Pursuing Graduate Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and LMU Munich

Webinar, January 25, 2017
Katja Simons, Executive Director
German University Alliance, New York City

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Why American Students Are Flocking to Germany — and Staying

by ANDY ECKARDT and CARLO ANGERER

For Americans Seeking Affordable Degrees, German Schools Beckon

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Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday

Tuition to U.S. universities has surged 500 percent since 1985 and continues to rise. But German universities offer free education to everyone -- including Americans.
Top Reasons for Pursuing Graduate Studies in Germany

1. Top degrees recognized around the world
2. Many programs offered in English
3. Studying internationally broadens the borders of any field
4. Low tuition fees, or none at all
5. Welcome & support structures in place
Three Cycles: Academic Degree Structure

Bachelor’s Degree
- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)

Master’s Degree
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Engineering (MEng), LL.M

Research-oriented Master’s Degree
Professional Master’s Degree

Doctoral Degree
PhD = Dr. rer. nat., Dr. phil.,
Dr. rer. soz.

Graduate School

Qualified students holding a Bachelor’s degree may be recommended for a PhD fast-track, linking Master and PhD programs (if applicable)
Language Requirements

International Master Programs

- Growing number of programs taught in English
- No proof of German skills required
- Proficiency in English does not need to be certified if BA from institution with English as official language or if native speaker

German-taught Master Programs

- Submit proof of language proficiency
- German Language Certificates, e.g.:
  “Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang” (DSH)
  “TestDaF” (can be taken in the US, www.testdaf.de)

Other languages may be required for certain subject fields; check which language certificates are accepted by university
Applying to a Master Program

Application procedures and requirements vary (check online)
=> submit application directly to university (LMU Munich)
=> apply via the online portal Uni Assist [uni-assist.de] (FU Berlin)

- Undergraduate degree in specific fields of study required
- Submit online application form, proof of language proficiency, supporting documents (e.g. CV, transcripts of records incl. final grade, letter of motivation & reference)
- Application deadlines vary for summer semester (April-Sept) and for winter semester (Oct-Mar)
Doctorate in Germany – Different Options

Individual Doctoral Studies
Apprenticeship Model

The doctoral candidate

...has a supervisor
...is free to choose a subject
...has no timely limitations
...has no curriculum to follow

Doctoral Programs
Structured Doctorate

The doctoral candidate

...has a team of supervisors
...is integrated into a network
...has a time frame (3 years)
...has a complementary curriculum
...has a supervision agreement

86% of all doctoral candidates

14% of all doctoral candidates
Applying for individual doctoral studies

Steps:
- Independent search for a supervisor
- Receipt of a confirmation of supervision from the supervisor or conclusion of a supervision agreement
- Request for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the examination office
- Receipt of a notification of acceptance as a doctoral candidate
- Enrollment: Applicants with a foreign university degree: Submitting a request for university admission to the International Office

Funding: Discuss funding options with supervisor
Applying for a doctorate in a structured program

Steps:
• Selection of a suitable doctoral program
• Application by respective deadline
• Participation in the competitive selection process
• In the event of successful application, the program provides support in the further administrative steps (e.g. applying for the additionally required acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the faculty, and possibly in the enrollment process).

Funding: check what kind of financial support program can offer / position in a structured program, grant/scholarships
## Cost of living and studying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Berlin</th>
<th>Munich</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Mostly tuition-free programs</td>
<td>• Mostly tuition-free programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Semester fee €310 (includes public transportation ticket)</td>
<td>• Semester fee €120 (includes basic public transportation, excludes IsarCard €189)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mandatory health Insurance for students (€80/month)</td>
<td>• Mandatory health insurance for students (€80/month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average costs of living about €700/month (rent, food, phone fees)</td>
<td>• Average cost of living about €900/month (rent, food, phone fees)</td>
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</table>

Accommodation: Start your hunt early! Look for information on “housing” on the university’s website.
Short-term or Research Opportunities

**Summer /Winter University**

- FUBiS (International Summer and Winter University, www.fubis.org)
- MISU (Munich International Summer University and Winter, www.lmu.de/international/misu)

**Research Grants**

- DAAD: Study Scholarship or Research Grants (www.daad.org)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program: Study/Research Awards (us.fulbrightonline.org)
Freie Universität Berlin
International Network University
www.fu-berlin.de/en
Berlin

- German capital at the heart of Europe
- One of the world’s top 10 best cities for students
- Booming economy and exciting startup scene
Freie Universität - Profile

- Selected twice as a German University of Excellence
- THE Ranking: from rank 151 in 2011 to 72 in 2016
- Unique: „Area Studies“ on North America, Latin America, Eastern Europe, East Asia, Muslim Cultures & Societies
- Further foci within the Excellence Initiative: Ancient Civilizations, Literary Studies, Mathematics, Nanoscale Materials, Neuroscience, Oncology, Regenerative Therapies
- Over 30,500 students and 4300 doctoral candidates
- About 105 master’s degree programs (including 24 taught in English); 50 doctoral degree programs
- 20 % of int’l students in master’s programs (17 % of the students overall), 32 % int’l doctoral candidates
Master and Doctoral Programs

- Master Programs & Doctoral Degree: [www.fu-berlin.de => Education => Study Programs]
- Online Assistant for choosing field of study [www.osa.fu-berlin.de](http://www.osa.fu-berlin.de) (program description, examples of modules and tasks, interviews with current students, self-assessment test)
International Master’s Programs (examples)

MSc Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neurosciences

COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES
Department of History and Cultural Studies / MA INTELLECTUAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE ISLAMICATE WORLD

M.Sc. Environmental Earth Sciences

GLOBAL HISTORY MA

MASTER OF ARTS “SOCIOLOGY – EUROPEAN SOCIETIES”

EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES ONLINE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ONLINE

Master of Arts Visual and Media Anthropology

MBL-FU Master of Business, Competition and Regulatory Law
Graduate Schools at Freie Universität Berlin

- Berlin School of Integrative Oncology
- Graduate School of North American Studies
- Berlin Mathematical School
- Berlin Mathematical School
- Graduate School of East Asian Studies
- Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies
Dahlem Research School (DRS)

Freie Universität’s Center for Early Career Researchers
Structured doctoral programs under one overarching framework

Services for doctoral candidates:

• Welcome services for (international) fellows
• Information & advice
• Mentoring for female candidates
• Develop research related skills and management competencies
• Career development support for careers inside and outside academia
DRS Support for international candidates

**FUBright**

**WELCOME**
- Welcome Events & Services
- Buddy Program
- German Language Courses

**FUBright**

**QUALIFICATION**
- Peer Mentoring
- Writing
- Presenting
- Publishing

**FUBright**

**MOBILITY**
- Conference trips
- Research stays

**FUBright**

**CAREER**
- Career Transition Days
- Business Training
- Coaching & Mentoring

**Integrating into Academia & Society**

**Successfully Completing your Doctorate**

**Enhancing your international Profile**

**Managing Transition into (German) Job Market**
Munich

Munich is...
Bavaria’s capital
...Germany’s primary hub for higher education, research, technology and media
...located within easy reach of the Bavarian Alps
LMU Munich – one of Europe’s leading research universities with over 500 years of tradition:

- Selected twice as German University of Excellence
- THE Ranking: 30th place, best German university
- Research focus areas: Ancient Studies, Area Studies with an emphasis on Eastern Europe, Nano Sciences, Origin of the Universe, Photonics and Quantum Optics, Molecular Biosystems, Neurosciences, Protein Sciences, Translational Health Science
- 51,025 students (15% international students), 1,270 doctoral degrees awarded each year
- More than 130 Master Programs (incl. 24 taught entirely in English-taught)
- More than 35 Doctoral Programs
Master Programs: www.lmu.de => Students => Degree Students => Master Programs

Doctoral Programs: www.graduatecenter.uni-muenchen.de

For further information on the academic focus of a program as well as the application procedures and closing dates, please refer to the website of the specific program.
Examples of Master Programs

**MUNICH CENTER OF THE LEARNING SCIENCES**

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES**

**AMERICAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

**FACULTY OF BIOLOGY**

**MASTER PROGRAMS IN BIOLOGY**

**ELITE MASTER COURSE**

**THEORETICAL AND MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE (M. SC.)**

**MASTER’S PROGRAM IN ECONOMICS**

**FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STATISTICS**

**ELITE MASTER PROGRAM DATA SCIENCE**
The Graduate School of Neurosciences (GSN) offers the opportunity for especially qualified applicants holding a neuroscience related bachelor's degree to directly enter the PhD program. Students requiring preparatory training may be admitted to the fast-track PhD program. During the first two semesters of the fast-track program (preparatory year), students receive basic training in neuroscience, which is in close collaboration with the GSN master's programs (Neurosciences and Neurocognitive Psychology).
Examples of Structured Doctoral Programs

Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies

GS DW
Graduate School Distant Worlds

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
GRADUATE SCHOOL
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE MUNICH

Graduate School of Quantitative Biosciences Munich

mgse

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY
GRADUATE SCHOOL
LIFE SCIENCE MUNICH
LMU Graduate Center – Doctoral Studies

The Graduate Center is the central coordination and service unit for doctoral studies at LMU Munich. It offers advice and support for doctoral students as well as for professors and coordinators of doctoral programs. LMU Munich currently offers more than 35 doctoral programs in a broad range of disciplines. In addition, the university cooperates with other institutions on a doctoral level.

Services for doctoral students:
• general information on doctorates at LMU Munich
• wide range of courses in transferable skills
• LMU Completion Grant
• Travel Grant

www.en.graduatecenter.lmu.de
For more information:

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