



BERLIN

CONSORTIUM FOR GERMAN STUDIES



German Immersion Program

Spend a semester, or better yet, a full academic year studying in Berlin — the dynamic and multicultural city at the heart of the European Union's economic and political powerhouse.

Sharpen your linguistic skills through intensive German language studies and by enrolling in university courses. The BCGS staff and tutors will support you in your quest to immerse yourself into your academic studies and to experience life as a student exploring all that Berlin offers.

Academics

The first 6 weeks of the program is designed to support you as you adjust to your new life. You will take German Discourse and Culture which includes extensive language study with an introduction to the discourse of German academic culture, both spoken and written. The course also explores current topics that are relevant to the curated weekly field trips throughout the city.

Choose from a broad range of university-level courses taken alongside local students. Based on your academic interests select courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Some university courses are taught in English while others are taught in German specifically for international students.

Eligibility

- Must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student in good academic and disciplinary standing
- Must have completed at least four (4) semesters of college-level German or the equivalent
- Minimum 3.0 average language GPA
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Students outside of the BCGS Consortium School are welcome to apply!



Housing

You can apply for housing in Apartments or Dorms that provide you with the opportunity to discover contemporary German life and culture.

Freie Universität Berlin

BCGS is based at the main campus of the Freie Universität Berlin (FU), located in the residential garden district of Dahlem in southwestern Berlin.



English Language Program

In partnership with the Freie Universität Berlin's European Studies Program (FU-BEST), which is based at a satellite campus, the BCGS offers a Spring semester opportunity aimed at students beginning their German language studies while taking elective courses in English.

The program is based on an "extended classroom" concept which aims to connect the academic work conducted within the standard classroom setting to the wide range of historical, political, cultural, and societal opportunities in Berlin.

Academics

Based on your German language ability, you will enroll in an appropriate intensive FU-BEST German language course to further your language skills and cultural knowledge. The remainder of your academic experience is selected from a limited number of courses in a variety of topics that are taught in English specifically for international students, who are primarily American.



Eligibility

- Must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student in good academic and disciplinary standing
- Minimum 3.0 average language GPA (if applicable)
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- This program is designed for students with limited or no German language experience. If you have 4+ semesters of college-level German, you should apply to the original BCGS: German program.

Housing

The program has a couple of housing options to choose from, which include The Social Hub or The Student Village.

Life in Berlin

Berlin is the capital city and the largest city in Germany. The city has become known for its art scene and entrepreneurial environment. Berlin is home to world renowned Universities, museums, orchestras, and entertainment venues. This city, rich in history and historical monuments, will provide endless cultural outlets for city dwellers and visitors alike. Visits to museums, galleries, cultural and political institutions, and historic sites and landmarks all contribute to providing a deeper understanding of Germany's past and its current role in the European Union and global affairs.



Berlin Consortium for German Studies

The Berlin Consortium for German Studies (BCGS) was founded in 1995 by a group of U.S. universities for highly motivated and independent students dedicated to mastering the German language and who wish to challenge themselves by using German to learn more about their own areas of study.

The members of the BCGS are the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Barnard College, Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University in association with the University of Notre Dame, and Vassar College. The program is hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin (FU). Students from other institutions are welcome to apply to the program.



Cultural Excursions

BCGS organizes a series of excursions and cultural activities in and around the city, which provide an insider's look into Berlin and Germany.

Past activities have included:

- Guided tours to Berlin neighborhoods and city attractions
- Performances at opera houses and theaters
- Visits at political institutions to discuss current issues
- Study trips to Hamburg, Nuremberg, Dresden, Leipzig, Cologne, or Munich