to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disability or other differences in cultural attitudes that others studying abroad in your host country should research before going?

I don’t think Germany today is a place where people of any minority group would feel threatened. If someone wishes to research what the specifics are, then I think they will find Germany is a very open community, even within the most conservative German state, Bavaria.

HEALTH, SAFETY & TRAVEL

1. Were there any health concerns (extreme pollution, food/water issues, for example) related to your host country that students should know about?  
   □ Yes  □ No
   If yes, please explain.

2. What recommendations about personal safety and safe travel can you give to outbound students?
   Munich is one of the safest cities in the world, but it still has over 1.3 million people. Using your head and common sense to look around and always be secure is a very easy first step. Never do something when you don’t understand what is being asked of you, especially if that’s in a foreign language. As for traveling in general, it’s best to always be aware of surrounding, have a plan and let people back home and the program director know where you are and where you are heading.

FINANCES

1. How much should a future student anticipate spending on personal expenses for one semester on your program (excluding one-time travel costs to and from country)?
   □ Less than $750  □ $1500-2000  □ $3000-3500
   □ $750-1000  □ $2000-2500  □ $3500-4000
   □ $1000-1500  □ $2500-3000  □ $4000 & over
Comments:

2. What was the best way to access funds while you were abroad?
   I transferred almost all of my American account savings to the German bank account the program set up for us. From there I just went to the bank to withdraw money like an ordinary German.

3. What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?
   Don’t buy things you won’t be able to bring back with you, especially big ticket items. With a full year, it can be tempting to buy something that may suit your lifestyle from back home, but my best advice is to adjust to living without it. This doesn’t mean to pinch pennies on everything. Part of the cultural experience will require spending money sometimes. Just make sure it’s in reasonable quantities.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

1. Describe some of the positive aspects of your time abroad.
   Looking back, I don’t know how my life would be if I didn’t go to Germany. It was the greatest time of my life in a place where I felt completely comfortable and happy. The people I met still keep in contact and I've developed great friendships. I also learned an immense amount of knowledge about myself, living on my own -- not just off campus at Northwestern but in another country. I managed every aspect of my life. That freedom is very rare for many students my age, especially in America. In addition, working at one of student bars was the best decision I made in Germany. It opened my eyes to so much and I learned an incredible of amount of people and life skills.

2. What were some challenges you faced abroad?
   I had trouble getting to know Germans at first, because they can put up many walls and barriers before becoming friends. Eventually, however, I did learn to better navigate the German method of relationship-building.

3. What steps did you take to maximize the experience on your own, given the pre-departure and on-site resources available to you?
   I talked with everyone I could, played sports with fellow residents, worked at our student bar and made friends outside the student city as well. I burst the thin bubble the programs puts around you.

4. Has study abroad influenced the direction of your life in any way - academically, professionally and/or personally? Please describe:
   Yes, I believe the experience has inspired me to live abroad for many more years to come and possibly make a career abroad.

5. Would you recommend this program to other Northwestern students? Why or why not?
   This program is the best decision I’ve made in my life and I would recommend it to every student at Northwestern.
6. What type of student would be best suited for this program?
   Someone who can leave the country for an entire year with no repercussions. Any student would be great for this program. Whether they are outgoing, shy or in between. People open to a new chapter of life would suit the program very well.

7. What do you wish you had known before you left that no one told you?
   Nothing. The entire experience was fresh, raw, real and sporadic.

Please submit your completed evaluation via email to:

studyabroad@northwestern.edu

Thank you!
Study Abroad Program Evaluation

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Name: Martin Samuel Amesquita

Program/University Name, Including program, track, and location (if applicable):
Lewis and Clark Full Year of Study Abroad in Munich

Term/Year Abroad: Fall 2012-Spring 2013
NU School: WCAS

Major(s): German
Minor(s): N/A

Certificate(s): N/A

Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic
Gender: Male

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to make this evaluation available for others to read.
☑ Yes ☐ No

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to quote anything written here in its publications and presentations, using my name.
☐ Yes ☒ No

Signature
PROGRAM SELECTION

1. What were your primary motivations for studying abroad?
   My primary motivation for studying abroad was to improve my German.

2. Do you feel you met these goals?
   Yes.

3. How did you find out about your program?
   I found out about this program and its advantages by meeting with Professor John Paluch in the German Department.

4. What factors led you to select this program over others?
   This program is one of two full year programs at Northwestern and it allowed me to take courses at the University of Munich. Additionally, I was told that the program would help me find an internship, which I also found very interesting.

5. By choosing to go abroad do you feel you limited your opportunity to participate in another academic program while at Northwestern? If so, what adjustments to your academic plans did you make to accommodate study abroad?
   No. As a German major, everything I learned and studied in Germany was relevant to my major.

6. Were you satisfied with the length of time you studied abroad? Why or why not?
   Yes. Had I not stayed a year, my German would not have improved as much as it did. Additionally, I only began to feel at home in Munich around the end of winter quarter. Had I left earlier, I would have regretted it.

NORTHEASTERN STUDY ABROAD SUPPORT

The Study Abroad Office provides support and information to students through the Online Guide to Study Abroad, student program evaluations, events, and in-person advising and front office assistance.

1. Which resources did you find the most useful and why? If you didn’t use them, indicate why you didn’t.
   I did not use any resources offered by the study abroad office, as I was not entirely aware of them and because my program offered me adequate support.

2. Please comment on the Pre-Departure resources: the required Pre-Departure Orientation Blackboard site and In-person Pre-Departure Orientation with your program (if applicable)?
   The Pre-Departure Orientation was forgettable and a waste of time.

3. What suggestions do you have for improvement?
   Rather than making a generalized pre-orientation website, each program should have its own pre-orientation website.
Which individual(s) helped in making your decision if and where to study abroad? (Check if applicable)

- Study Abroad Adviser
- School Adviser (WCAS, SESP, etc.)
- Major/Minor Adviser
- Professor/Mentor
- Family
- Peers
- Other
  [ ] Describe

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**ON-SITE ("In-Country") SUPPORT**

1. Did you receive adequate support and advising from the on-site program staff and, if applicable, from their U.S. counterparts, before and during your time abroad? Please explain.
   
   Yes. The program staff in Munich were incredibly helpful.

2. Did your program/university provide an on-site orientation?  [x] Yes  [ ] No
   If yes, what did it involve? Comments:
   
   Orientation consisted of an intensive language course, a course about Munich’s history, and several courses about adjusting to German culture and living in Munich.

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3. Did the orientation provide sufficient information and/or resources to help you understand:
   
   Yes = Provided sufficient information
   No = Did not provide sufficient information

   Cultural differences in language and concepts
   in regard to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation  [x]  [ ]

   Differences in academic structures, classroom expectations, assessment methods  [x]  [ ]

   Comments:

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4. Did your program/university provide any program activities or excursions?  [x] Yes  [ ] No
   Please explain.
   
   In addition to smaller get-togethers for holidays and cultural festivals, my program also organized a trip to Berlin before Winter Semester and a trip to Vienna in the middle of Summer Semester.

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**ACADEMICS**

1. List the courses you took abroad and evaluate each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Program Course or University Course? (specify the university)</th>
<th>Level of Difficulty (5 = very)</th>
<th>Level of Satisfaction (5 = very)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Challenging (1 = too easy)</td>
<td>Satisfied (dissatisfied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First World War in Film</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrators in the Nazi Concentration Camps</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Level 2</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration, Language, Interculturality</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern European Judaism in War and Revolution</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Level 2, Part 2</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persecution, Expulsion, Extermination: The Fates of Munich’s Jews</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between 1933 and 1945</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedagogical Strategies in Museums and Exhibitions</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How was your work evaluated? Check all that apply.

- [x] Written exams
- [x] Oral exams
- [x] Research papers
- [ ] Class discussion
- [ ] Field study reports
- [ ] Independent projects
- [ ] Attendance/participation
- [ ] Other: ____________

4. Did you have a wide variety of courses to choose from? Please explain.

   Yes, with some exceptions. Some courses at the University of Munich were not open to undergraduates, and from time to time our program director would not allow me to take classes based on their level of difficulty.

5. What was the academic culture of your host country, including quality of instruction, expectations of professors, course structure, expectations for work outside the classroom, comparison with NU courses?

   Students are expected to learn independently and are not usually bound by the reading list or syllabus of the course. Because of this expectation, professors tend to be more laid back, leading discussion rather than lecturing for hours. Outside of papers, oral exams, and written exams, all of which counted for 100% of the course grade, there was little to no homework outside of reading what was on the reading list.

6. How would you characterize the academic expectations of your fellow students? Were they primarily students from the U.S., students from the host country, or international students?
In my history and literature classes, the majority of students were from Germany, while a few were from nearby counties like Italy, Austria, and Hungary. They were academically independent and often brought in outside information to enhance the level of discussion in class.

7. Did you do research or participate in an internship or service learning placement abroad?  
   □ Yes    □ No

   If yes, was this part of your study abroad program?  
   □ Yes    □ No

   Do you intend to petition for major, minor or distribution credit for this experience? Answer "no" if you intend to earn general elective credit only.  
   □ Yes    □ No

Describe the experience/project.

   I worked in the archives of the Jewish Cultural Center of Munich and Upper Bavaria. My main responsibility was finding newspaper articles about Jewish life in Germany, Anti-Semitism, the Shoah, and other related topics. In addition to working in the archives, I also helped with set-up for various events organized by the cultural center. Because I was doing event management and working in an office, I was forced to speak in German all the time, and I would say that this experience improved my language abilities more than any other.

**LANGUAGE LEARNING (if applicable)**

1. What was your highest language course prior to study abroad?  
   German 345

2. Was this adequate preparation to succeed on your program?  
   □ Yes    □ No

3. Please rate the following: Your proficiency before the program:  
   - Reading  
   - Writing  
   - Speaking  
   - Listening Comprehension  
   - Language instruction on the program  
   - Your program's commitment to language learning  
   □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Fair  □ Poor  

   Your proficiency after the program:  
   - Reading  
   - Writing  
   - Speaking  
   - Listening Comprehension  
   □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Fair  □ Poor

4. I used the host country language outside of the classroom:  
   □ On a daily basis  
   □ Often  
   □ Sometimes
5. If you took all or some of your regular subject courses (e.g. history, economics, etc.) in a foreign language, were you adequately prepared? Did your program provide tutors?

I was adequately prepared for my courses in literature and history. My program does not provide tutors, but does offer help with writing essays and editing handouts.

6. Do you plan to continue studying the language at Northwestern upon returning from abroad?  □ Yes □ No

7. Do you plan to use your acquired language skills in an academic or professional setting post-graduation? If yes, please explain in what context.

Yes. I am planning on attending graduate school to study foreign language education or German studies.

HOUSING & MEALS

1. Where did you live? Please select one and rate.

□ Host family

☒ Dorm/Residential College

□ Apartment

□ Other (please describe):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. If you shared a room, your roommates were (check all that apply):

□ Other program students (from American universities)

□ International students (not from American universities and not from host country)

□ Students from the host country

□ Other: ____________________________

3. If you lived in a dorm, residential college, or apartment, the other students were (check all that apply):

□ Other program students (Americans)

☒ International students (not Americans and not from host country)

□ Students from the host country

□ Other: ____________________________

4. Describe your living situation. If applicable, how did your housing situation influence your language acquisition and your ability to experience the culture of your host country?

Most of the other students spoke German, but mostly kept to themselves. I only spoke with them if necessary, and the international students preferred to speak English with me rather than German.

5. Were meals provided? □ Yes □ No

I cooked for myself.
How did your housing situation help or hinder your ability to experience the culture of your host country?

It did not help nor hinder.

---

**SOCIAL & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES**

1. What cultural and social adjustments did you make in your host country?

   Culturally, I had to get used to people being more blunt and to the point. Outside of that, I did not have to make any changes to my behavior or expectations of others.

2. In what settings did you interact with locals?

   - Class
   - Housing
   - Service learning
   - Other

   Please describe:

3. How might others best get to know the people and culture of your host country before going abroad? While abroad?

   Before going abroad, I would suggest taking classes at Northwestern or at the Goethe-Institut in Chicago to learn more about German culture. While abroad, I would suggest attending cultural events in Munich and paying attention to the classes in the pre-semester about German culture.

4. Did you travel? If so, where? How often?

   I travelled during my break and during the last few weeks of my stay in Germany. I visited Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Salzburg, Vienna, Augsburg, Bologna, and Nuremberg.

5. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities? Which ones?

   Student Groups
   Volunteering
   Formal sport teams
   Informal sport
   Other

   Check all that apply

   How did you find out about these opportunities?

   Comments:

   After my internship ended, I continued to work as a volunteer in the Jewish Cultural Center. Because I was a volunteer and no longer an intern, I got to choose when I came and how long I stayed.
6. What are the specific considerations relating to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnic disability or other differences in cultural attitudes that others studying abroad in your host country should research before going?

   Germans, especially Germans belonging to a minority, are very sensitive when asked about their cultural heritage. They also tend to patronize people who do not speak the language as well as a native speaker.

**HEALTH, SAFETY & TRAVEL**

1. Were there any health concerns (extreme pollution, food/water issues, for example) related to your host country that students should know about?  
   □ Yes  □ No
   If yes, please explain.

2. What recommendations about personal safety and safe travel can you give to outbound students?  
   If you are really concerned about having your things stolen, leave a debit card or credit card at home before going out.

**FINANCES**

1. How much should a future student anticipate spending on personal expenses for one semester on your program (excluding one-time travel costs to and from country)?
   □ Less than $750  □ $1500-2000  □ $3000-3500
   □ $750-1000  □ $2000-2500  □ $3500-4000
   □ $1000-1500  □ $2500-3000  □ $4000 & over
   Comments:

2. What was the best way to access funds while you were abroad?
   I opened an account with Bank of America, which has a no-conversion fee agreement with Deutsche Bank. Other students opened an account with Deutsche Bank and used that during their time in Munich.

3. What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?
   Eating in is much cheaper than eating out, especially in Germany. Keep track of how much you spend per week with a chart in Excel or some other program.

**OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

1. Describe some of the positive aspects of your time abroad.
   My German skills improved and I finally found out what sort of focus I want to have in my major.
What were some challenges you faced abroad?

I didn’t really overcome homesickness until the last four or five months of the program. I was very close to my family and girlfriend at home, and being away from them made life very difficult in the beginning.

3. What steps did you take to maximize the experience on your own, given the pre-departure and on-site resources available to you?

I made sure to do well in my internship and do well in my classes. I also read as much German as possible, went to museums, and spoke with others to improve my German as much as possible.

4. How did study abroad influence the direction of your life in any way—academically, professionally, and/or personally? Please describe:

In Munich, I was truly alone and independent for the first time. I had to learn how to function as a real adult without having my parents to help me. Academically, I know that I will continue pursuing German studies, either in graduate school or during my free time.

5. Would you recommend this program to other Northwestern students? Why or why not?

Yes. The rigor of the University of Munich, the supportiveness of the program staff, and the length of the stay make this program perfect for all students.

6. What type of student would be best suited for this program?

Students who really want to improve their German and learn about what opportunities exist for them there.

7. What do you wish you had known before you left that no one told you?

I wish that I could have anticipated how horrible homesickness was. Had I known how to properly deal with it before going, my first few months in Munich would have been much better.

Please submit your completed evaluation via email to:

studyabroad@northwestern.edu

Thank you!
Study Abroad Program Evaluation

All students are required to submit a complete program evaluation via email to: studyabroad@northwestern.edu. The Study Abroad Office will forward your study abroad transcript to the Office of the Registrar only after we have received your evaluation.

Note: This is a formal document, used by various offices to improve future programming and also made available for prospective students to read. Please be candid and thoughtful, but constructive in your comments, and refrain from using foul language and sarcasm. If you have particular concerns, we encourage you to make an appointment to discuss it with your adviser in the Study Abroad Office.

Name: Daniel Olson

Program/University Name, including program, track, and location (if applicable):
Year of Study in Munich/Lewis and Clark College, Munich, Germany

Term/Year Abroad: Academic Year 2012-2013

NU School: WCAS

Major(s):
Philosophy

Minor(s):
German

Certificate(s):
N/A

Race/Ethnicity: White

Gender: Male

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to make this evaluation available for others to read.  

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to quote anything written here in its publications and presentations, using my name.  

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

FM 11/13
1. What were your primary motivations for studying abroad?
   To learn German, spend time living in Europe, and have more free time for independent research.

2. Do you feel you met these goals?
   Definitely.

3. How did you find out about your program?
   Through the German department here at NU.

4. What factors led you to select this program over others?
   It lasted a full year and was located in the city I most wanted to study in.

5. By choosing to go abroad do you feel you limited your opportunity to participate in another academic program while at Northwestern? If so, what adjustments to your academic plans did you make to accommodate study abroad?
   Nope.

6. Were you satisfied with the length of time you studied abroad? Why or why not?
   I wish it could have been longer, if anything. There was still much more to explore.

---

**NORTHWESTERN STUDY ABROAD SUPPORT**

The Study Abroad Office provides support and information to students through the Online Guide to Study Abroad, student program evaluations, events, and in-person advising and front office assistance.

1. Which resources did you find the most useful and why? If you didn’t use them, indicate why you didn’t.
   I didn’t use them because I felt like I knew enough and was ready to go abroad.

2. Please comment on the Pre-Departure resources: the required Pre-Departure Orientation Blackboard site and in-person Pre-Departure Orientation with your program (if applicable).
   The in-person orientation was useful for getting an idea of the program that is only possible from talking to a former student.

3. What suggestions do you have for improvement?
   None.

4. Which individual(s) helped in making your decision if and where to study abroad? (Check if applicable)

   Study Abroad Adviser ☐
ON-SITE ("In-Country") SUPPORT

1. Did you receive adequate support and advising from the on-site program staff and, if applicable, from their U.S. counterparts, before and during your time abroad? Please explain.

   Yes, there were helpful when we needed them and otherwise let us explore for ourselves.

2. Did your program/university provide an on-site orientation?  Yes  No
   If yes, what did it involve? Comments:

   We had a presemester before studies at the University, which was useful for upping our language skills and feeling comfortable in the city.

3. Did the orientation provide sufficient information and/or resources to help you understand:

   Yes = Provided sufficient information
   No = Did not provide sufficient information

   Cultural differences in language and concepts
   Gender
   Differences in academic structures, classroom expectations, assessment methods

   Comments:

4. Did your program/university provide any program activities or excursions?  Yes  No
   Please explain.

   A few trips in the area as well as excursions to Berlin and Vienna.

ACADEMICS

1. List the courses you took abroad and evaluate each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Program Course or University Course? (specify the university)</th>
<th>Level of Difficulty (5 = very challenging, 1 = too easy)</th>
<th>Level of Satisfaction (5 = very satisfied, 1 = dissatisfied)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art through the Ages</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature of the Present</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced German Language I</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced German Language II</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradoxes</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Universität München</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lewis's Plurality of Worlds</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Universität München</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Epistemology</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Universität München</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wittgenstein's Gesamtnačalß</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Universität München</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presemester</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How was your work evaluated? Check all that apply.

- [x] Written exams
- [ ] Oral exams
- [x] Research papers
- [x] Class discussion
- [ ] Field study reports
- [x] Independent projects
- [ ] Attendance/participation
- [ ] Other: 

4. Did you have a wide variety of courses to choose from? Please explain.

Yes, the university offered many courses available to us.

5. What was the academic culture of your host country, including quality of instruction, expectations of professors, course structure, expectations for work outside the classroom, comparison with NU courses?

Very different. Very little work was assigned during the semester. Instead, classes culminated with huge projects due 1-2 months after the end of the semester.

6. How would you characterize the academic expectations of your fellow students? Were they primarily students from the U.S., students from the host country, or international students?

The program consisted of students from the US who had high standards, but not quite as high as NU students.

7. Did you do research or participate in an internship or service learning placement abroad?

- [ ] Yes  [x] No

If yes, was this part of your study abroad program?

- [ ] Yes  [ ] No

Do you intend to petition for major, minor or distribution credit for this experience? Answer “no” if you intend to earn general elective credit only.

- [ ] Yes  [ ] No
**LANGUAGE LEARNING (if applicable)**

1. What was your highest language course prior to study abroad?
   - German 211/209

2. Was this adequate preparation to succeed on your program?  
   - Yes [x]  No [☐]

3. Please rate the following:  
   - Your proficiency before the program:  
     - Reading [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [x]  Poor [☐]  
     - Writing [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☑]  
     - Speaking [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
     - Listening Comprehension [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
   - Language instruction on the program [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
   - Your program's commitment to language learning [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
   - Your proficiency after the program:  
     - Reading [☐]  Good [☑]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
     - Writing [☐]  Good [☑]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
     - Speaking [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  
     - Listening Comprehension [☐]  Good [☐]  Fair [☐]  Poor [☐]  

4. I used the host country language outside of the classroom:  
   - [x] On a daily basis  
   - [☐] Often  
   - [☐] Sometimes  
   - [☐] Almost never  
   - [☐] Other (Please explain.)

5. If you took all or some of your regular subject courses (e.g. history, economics, etc.) in a foreign language, were you adequately prepared? Did your program provide tutors?  
   - Yes. No official tutors, as far as I know, but many people were there to assist if we needed help.

6. Do you plan to continue studying the language at Northwestern upon returning from abroad?  
   - [x] Yes [☐] No

7. Do you plan to use your acquired language skills in an academic or professional setting post-graduation? If yes, please explain in what context.  
   - Yes, I study German/Austrian philosophy, so I will and already do use it often in an academic setting.

**HOUSING & MEALS**

1. Where did you live? Please select one and rate.
2. If you shared a room, your roommates were (check all that apply):  
- Other program students (from American universities)  
- International students (not from American universities and not from host country)  
- Students from the host country  
Other:  

3. If you lived in a dorm, residential college, or apartment, the other students were (check all that apply):  
- Other program students (Americans)  
- International students (not Americans and not from host country)  
- Students from the host country  
Other:  

4. Describe your living situation. If applicable, how did your housing situation influence your language acquisition and your ability to experience the culture of your host country?  
I lived in a house with about 20 people. Most were students from east Asia, which made language acquisition difficult as we usually spoke in English.  

5. Were meals provided?  
Yes ☑ No ☐  
Please describe:  

6. How did your housing situation help or hinder your ability to experience the culture of your host country?  
Helped in that I lived amongst many Germans, though not many lived in my house.  

---  
SOCIAL & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES  

1. What cultural and social adjustments did you make in your host country?  
Many; usually very small, everyday ones.  

2. In what settings did you interact with locals?  
- Class ☑  
- Housing ☑  
- Service learning ☐  
- Other ☐  
Errands ☑  
Extracurricular Activities ☐  
Internships ☐  
Please describe:  

4. Did you travel? If so, where? How often?

Yes, to Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Austria. I traveled a few times during the semesters and often during the semester break.

5. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities? Which ones?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Groups</th>
<th>Volunteering</th>
<th>Formal sport teams</th>
<th>Informal sport</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

6. What are the specific considerations relating to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disability or other differences in cultural attitudes that others studying abroad in your host country should research before going?

There are huge differences between different sections of Germany, so it's hard to say.

**HEALTH, SAFETY & TRAVEL**

1. Were there any health concerns (extreme pollution, food/water issues, for example) related to your host country that students should know about?

   □ Yes   □ No

   If yes, please explain.

2. What recommendations about personal safety and safe travel can you give to outbound students?

   Munich is an extremely safe city.

**FINANCES**

How much should a future student anticipate spending on personal expenses for one semester on your program (excluding one-time travel costs to and from country)?

□ Less than $750   □ $1500-2000   □ $3000-3500
Comments:

2. What was the best way to access funds while you were abroad?
   ATM

3. What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?
   Cook for yourself, don’t eat out often.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

1. Describe some of the positive aspects of your time abroad.
   Great city and country and culture. Very safe. Many opportunities.

2. What were some challenges you faced abroad?
   Occasionally stressful to use German all day.

3. What steps did you take to maximize the experience on your own, given the pre-departure and on-site resources available to you?
   I read, traveled, and went out often.

4. Has study abroad influenced the direction of your life in any way- academically, professionally and/or personally? Please describe:
   I became more independent and focused on what I would like to do, though what I would like to do did not change.

5. Would you recommend this program to other Northwestern students? Why or why not?
   Definitely, if they’re interested in learning German.

6. What type of student would be best suited for this program?
   One capable of working and living independently and interested in learning German.

7. What do you wish you had known before you left that no one told you?
   No great experiences will ever just come to you. They have to be made.
Study Abroad Program Evaluation

DO NOT complete this form if you participated in a Northwestern exchange program or a program run by the Office of International Program Development. These programs have separate program evaluations, downloadable at: http://www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad/forms/#evaluations

All other students are required to submit a complete program evaluation via email to: studyabroad@northwestern.edu. The Study Abroad Office will forward your study abroad transcript to the Office of the Registrar only after we have received your evaluation.

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Name:
Ingrid Ringler

Program/University Name, including program, track, and location (if applicable):
Lewis and Clark Exchange Year in Munich

Term/Year Abroad:                             NU School:
Full Year 2012-2013                          Weinberg

Major(s):
Physics, Mathematics

Minor(s):

Certificate(s):

Race/Ethnicity:                                      Gender:
White                                             Female

The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to make this evaluation available for others to read.

Yes  No

FM 10/13
The NU Study Abroad Office has my permission to quote anything written here in its publications and presentations, using my name.

PROGRAM SELECTION

1. What were your primary motivations for studying abroad? 
1 = not important 5 = very important

Developing greater proficiency in a language 5
Beginning to learn a new language 1
Living in another culture and interacting with local people 5
Making significant progress toward my major/minor requirements 2
Having the opportunity to take courses not offered at Northwestern 1
Enhancing post-graduation opportunities 1

Other motivations? (Please explain.)

Did your motivations change at all after you were in-country?

Not really, no, though I got a bit lazy about the language

Do you feel you met these goals?

Yes and no; as I said, I got a bit lazy, and that was my fault.

2. How did you find out about your program?

It was recommended to me by John Paluch

3. What factors led you to select this program over others?

It was offered for a full year.

4. By choosing to go abroad do you feel you limited your opportunity to participate in another academic program while at Northwestern?

Certificate
Major/Minor
Internship
Other

Comments:

Only inasmuch as I am not at NU and cannot take the full 12 courses, etc.

5. What type of student would be best suited for this program?

An outgoing humanities or journalism student.

6. Were you satisfied with the length of time you studied abroad?

Definitely!
NORTHWESTERN STUDY ABROAD SUPPORT

Please evaluate your experience with the following:

Very helpful  Helpful  Not helpful  Did not use

1. Informational materials  **Did not use**
   (Study Abroad Guide, Pre-departure Guide, etc.)
   Comments:

2. Study Abroad Office website  **Helpful**
   Comments:

3. Returnee Student Program Evaluations  **Did not use**
   Comments:

4. Events  **Not helpful**
   (Including info sessions, Study Abroad Fair, Pre-departure Orientation, etc.)
   Comments:

   Front office staff  **Did not use**
   (Scheduling appointments, answering phones, general inquiries, etc.)
   Comments:

5. Communication with Northwestern
   Study Abroad Adviser  **Very helpful**
   Comments:

6. Do you have any recommendations for improvement?  Yes  No
   Please explain.

8. Which other individuals were crucial in making your decision to study abroad?
   Check if applicable

   School Advisor (WCAS, SESP, etc.)
   **Major/Minor Advisor**
   Professor/Mentor
   **Family/Peers**
   Other  Describe __________________________

3
ON-SITE ("In-Country") SUPPORT

1. Did you receive adequate support and advising from the on-site program staff and, if applicable, from their U.S. counterparts, before and during your time abroad? Please explain.
   Yes.

2. Did your program/university provide an on-site orientation? If yes, what did it involve? Comments:
   Yes  No
   Pre-semester language courses and introduction to Munich.

3. Did the orientation provide sufficient information and/or resources to help you understand:
   Yes = Provided sufficient information
   No = Did not provide sufficient information
   Y  N
   Y
   Y
   Cultural differences in language and concepts
   in regard to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation
   Differences in academic structures, classroom expectations,
   assessment methods
   Comments:

4. Did your program/university provide any program activities or excursions? Yes  No
   Please explain.
   We went on a couple of excursions, to Berlin and to Vienna; they were lovely, though I personally would prefer a little less programming.

ACADEMICS

1. List the courses you took abroad and evaluate each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Program Course or University Course? (specify the university)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive German Review I</td>
<td>Lewis and Clark Institute in Munich (L&amp;C)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability Theory and Inference</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive German Review I</td>
<td>L&amp;C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. How much did your courses emphasize the following?  
   Very much  |  Somewhat  |  Not at All  
   Course lectures       X          |          |  
   Discussions           X          |          |  
   Individual or small group tutorials |  |  
   Field trips/field studies  |  X        |  
   Independent research   |  |  X  
   Other: (please explain)  

3. How was your work evaluated? Check all that apply.  
   Written exams  |  Field study reports  
   Oral exams     |  Independent projects  
   Research papers|  Attendance/participation  
   discussion     |  Class  
   Other:  

4. Did you have a wide variety of courses to choose from? Please explain.  
   Oh yes; LMU is a very large university with many different departments and prestige in surprising areas. If LMU didn’t have a course, we could look at the technical university courses as well.  

5. What was the academic culture of your host country, including quality of instruction, expectations of professors, course structure, expectations for work outside the classroom, comparison with NU courses?  
   Much of it was very similar; however, Germans have a much different approach to math, including a lot more theoretical background, which made the transition harder (harder in that way than the language barrier). There was, however, little personal student-professor interaction, and individual assignments, though graded, did not count toward the end score. Students were expected to be completely in charge of their own learning, and self-monitoring.  

6. How would you characterize the academic expectations of your fellow students? Were they primarily students from the U.S. students from the host country, or international students?  
   Mostly German students, but there were also a significant number of students of nationalities I had not previously encountered.  

7. Did you do research or participate in an internship or service learning placement abroad?  
   Yes  |  No  
   If yes, was this part of your study abroad program?  
   Yes  |  No  
   Do you intend to petition for major, minor or distribution credit for your internship? Answer “no” if you intend to earn general elective credit for your internship.  
   Yes  |  No  
   Describe the experience/project.
1. What was your highest language course prior to study abroad?  
   I completed the second year of German at NU and also participated in a German film course.

2. Was this adequate preparation to succeed on your program?  Yes  No

3. Please rate the following:
   Your proficiency before the program:
   Reading  
   Writing  
   Speaking  
   Listening Comprehension  
   Language instruction on the program  
   Your program's commitment to language learning  
   Your proficiency after the program:
   Reading  
   Writing  
   Speaking  
   Listening Comprehension

4. I used the host country language outside of the classroom:
   On a daily basis
   Often
   Sometimes
   Almost never
   Other (Please explain.)

5. If you took all or some of your regular subject courses (e.g. history, economics, etc.) in a foreign
   language, were you adequately prepared? Did your program provide tutors?  
   I was adequately prepared; we discussed getting a tutor for quantum mechanics, but ultimately
   decided not to - so it was available, but in the end not taken advantage of.

6. Do you plan to continue studying the language at Northwestern upon returning from abroad?  
   Yes  No

7. Do you plan to use your acquired language skills in an academic or professional setting post-
   graduation? If yes, please explain in what context.
   I certainly hope they will be useful, but honestly I will not be surprised if they won’t, since most
   Germans speak English.

HOUSING & MEALS

1. Where did you live? Please select one and rate.
   Host family  
   Dorm/Residential College  
   Apartment  
   Other:  
   Very satisfied  Satisfied  Dissatisfied  
   X
1. If you shared a room, your roommates were (check all that apply):
   Other program students (Americans)
   International students (not Americans and not from host country)
   Students from the host country Other:

3. If you lived in a dorm, residential college, or apartment, the other students were (check all that apply):
   Other program students (Americans)
   International students (not Americans and not from host country)
   Students from the host country Other:

4. Describe your living situation. If applicable, how did your housing situation influence your language acquisition?
   I lived in a hall with a few Germans and a lot of international students. We ended up speaking a lot of English because the international students couldn’t speak German very well, or because their accents were strong enough that I could not understand them. Unfortunately this led to a habit of English speaking outside of class.

5. Were meals provided? Yes No
   Please describe:

   How did your housing situation help or hinder your ability to experience the culture of your host country?
   See above about language; also, the individual rooms encouraged some degree of separation from other students, so it was easy to disappear and forget to go out and meet people.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

1. What cultural and social adjustments did you make in your host country?
   Well, one learns to work around the fact that nothing is open on Sundays; to take public transportation for long-range and a bicycle for short-range trips; and that Germans aren’t rude, they’re just...

   How often did you interact with local people? Check most accurate.
   Everyday
   2-3 times a week
   Other

   Once a week
   1-2 times a month

   Who did you interact with on a regular basis (2-3 times a week)?
   Professor
   Retailers
   Other

   Host Family
   Local Students
   International Students

   In what settings did you interact with locals?
   Class
   Housing
   Service learning
   Other

   Errands
   Extracurricular Activities
   Internships
Please describe:

3. How might others best get to know the people and culture of your host country before going abroad? While abroad?

Before going abroad, you could try to look for language groups, or perhaps for a pen pal; getting involved with local sports is a good idea. While abroad, seek out social opportunities - they probably won’t be presented to you - and remember that just because what you are looking for is not immediately visible doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist.

4. How did you spend your free time, nights and weekends?

   Check all that apply

   Traveling in country
   Traveling outside country
   Dining out
   Entertainment  < - what does this mean?
   Extracurricular activities
   Other

   Describe

   Comments:

5. If you checked extracurricular activities above, what kinds were you involved in?

   Check all that apply  How did you find out about these opportunities?

   Student Groups
   Volunteering
   Formal sport teams
   Informal sport  X
   Other

   The Unisport course listing in university buildings

   Comments:

6. What are the specific considerations relating to religion, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disability or other differences in cultural attitudes that others studying abroad in your host country should research before going?

   For Germany? There aren’t a whole lot of them; it’s fairly similar.

HEALTH, SAFETY & TRAVEL

1. Were there any health concerns (extreme pollution, food/water issues, for example) related to your host country which students should know about?  Yes  No

   If yes, please explain.

2. What recommendations about personal safety can you give to outbound students?

   Germany, perhaps especially Munich, is a lot safer than the US overall.

3. What are your recommendations regarding safe travel within your host city/country?

   It’s not a problem - take the Bahn, and look out for deals like the Schönes Wochenende or the Bayern Ticket. Take a friend - it’s cheaper and a good way to get to know people, and if you really feel
threatened, which you won’t, you’ll have someone on your side. But seriously, even the rabid drunken football fans are friendly.

FINANCES

1. How much should a future student anticipate spending on personal expenses for one semester on your program (excluding one-time travel costs to and from country)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Prices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$750 to 1000</td>
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<td>$3000 - 3500</td>
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<tr>
<td>$3500 to 4000</td>
<td>$4000 &amp; over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
Why not offer options in alternate currencies? I no convert convert bad.

2. What was the best way to access funds while you were abroad?
Got a German bank account, transferred funds that way; also, it’s possible to get foreign currency while in the US, which would have been really nice to know beforehand.

3. What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?
Explore your options, pay attention to what you spend, make a game of it because that’s fun, and cook for yourself. This last is also a good way to meet people.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

1. Describe some of the positive aspects of your time abroad.
I loved being abroad and seeing how things were done differently, trying and tasting new things, seeing how other people thought of the world - experiencing new things and new perspectives.

2. What were some challenges you faced abroad?
Well, I learned I do a really bad job of meeting people without a catalyst. I didn’t have trouble with the language, I’m just not a sociable person.

3. Has study abroad influenced the direction of your life in any way - academically, professionally and/or personally? Please describe:
To answer in reverse order: I made new friends and grew up a lot, and I learned more about what I expect from a professional environment and what I want to study in order to do what I want professionally. More so, perhaps, than I did coming to college for the first time.

4. Would you recommend this program to other Northwestern students? Why or why not?
Of course I would! I think it is very healthy and important to spend time out of one’s comfort zone, experiencing new things, and being abroad is a particularly good way to do that. Plus it’s marvelously much fun. I would also like to remind students that going for a year is much more satisfactory than for a quarter or semester - you’re always going to want to stay longer, but a year at least gives you time to adjust to the language and culture and make friends and then still have time to enjoy them.

5. What resources did you find helpful in preparing to go abroad and while you were abroad?
Mostly talking to people. Talking to the program coordinator, and the department study abroad liaison, and to program alumni - people who know what they are talking about and are enthusiastic about sharing their experiences.

6. How were you able to maximize the experience on your own, given the pre-departure and on-site
resources available to you?

I had a lot of resources available to me, to the extent that when the initial programming finally ended, I was glad to have time to explore on my own. Generally speaking, the same rule holds as for coming to college the first time: Get involved with as much as you can - carry the drum, if that’s all you can do - and if it seems overwhelming, remember you can quit after; but you can’t or won’t necessarily find all these opportunities again.

7. What do you wish you had known before you left that no one told you?

A+ #1 Advice: You can get foreign currency before leaving the country. Incredibly basic thing so obvious no one thought to tell me - I still don’t know how, but it can be done, and you don’t have to find yourself stranded in an airport on jet lag and sleep deficit with your usual plastic not working because you’re in the wrong country. (I had another card that worked fine, but that was some quick panic. Remember that too: You’ll be surprised what you are already prepared to deal with!)

Please submit your completed evaluation via email to:

studyabroad@northwestern.edu

Thank you!