FU-BEST

An Introduction to the
Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program
Berlin

- A **dynamic**, multicultural, Central European metropolis with 3.4 million inhabitants
- A **rich and dramatic past**, spanning many centuries and the ups and downs of German history, and an **exciting political present**
- A spectacular diversity of **cultural offerings**, featuring numerous museums, opera houses, a lively art and music scene, and countless clubs
- A very **young, student-oriented, and affordable** city
- A first-class public transportation network, plus **convenient access to various destinations** in Germany and throughout (Central) Europe
Freie Universität Berlin

- One of Germany's premier institutions of higher education
- Founded in 1948
- Ca. 31,000 students, more than 180 degree programs
- A strong international profile, featuring leadership in international education
- A high percentage of foreign students (16%)
- Numerous partnerships with foreign universities (especially in the U.S.)
- Located in Berlin's charming southwestern sector, yet with easy access to the city's center
FU-BEST at a glance

• Intensive, academic program in 2 semesters of 15 weeks each
  (Fall: August – December, Spring: February – May)

• Largest semester-based study abroad program running on the North American calendar in Germany

• Founded in 2005

• About 150-180 participants per semester

• 95 % of participants come from U.S. universities and colleges

Participants gather at the start of the semester…
Courses

• Mandatory **German language** instruction, but no prior knowledge required

• Intensive German classes (4 days/week, 2 levels/semester, 132 contact hours) at seven levels of proficiency
  or Beginning Experiential German (2 days/week plus 6 excursion days, 84 contact hours)

• **Subject courses** in various fields, mostly taught in English (45 contact hours)

• **GermanPLUS+ package** taught in German for Advanced students
Subjects and Structures

Subject course disciplines include

History  Political Science / European Studies
Philosophy  Film and Media Studies
Sociology  Environmental Studies
Music (History)  Art History and Architecture
Business  Legal Studies
Religion / Culture  German Literature and Culture
Gender Studies  Economics

Subject classes meet once a week and feature independent projects and fieldwork.
Subjects and Structures

All syllabi are available online (www.fubest.org):

FU-BEST 2: Integration, Conflict, and Security in Europe

- Download Syllabus

This course surveys and examines a variety of aspects of international politics in Europe, with particular focus on the Cold War and post-Cold War eras.

We will review the postwar history of international politics in Europe, followed by an in-depth study of European integration in general and the European Union in particular, the role played by security organizations (especially NATO and the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe), U.S. and Soviet/Russian policy toward Europe, the eruption of ethno-political conflict (especially in the Balkans), the international impact of Germany’s recent reunification, and the quest for order, security, and stability in a region that is no longer divided by the Iron Curtain but in which international politics continues to be shaped and affected by East-West as well as North-South contrasts.
New Subject Courses in 2017

“The Reformation Heritage in Germany and Europe” (FU-BEST 32)
explores the legacy of the Protestant Reformation in Germany and Europe in light of its upcoming 500th commemoration, including a field trip to the town of Wittenberg.

“Green Business: German and European Sustainable Entrepreneurship” (FU-BEST 33)
provides an introduction to recent developments in Germany and the EU with regard to a green and sustainable economy, including case studies and group work to develop a green business.
A combination of **two advanced German language courses and three subject courses**, all taught **in German**.

- an addition to your German studies at home;
- a preparation for a (longer) study abroad stay in Germany;
- a way to gain skills for a career in German Studies

**Language prerequisites:**
German Advanced 1 or 2.
Extended classroom

• Program uses Berlin as an academic historical, cultural, and political resource

• Excursions within Berlin are an integral part of all subject and German language courses, e.g.:
  - Museums
  - Memorials
  - Historical buildings and sites
  - Political and cultural institutions
  - Exhibitions
  - Exclusive round-table discussions, tours and lectures

• Volunteering opportunities and Internship option
Cultural Program

• Students receive a semester-long **pass for all State Museums** in Berlin

• **Two events** from a choice of classical concerts, opera/ballet, and soccer games

• One **week-long excursion** per semester to German/European destinations

• **German Stammtisch & Language Tandem** option
Internships

- Internships take place after the Spring semester (June/July)
- They are full-time (30-40 hrs. per week) for a duration of 8 weeks
- Work placement needs to be related to student’s field of study
- Including a colloquium on intercultural differences and particularities of the German workplace culture and work ethic
- Fee of 3,375 € also includes housing, insurance, matching, advising and support
- Internships most probably unpaid, but for credit (10 ECTS) and an invaluable experience making a big difference on the job market!
Visa and Residency

• U.S. and Canadian citizens in this program do not need to apply for a visa before entering the European Union

• The program handles immigration and residency permit matters with all participants on site

Student services

• Participants will be enrolled as temporary Freie Universität Berlin students and have access to all facilities, libraries, and services of the university

• Student ID doubles as public transportation pass
Quality Assurance

- Annual course review by Academic Board, composed of five tenured Freie Universität Berlin professors from various disciplines, chaired by the Vice-President for International Affairs

- Teaching Standards of Freie Universität Berlin and ECTS Credits

- Successful Completion of the *Forum on Education Abroad*’s QUIP (Quality Improvement Program)

- Maximum Class Sizes:  
  - German as foreign language: 15 students  
  - Subject courses: 20 students

- Transparent Academic Regulations / Code of Conduct

- Written anonymous student evaluations at the end of each semester
Partners

- University of California EAP
- American University
- UNC Chapel Hill
- Rutgers University
- Syracuse University
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Maryland
- Boston College
- Seattle University
- University of Denver

plus a large number of additional colleges and universities (Σ = 45+)
Fees

- Application & Technology Fee: 100 €
- Tuition Fee: 3,300 € (German language and 2-4 subject courses)
- Housing Fee: 2,300 € (studio apartment or homestay)
- Program Fee: 2,000 €

Program Fee includes:
- Freie Universität Berlin Enrolment Fee and Student ID
- Orientation Days, Welcome Reception, and Farewell Dinner
- Public transportation pass
- Cultural program (such as week-long program excursion and local field trips)
- Semester pass for all State Museums in Berlin
- Books/readers
- Official Freie Universität Berlin transcript
- Liability and Accident Insurance
Dates and Deadlines

SPRING 2017
Semester Dates: Jan 30 – May 19, 2017
Application Deadline: Nov 1, 2016

FALL 2017
Application Deadline: Apr 1, 2017
Hungry for More?

Check out our sister program FUBiS (Freie Universität Berlin International Summer and Winter University)!

• Intensive, academic program; sessions run in 3 terms in summer and winter
  Term I (winter): early January – late January (3 weeks)
  Term II (summer): late May/early June – mid-July (6 weeks)
  Term III (summer): mid-July – mid-August (4 weeks)

• Largest multi-disciplinary summer and winter university in Germany

• 2016 in numbers:
  – About 650 students
  – About 45 nationalities
  – More than 60 courses

www.fubis.org
Thank you for your attention!

www.fubest.org
Contact Information

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