

Northwestern University > Humboldt University

BERLIN: GLOBAL CITY IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2019



Northwestern | GLOBAL LEARNING OFFICE

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Program Information

Program Team

There are a number of different partners and players that make important contributions to your academic, cultural, and personal experience abroad.



Ingrid Zeller

On-Site Program Director & Instructor, GERMAN 102-SA-1

Ingrid Zeller is Professor of Instruction in the German Department. She studied Piano Performance at the Manhattan School of Music and German Studies at Columbia University in New York City. At Northwestern University, she has taught courses at all levels, coordinated Beginning and Intermediate German, and is currently directing the German Department Writing Center. She has been elected to the Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll ten times and received the Northwestern Alumni Association Teaching Award in 2005. In 2009, she received the national AATG/Goethe-Institute Certificate of Merit Award. She was selected to be a Charles Deering McCormick University Distinguished Lecturer for Teaching Excellence (2011-2012) and a faculty fellow

for the Center for Civic Engagement (2012-present). In 2015, she received the Northern Illinois AATG (American Association for Teachers of German) Outstanding Educator Award.

In line with her interests in architecture, film, and music, she teaches courses ranging from *Berlin - Faces of the Metropolis*, *Bauhaus and Beyond - German Influences on the Chicago Skyline*, *The Berlin Connection - Film Across Borders*, to *From Deutschland 83 to Deutschland 86: Spies, Secrets, and Solidarity* and *Stories through Songs*. Since 2009, she is a volunteer docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) and gives walking tours as well as river cruises. Among her projects is *Bauhaus and Beyond*, a website that includes various features related to the history of the Bauhaus and its influences on the Chicago skyline, such as an interactive architecture tour, co-produced with Denise Meuser and Franziska Lys. At Northwestern University, Professor Zeller is a fellow for Chapin Hall, has served as a freshman adviser, is the faculty adviser for the German Undergraduate Advisory Board (GUAB), and an active member of the Council on Language Instruction (CLI). She just completed her term as president for the Northern Illinois Chapter of the AATG and started her term as Representative of Chapter Presidents on the National AATG Board. She regularly participates in national and international conferences, works as an AP reader, and collaborates with the Goethe-Institute Chicago on projects and presenter at workshops. She has published and presented on films, music, architecture, drama, and other topics in the context of language acquisition.¹ Having directed the Berlin program in 2013, 2014, and 2017, she very much looks forward to returning to Berlin and experiencing this fascinating city with the 2019 group!

¹ <https://www.german.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/continuing/zeller-ingrid.html>

As On-Site Program Director, Professor Zeller is responsible for orienting students to the Berlin program, including the schedule, academic expectations, cultural adjustment, and safety and security. She also serves as an **academic adviser** and **local expert**, responsible for managing the program courses and curriculum and serving as an academic resource to connect ideas, generate questions, provide additional information, and facilitate discussion around program themes. Lastly, Professor Zeller is your **primary in-country emergency contact**, so if you aren't feeling well, have your belongings lost or stolen, or experience any other incident, contact Professor Zeller.



Jonas Rosenbrück

Assistant Director & Instructor, GERMAN 205-SA-1

Jonas Rosenbrück is originally from Bochum, Germany. He attended boarding school in the south of Germany and received his B.A. in philosophy from Yale University in 2014. Currently, he pursues a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and German Studies at Northwestern, with a dissertation provisionally titled "The Smell of Language." He loves Berlin in the summertime and is particularly excited to be there again for the second summer in a row!

While in Berlin, Jonas will teach German, and will serve as an **Assistant Director**, living in residence with students. He is an excellent resource for understanding your host country and community, local culture and customs, and current events, and can provide assistance for any communication gaps that may exist between different languages and cultures. He will also serve as a **secondary emergency contact**.



Ted Laport

Resident Coordinator & Instructor, GERMAN 101-SA-1

Theodore Laport is a PhD student in Northwestern's German Department. He has taught a wide range of topics relating to German language and culture, from German 101 to German film and critical theory. After the Berlin program, Ted will be staying in Berlin as a visiting researcher at Humboldt University.

While in Berlin, Ted will teach German 101-1-SA, and will serve as an excellent **academic and cultural resource**. He will also assist in providing student support services.

**Jörg Kreienbrock****Instructor, German 222: Introduction to German Culture, Politics and Economics**

Jörg Kreienbrock received his Ph.D. in 2005 from the Department of German at New York University with a dissertation thesis examining representations of the small and minute in the prose works of Robert Walser. From 2005 to 2006 he held a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at Emory University.

His research and teaching interests include German literature from the 18th to the 21st century with an emphasis on literary theory, contemporary literature, the history of science, and popular culture. Professor Kreienbrock is the author of: *Kleiner. Feiner. Leichter: Nuancierungen zum Werk Robert Walsers*, Berlin, Zurich: Diaphanes 2010; *Malicious Objects, Anger Management, and the Question of Modern Literature*, New York: Fordham University Press 2012; and as co-editor: *Die Amerikanischen Götter: Transatlantische Prozesse in der Deutschsprachigen Popkultur seit 1945*, Berlin: de Gruyter 2015.

He spent the 2015/16 academic year as an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation-Fellow at the Department of Media Studies at the University of Bochum. He also recently received fellowships from the Institute of Advanced Study at Durham University (UK) and the International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna. Since 2015, Jan has been the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Visiting Associate Professor at Northwestern's Department of German. He studied German Literature and History at Humboldt University in Berlin, where he also received his Ph.D. in 2012.

Jörg serves as both **academic and cultural resources** to all Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe students. He can also help you connect your study abroad experience to your plans at Northwestern.

**Robert Ryder****Instructor, German 222: Introduction to German Culture, Politics and Economics**

From 2014-2017 Rob was the Director of the Basic Language Program in the Germanic Studies Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Previously he spent two years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) in Germany, was a Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago, and in 2009 completed his PhD in German and Comparative Literary Studies at Northwestern University. He received his MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

His first monograph, *Hearing Otherwise: The Acoustical Unconscious* from Walter Benjamin to Alexander Kluge (forthcoming with Northwestern UP), explores the psychological, media-historical and theoretical implications of an “acoustical unconscious” with respect to both literature and acoustic media such as radio and film. Recent articles include, “Of Barks and Bird Song: Listening in on the Forgotten in Ludwig Tieck’s *Der blonde Eckbert*” (Goethe Jahrbuch, Fall 2017), the “Innervation” entry in Wenzel and Szeman’s *Fueling Culture. 101 Words for Energy and Environment* (Fordham UP, 2017), and “On the Minute, Out of Time: Reading the Misreading of Time in Walter Benjamin’s ‘Auf die Minute’” (Germanic Review, Summer 2016).

Rob has increasingly used online teaching tools to enhance his German language courses, and in Summer of 2017 he co-published qualitative results of a game app he designed as a supplement to German language instruction (“The ‘UIC German’ game app for the enhancement of foreign language learning - Case study” in the *International Journal of Education Technology*). While his teaching is currently focused on the Business German sequence, he has also taught German courses focused on literary genres like the German graphic novel and das Hörspiel. He has also taught courses on topics as diverse as the intersection of man and technology (“Mensch und Maschine”), business operations in German-speaking countries (“Germany, Inc.”), Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (“Clockwork Ode: from Schiller to Kubrick”), and hell (“Comparative Narratives of Descent”).

Rob serves as both **academic and cultural resources** to all Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe students. He can also help you connect your study abroad experience to your plans at Northwestern.

Pierre Steuer, Associate Director, International Office & Coordinator, Humboldt Winter and Summer University (HUWISU)

The staff in the International Office at Humboldt can provide you with information, support, and connections to student life at Humboldt.

Tentative Program Schedule & Activities

Your program will take place between Sunday, June 23 (Student arrival in Berlin)- Sunday August 18 (Student departure from Berlin). Please find below a basic schedule of program dates.

Please note: Because this program incorporates a number of field trips and excursions that cannot always be planned far in advance, and the course schedule depends upon faculty and classroom availability, among many other factors, the full program schedule may not be finalized and distributed until students’ arrivals. Please note that activities and dates are subject to change.

Date	Activity
Saturday, June 22	Depart the U.S. for Germany
Sunday, June 23	Arrival in Germany Check in at housing
Monday, June 24	On-site orientation
Tuesday, June 25 -Tuesday, July 16	Session I: Northwestern courses
Saturday, July 6	Potsdam excursion
Friday, July 12- Sunday, July 14	Weimar excursion
Monday, July 22 – Friday, August 16	Session II: Humboldt University courses
Friday, July 26- Sunday, July 28	Hamburg excursion
Sunday, August 18	Depart Germany for U.S.

Course Descriptions

Refer to the **Academics** section of the Orientation Guide for more information about academic information, expectations, and policies.

Session I: Northwestern University Courses

German Language

Students will be placed in German 101-SA-1, German 102-SA-1, or German 205-SA, according to prior experience with the German language. No previous knowledge of German is required.

German 101-SA-1 Beginning German

This introductory German course focuses on providing students with the basic vocabulary and grammatical structures, which are most useful for daily interactions while living in Berlin. The course is conducted in German and provides significant opportunities for students to develop their speaking abilities during partner and group activities in class.

German 102-SA-1 Intermediate German

This course will use short stories and other narratives about Berlin, music, poems, biographies of important Germans, films and film clips as a foundation for improving fluency in speaking, reading comprehension and writing skills. The course is designed as a workshop in which students use German as their language of communication as they discuss texts and share views and opinions on texts read for class and experiences gained outside of the classroom.

German 205-SA: Focus Writing

This course uses the environment of the city as the basis for improving fluency in German speaking, reading comprehension and writing skills. Students learn to recognize and to work with characteristics that define reviews of films and cultural events, reports, argumentative essays, advertisements, and interpretations of literary works. The course is designed as a workshop in which students use German as their

language of communication as they discuss current events, their own perspectives, and experiences gained outside of the classroom.

German 222-SA: Introduction to German Culture, Politics and Economics

Few cities have been so thoroughly transformed in the 20th century as Berlin. In the 21st century, Berlin has emerged as a vibrant city that reveals many layers of historical complexity throughout its urban spaces. In this course, students will be exposed to the history and culture that define Berlin as well as the political and economic transformations that characterize Berlin as both a historical and modern city. Readings will be accompanied by excursions, thus combining textual analyses with hands-on experiences of spaces with historical and cultural significance.

Session II: Humboldt University Courses

Berlin in the Summer

This course combines German Language training with weekly cultural or social activities.

Humboldt University Summer School: Content Elective Course (Taught in English)

All students will be enrolled in the content course that they indicated to GLO was their first choice. See <http://huwisu.de/courses/summer> for course descriptions and syllabi.

Excursions, Site Visits, and Study Trips

Students will have the opportunity to visit several of Berlin's most famous sites. Possible visits include:

Bundestag

The Bundestag, Germany's parliament, stands at the center of Germany's political life and is its supreme democratic organ of state. In 1999, the Bundestag was relocated into the newly renovated Reichstag. The Reichstag is well known for its big glass frontages, which offer a direct view of the desks of some of the 6,000+ who work in the Bundestag. Tour guides explain the many facets of the Bundestag to visitors; a view from the glass dome is a favorite part of the visit.

Kreuzberg

Kreuzberg is one of Berlin's best-known neighborhoods, and is also the location of the CIEE Global Institute where you will be living during the program. Kreuzberg has been transformed from one of Berlin's poorest neighborhoods in the late 1970s to one of Berlin's most beloved cultural centers. Today, it is known for its very large percentage of immigrants, mostly Turkish. In 2006, 31.6% of Kreuzberg's inhabitants did not have German citizenship.² Kreuzberg's rich culture and diversity is



²http://web1.bbu.de/publicity/bbu/internet.nsf/index/de_nachrichtenpool.htm?OpenDocument&50BC6CB63623F96BC12571EE00357CB3

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an attractive area for many; however, high levels of unemployment and low-income averages remain.

Checkpoint Charlie

Checkpoint Charlie is an important border crossing of the Cold War days and a divisional symbol. “You Are Now Leaving The American Sector” reads the famous sign right at the border. It is today an iconic indicator of territorial borders and political separation. Until the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, it signified the border between the capitalist West and the communist East, retrospectively freedom and confinement.³ Today, the space houses a museum documenting the history of the Berlin Wall.

Jewish Museum

The Juedisches Museum website describes the museum as “a timeless monument to Jewish history and life in Germany...[and] one of the world’s undisputed museums and architectural gems. The JMB is a striking achievement in the architecture of cultural identity, a lasting expression of Jewish presence and dislocation and above all the attempt at reconciling, physically and spiritually, the meaning of the Holocaust into the memory and consciousness of the city of Berlin.”⁴

Potsdam

Potsdam, located just about 25 miles southwest of Berlin, is the capital of the German state of Brandenburg. Potsdam’s most famous castle, Schloss Sanssouci, is the largest World Heritage Site in Germany. Another castle, Schloss Cecilienhof, was the place of the famous “Potsdam Conference,” where the Allies met to implement new treaties after WWII. Many of Germany’s best movies were produced at Potsdam’s film studio Babelsberg.

Weimar

Located southwest of Berlin in the state of Thuringia, Weimar is a city of history and culture. It was the focal point of the German Enlightenment and home to leading philosophers, writers, and musicians. Goethe, Schiller, Herder, Liszt, and Nietzsche all lived and worked in Weimar. Among the primary attractions are Johann Wolfgang van Goethe’s residences and the Goethe Museum. Weimar is also recognized as the birthplace of Germany’s postwar Weimar Republic (1918-1933). The Bauhaus, the internationally known movement and school for art and design, was established here, and the city is also intricately connected to the university town of Jena, the local capital of Erfurt, the birthplace of J.S. Bach – Eisenach, and the historic Wartburg.⁵



³ <http://www.berlin.de/orte/sehenswuerdigkeiten/checkpoint-charlie/index.en.php>

⁴ <http://www.berlin.de/orte/sehenswuerdigkeiten/juedisches-museum/index.en.php>

⁵ Picture from <http://www.weimar.de/en/tourismus/sights/palaces/city-palace/>

Accommodations & Meals

Students will be staying at the CIEE Global Institute, located in the heart of Kreuzberg (X-Berg) known for its vibrant energy, sidewalk cafés, colorful shops, street festivals, waterfront access, and lively culture. The CIEE Global Institute offers 24-hour security, Wi-Fi, kitchen, dining and study areas, cafeteria, laundry facilities, lounges on each floor, lobby with fireplace, two courtyards and a bike-share program.

Students will stay in double rooms with a bed, sheets, pillow, and comforter, a wardrobe, desk, mini-refrigerator and microwave and a shared bathroom, including sink, shower, and a heated towel rack.

Students are a 10-minute bike ride from Tempelhof, the former airport of Berlin Air-Lift fame and now a giant urban park, and an easy commute to central Berlin by metro – the station is right in front of the Institute.

With the exception of a few group meals and meals during excursions, meals are not provided. Students are encouraged to try to save money by making use of the kitchens in their apartments.

Students will also have access to the Humboldt University cafeterias (Mensa, see Links & Recommended Reading), which provide lunch from about 10 a.m. until 2.30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Students will have a Mensa-ID that they can load with money to pay for their meals.

Host Institution: Humboldt University

Every year, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin hosts over 32,000 students. The University boasts 189 degree courses – among them 21 international Master's programs with lectures and seminars held in English. The name Humboldt-Universität is well known across the globe, and its internationally recognized degrees open many doors for graduates. Students at Humboldt may study at either the traditional institutes of Campus Mitte, the Campus Nord, or at the modern Natural Science Campus Adlershof. Northwestern students will be studying at Campus Mitte, located in the center of Berlin. The newly constructed university library, the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Center, provides access to more than four million books and periodicals. Beyond the academic framework, Humboldt-Universität offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Over 100 different types of sports activities bring movement onto campus.⁶

⁶ www.hu-berlin.de/pr/publikationen/pdf/humboldt-universitaet_en

Germany

German history and culture are both rich and complex. We encourage you to do some research about the history of your host country as well as general country information, including the political system, geography, the economy, population, culture, and current events. Your ability to take full advantage of your time abroad will be influenced by the amount of preparation and research you do before you go, so read as much as you can! Refer to the list of resources in the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.

Fast Facts⁷

- Surface Area: 357,022 sq km
 - Population: 80,457,737 (July 2018 est.)
 - Government type: Federal Republic
 - President: President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (since 19 March 2017)
 - Chancellor: Angela Merkel (since 22 November 2005)
 - GDP per capita: \$50,800 (2017 est.)
 - GDP real growth rate: 2.5% (2017 est.)
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- Major industries: iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, automobiles, food and beverages, shipbuilding, textiles



Language

German is Germany's official language. You will find that many people, particularly in stores and restaurants, are able to communicate in English as well. (For some useful tips and phrases, see **Appendix I**.)

Transportation

There are many modes of transportation in Berlin. Below is some basic information about how to get around in Berlin and Germany, but also refer to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section for tips about safe travel.

- **Foot and bike.** Germans generally like to walk and bike a lot. You can easily walk to the grocery store and other sites of interest in the area.
- **Public Transportation.** Students will be provided with public transportation passes that allow for unlimited use of buses, U-Bahn trains (underground trains) and S-Bahn trains (generally longer distances/above ground). The city has an

⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html>

excellent public transportation system, and most Berliners use public transportation for commuting to work, shopping and for excursions to other parts of the city. The trains and buses are clean and run very frequently. Familiarize yourself with the Berlin train system a little bit before you go.

- **Taxis.** Taxis are plentiful and efficient, and many taxi drivers speak English. All taxis use meters, but rides can get expensive: short trips in the city center usually cost about 20-25€. Because public transportation is so good, it is seldom necessary to consider taxis as a transportation option.

Transportation To/From Airport

GLO and the program director and faculty will arrange a group airport pick-up for students. More specific arrival instructions will be communicated via email.

If you arrange any personal trips that involve longer trips or include air travel, you must first consult with the Program Director about your travel plans. Note: international travel can have safety and legal implications. If you do need to go to the airport, the main train station (*Berlin Hauptbahnhof*) is about 3.6 kilometers from the hotel and has an airport shuttle that runs to Tegel Airport: <http://www.bvg.de>. Be very careful with your belongings at the airport and when boarding a taxi or shuttle. Make sure your bags are in your possession at all times.

Cultural Adjustment: Reflections from Past Students

- *"Had to adapt to food and obviously the language barrier. And then a lot of small things that differ Germany from America." ~Ravi Tandon, 2018*
- *"Perhaps the largest adjustment was paying with cash almost every time. Also, not having many shops open on Sundays, forcing me to plan ahead." ~Ethan Tang, 2018*
- *"Germany is more homogenous than USA - so the people are not as accustomed in meeting and seeing other people of color as compared to the US." ~Sidhant Goel, 2017*
- *"Don't be afraid. Going abroad might seem intimidating at first but putting yourself outside of your comfort zone is a great way to learn more about yourself and grow as a person." ~Rachel Hersh, 2016*
- *"I appreciated the transition from guided trips to near full independence, as I felt that it made me much more adept at living on my own and making all of my decisions myself, without just throwing me into the fire." ~Jacob Swan, 2016*
- *"Mix doing things on your own and with friends. Seeing or experiencing something as an individual can be very different than when in a pack. Seek out activities you enjoy doing in the states (swing dancing, chess, EDM concerts, whatever), then seek them out abroad and see how the two differ. It's surprisingly satisfying and makes for some great personal memories that will stay fresh and valuable back home." ~ Erik Barillari, 2015*

Visas

U.S. citizens will not need a visa Germany for this program since they can enter as a visitor and stay for up to 90 days. If, for any reason, you think that you will exceed a 90-day visit, or if you do not hold a U.S. passport, please contact ULA.

Identity and Diversity

The sections below provide some basic information, summarized from the Diversity Network Country Diversity Climate Notes for Germany⁸, and reflections from past students about the cultural climate of Germany. Also refer back to the **Identity and Diversity** section of the Orientation Guide for general guidance and resources.

Gender Roles & Issues

Gender equality is recognized and protected in Germany, so male and female students can expect treatment similar to what they experience in the United States. Regardless, it is important to follow common-sense precautions and to heed the general advice outlined in the Orientation Guide.

Cultural Adjustment: Reflections from Past Students (cont')

- *"I learned to not be so stuck to a schedule. Germans take things very loosely and largely go with the flow."* ~Meredith Ford, 2015
- *"Don't be afraid to go out and meet people. I'm not saying my German is good, but there was a person on the trip whose German was absolutely atrocious. But she had the confidence to go out and meet people, and I think she really benefited from that. I'm a bit envious of her confidence around new and different people."* ~James Graham, 2015
- *"You won't interact with locals unless you try. The Humboldt meet ups in the second half are an easy way to do that, but otherwise just capitalize on any time you have the chance to chat with people and ask them questions instead of just saying thanks and goodbye."* ~Haley Koch, 2015
- *"Go out and explore- the city is big enough that you could do this every other day and never run out of new things."* ~Erik Barillari, 2015
- *"This program requires you to be a very independent person. Don't be afraid to move away from the program group of students every once in a while and explore on your own. Those times were my most rewarding experiences."* ~Annabel Liou, 2015

Sexual Orientation and Identity

According to the Diversity Climate Notes for Germany, "Germany is a popular destination for LGBT students because of its tolerant environment. It has long been one of the most progressive countries in the world with respect to gay rights. Robust anti-discrimination laws have helped foster a prominent gay community. U.S. students participating in education abroad programs in Germany can generally expect to find a campus environment that is at least as tolerant of and accommodating to the LGBT community as their home campus. Student support is readily available through community organizations and groups both on and off campus in most university cities. Many establishments exist to serve local gay communities across Germany, especially in Berlin. Berlin celebrates gay pride in June during its famous Christopher Street Day and the festivities that take place over the course of the preceding week."

⁸ Adapted from the Diversity Abroad Network. (2018).

Race and Ethnicity

As explained by the Diversity Abroad Network, “Although the vast majority (91.5%) of Germans are of Germanic descent, the country has large Turkish, Middle Eastern, and North African communities, particularly in its urban areas. German policy supports multiculturalism and so do many Germans. However, in recent years nationalist sentiment has grown, with resentment towards immigrant communities stirring a resurgence of extremist groups and political parties.

“Travelers of color who visit Germany describe generally positive experiences. U.S. students of color should not feel highly concerned about experiencing racist acts or discrimination in Germany. Still, this should not be interpreted to mean that prejudice and racism are nonexistent there...Men and women of color have noted that, as a result of being an “other” in German society, they are saddled with racial stereotypes that result in excessive curiosity or exoticization. Men have described German women acting aggressively upon them and women of color occasionally being mistaken for prostitutes. The experience of U.S. students of color is likely to be fairly different than that of African or Middle Eastern immigrants to Germany, whose national origins may incur them additional stigma.”

Race & Ethnicity: Reflections from Past Students

- *“Berlin is very international but not too ethnically diverse.” ~Lacey Schroeder, 2018*
- *“It was incredible how often someone’s bad attitude will switch off when you speak German instead of English. That being said, people will treat you/and or serve you alright regardless if you cannot speak German.” ~Alisa Nazaire, 2018*
- *“Berlin is a very diverse and open-minded city, but minority students should still also be aware of the racial climate of this country, especially currently with the elections coming up. I had no major difficulty or incident, but it was still important to be aware of the different ideologies being circulated concerning immigrants and persons of minority background.” ~ Laura Hernandez, 2017*
- *“Berlin is an extremely diverse city, so regardless of how one might identify, there are almost always ways to fit in to the culture. There is some tension with the current refugee system and some prejudice against Muslims, but as in the US, these issues are more prominent in certain areas or belong to certain political parties.” ~Kenzie Krogh, 2016*
- *“Germany is unlike the States where it is very racially and culturally diverse. If you are a racial minority you will stand out a lot more here. I personally don’t care and did not experience any discrimination, but I have a friend from the program who has experienced discrimination because of that.” ~ Vickie Li, 2016*
- *“I became more aware of the fact that I was Asian and would be viewed as more interesting just because of my race.” ~Annabel Liou, 2015*
- *“Overall, Berlin is a pretty accepting place and so were the other cities in Germany. I believe that the only experience that I encountered was being seen as an “American” before being seen as “Mexican” which was a new experience for me (being American isn’t something that comes to my mind for me first).” ~Mauricio Gonzalez, 2016*

Health, Safety, and Security

The sections below provide information about health and safety risks and resources in Germany, including reflections from past students. Refer back to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section of the Orientation Guide for more comprehensive information about preparing for and responding to health, safety, and security concerns.

Staying Healthy

Germany has a very high standard of health care, both in private and public systems. Most doctors speak English, and all university hospitals offer treatment in a variety of specialties.

Food and water are safe in most locations, but you should always wash your hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before eating. If you are traveling out of Western Europe, be sure to do some research on food and water safety before you go.

Safety and Security

In addition to the **Standing Travel Advice** outlined in the Orientation Guide, you are advised to follow these precautions during your time in Germany. Also refer to the U.S. Department of State Country Information Sheet for Germany for safety and security guidelines: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Germany.html>

- Petty crime is common at airports, on public transportation, and in tourist locations. Be vigilant, and care for your belongings.
- European governments have been taking action to guard against terrorist threats, but the possibility for terror activity throughout Europe remains. Students should keep their phones on, charged, and loaded with airtime, so that they are reachable in case of emergency. Students are also advised to avoid large crowds or crowded places when possible and to exercise particular caution. In the event of heightened threat, students should return to (or remain at) a safe location, such as Humboldt University or their accommodations, until further notice.
- Civil protest in Germany over various social issues (salaries, retirement, human rights, etc.) is quite common, and this typically takes the form of peaceful demonstrations. As a reminder, students are not permitted to participate in—or attend—any kind of public demonstration. In the event of severe civil unrest, students should return to (or remain at) Humboldt University or in their accommodations, avoid the demonstration route, and stay there until the situation stabilizes. On-site directors will contact students with information about demonstration routes, dates, and times. Also heed alerts about demonstrations, which will be sent to you via the U.S. Department of State through your STEP Registration.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Weather and Packing

What is the weather going to be like?

Germany's climate is similar to the Midwestern climate, although it does not get as hot and as humid in the summer. You can expect temperatures in the 70s and 80s for most of the time. The temperature does drop at night so be sure to pack some layered clothing appropriate for evening climate. It tends to rain more in Germany, so we recommend that you include a light rain jacket in your luggage.

Is there anything special that I need to pack for my program?

You will be taking day trips and more extended excursions, so you will want things that travel easily. We recommend that you bring a backpack, duffel bag, or moderate-sized suitcase and a daypack.

Most transformers for computers and cell phones will show that they run on 120/220 volts, but you will need a German plug adaptor. German plugs have two round pins. Consider purchasing at least one adapter before you leave or at the airport, because you might not necessarily find an electronics store that carries this item close by. Electrical appliances with heating elements (hot pots, water heaters, hair dryers) must be products that have been tested for use in Germany. Consider purchasing these in Berlin, or going without them for the duration of the program.

Food & Water

Can I drink the water?

Yes. Tap water is very safe in Berlin. Most Germans drink carbonated water, so don't be shy in asking if you are not immediately offered flat water! You also don't get free water with your meal in restaurants. When you order water, it'll be bottled and/or carbonated.

What is typical food?

In general, the food that is eaten in German restaurants and the food that is eaten in German homes is very similar to one another. For Germans, the most important meal is their breakfast. You will find a little bakery on almost every corner in Berlin, loaded with all different kinds of Brötchen (rolls). In general, Berlin is an international city, so you will also find a variety of ethnic cuisines, such as Turkish, Greek, and Chinese.

Is the local cuisine vegetarian friendly?

German cuisine is not inherently vegetarian-friendly, but Berlin is a metropolitan city and has many ethnic restaurants with lots of vegetarian options.

Money

How much does the program cost?

See **Appendix II** or refer to the GLO website for a breakdown of program costs.

Are meals included in my Program Fee?

Some group meals are included in your program fee, but you will be responsible for most meals.

How much money should I plan to spend?

Refer to the student budget in **Appendix II** for an estimate of costs for additional meals and discretionary expenses. The figures included in the budget represent averages reported by past students. Past students also recommend keeping your student ID handy for movies and museums. Many places in Germany and throughout Europe offer student discounts.

Transportation & Travel***Will I be picked up from the airport?***

Yes, if you arrive within the specified arrival window. More information about airport transfers will be provided closer to the date of departure.

What if my flight is cancelled or delayed?

Local and GLO staff have access to your travel itineraries, but if you will not arrive on your scheduled flight due to a missed connection, illness, or other reason, please email and call your Program Director and GLO to let us know when you are scheduled to arrive. You will be provided with detailed contact information via email closer to the date of departure.

How much free time do I have? What can I expect to do outside of class?

There is free time before and after classes, as well as on weekends when you do not have pre-scheduled trips and excursions. Contact the Ambassadors for your program to get suggestions for things to do in your spare time:

<http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/study-abroad/student-voices/ambassadors/index.html>

Links & Recommended Reading

It's worth getting a good pocket guidebook and map to get you around Berlin, such as Lonely Planet, Rick Steves's Guide, etc. Below are a few other recommendations.

Program and Country Information

Germany

- Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe program page: <https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/explore-programs/europe/berlin-global-city-in-the-center-of-europe.html>
- NU in Berlin blog: <https://sites.northwestern.edu/studyabroadblogs/>
- Facts about Germany: <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/>
- General news on contemporary Germany in English or in German (texts, radio streaming and podcasts): <http://www.dw-world.de/>
- Deutschland Tourism: www.germany.travel/
- CIA World Factbook Germany: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html>

Berlin

- Berlin's official website: <http://www.berlin.de/en/>
- Mensa: <https://www.stw.berlin/en/dining-facilities.html>
- Museums: <http://www.berlin.de/en/museums/>
- Church concerts: <http://www.kulturinkirchen.info/>
- Music: <http://www.berlin-ticket.de/>
- Weekly Berlin Magazine (cultural events): <http://www.zitty.de>
- Berlin Zoo: <http://www.zoo-berlin.de/>
- East Side Gallery: <http://www.eastsidegallery-berlin.de/>

Travel Information/Guides

- Berlin Public Transportation: <http://www.bvg.de/>
- German Trains: <http://www.bahn.de>
- Visit Berlin: <http://www.visitberlin.de/en>
- German Bundestag: <http://www.bundestag.de/>
- Weimar: <http://www.weimar.de/nc/en/tourism/homepage/>
- Dresden: http://www.dresden.de/index_en.php
- Hamburg: <http://www.hamburg.de>
- Frankfurt an der Oder: <https://www.brandenburg-tourism.com/detail/id/7577/theme/a-z.html>
- Spreewald: <http://www.luebbenau-spreewald.com/pages/en/home.php?lang=EN>
- Easyjet (low-cost airline): www.easyjet.com
- Ryanair (low-cost airline): www.ryanair.com
- Rail Europe (train travel in Europe): www.raileurope.com/

Language

- <http://dict.leo.org/>
- <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de>

Health & Safety

- World Health Organization: Germany: <http://www.who.int/countries/deu/en/>
- US Department of State Country Guide for Germany:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Germany.html>
- CDC: Health Information for Germany:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/germany
- GeoBlue Health Insurance: <https://www.geo-blue.com>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Appendix I: Language Tips & Useful Phrases

Below are some useful phrases for communicating and getting around while in Berlin.

English	German
Hello	Hallo
Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehen
Good morning / Good evening	Guten Morgen / Guten Abend
Yes	Ja
No	Nein
Please	Bitte
Thank you	Danke
Excuse me please	Entschuldigen Sie bitte
I'm sorry	Es tut mir leid
How are you?	Wie geht es dir?
Where is...?	Wo ist ...?
What?	Was?
My name is	Mein Name ist
I would like	Ich möchte
Could you please take a picture of us?	Können Sie bitte ein Foto von uns machen?
Could you please take a picture of me?	Können Sie bitte ein Foto von mir machen?
Where is the bathroom?	Wo ist die Toilette?
Can I please get the check?	Kann ich bitte die Rechnung bekommen?
How much is it?	Was kostet das?
Can you please help me?	Können Sie mir bitte helfen?
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?
I do not speak German	Ich spreche kein Deutsch.
I do not understand	Ich verstehe nicht

Appendix II: Cost Breakdown

BERLIN: GLOBAL CITY IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE (Berlin, Germany) SUMMER 2019 Program Cost Information

FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN	
PROGRAM FEE	
Tuition: \$5,100 The tuition fee covers all program expenses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lectures and instruction for two NU courses and two Humboldt University courses field visits and excursions in/around Berlin (including all related travel costs), local transportation pass 	\$8,300
Housing: \$3,100 The housing fee covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lodging in Berlin some group meals accommodations during excursions Students are responsible for covering the costs of lunches, dinners, and weekend meals.	
GeoBlue Health Insurance: \$100	
STUDY ABROAD ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	\$0
Students participating in this program are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.	
TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN	\$8,300
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	
International Airfare	
Students are responsible for making arrangements to fly round-trip to Berlin, Germany, on the dates provided. Cost estimates are based upon travel from Chicago. International airfares vary greatly based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. Students may choose to take advantage of frequent flyer or other airline awards available to them, which could significantly lower their travel costs.	\$1,600
Books & Supplies	\$100
Discretionary Expenses	
Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Discretionary expenses represent an average of the amounts reported by previous students and include meals, non-program transportation, and other incidentals. Students who plan to do personal travel outside of the program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$1,000.	\$2,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	\$3,700
TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET (Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)	\$12,000

For more information about billing, finances, and financial aid for study abroad, please refer to the Money Matters section of the Study Abroad Guide or contact Krista Buda Bethel (krista@northwestern.edu) in the Financial Aid Office. Also refer to the Withdrawal Policies for Northwestern-Sponsored Programs for information about refunds in the case of withdrawal or dismissal.