Frequently Asked Questions

Does Freie Universität Berlin offer an on- or off-campus accommodation?

There is no on-campus accommodation, but our accommodation service offers various off-campus dorms and shared apartments. Since there has been an increase in the demand for student housing, we recommend that students apply as soon as possible after having received their admission letters. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung

Can I apply for a visa to enter Germany and study at Freie Universität Berlin?

It is not possible to study in Germany on a tourist visa. Students who are citizens of the following countries do not need a visa in order to enter Germany: Member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Monaco, San Marino, South Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the USA. Upon arrival in Berlin, citizens of these countries (except EU and EEA) must apply for a residence permit. Students who are citizens of the countries listed above must apply for a visa at their local German Embassy or German Consulate before coming to Germany. For more information, please contact your local German Embassy or German Consulate. As a non-degree exchange student, you cannot apply to Freie Universität Berlin directly. Application procedures, deadlines, and formalities are set by our partner universities’ international offices or by the external scholarship agency, depending on the type of non-degree exchange. Please contact the International Office of your home university or the external scholarship agency directly to find out more about the application procedure.

What kind of visa do I need to enter Germany and to study at Freie Universität Berlin?

Visa requirements are country-specific. Please contact the nearest German Consulate before coming to Germany. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/studieren/beratung/visa

What are the German language requirements to study at Freie Universität Berlin?

Depending on the exchange agreement or the conditions of the external scholarship agency, a certain level of German language skills may be required. Generally, in order to follow and successfully complete courses, German language skills equivalent to at least B2, preferably B1 (CEFR), are recommended.

What is the language of instruction at Freie Universität Berlin?

The main language of instruction is German. However, some departments offer courses taught in English. Their availability may vary and cannot be guaranteed. As the courses change each semester, please consult the online course catalog for an overview of courses taught in English. The online course catalogue is generally available about three months prior to the beginning of the semester. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/studieren/beratung/beratungspraxis/sprachpraxis

How can I apply for a non-degree exchange?

As a non-degree exchange student, you need to contact your home university or the external scholarship agency, a certain level of German language skills may be required. Generally, in order to follow and successfully complete courses, German language skills equivalent to at least B2, preferably B1 (CEFR), are recommended.

Does Freie Universität Berlin charge tuition from exchange students?

Exchange students do not pay tuition or registration fees. However, all students pay the so-called “semester fees and contributions” of currently approximately 300 € per semester. These are non-university related fees and go to the student union, for example, for student representation and medical insurance.

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Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 on the principles of academic freedom and democracy. It is one of Germany’s leading research universities with nearly 30,000 students and 4,000 staff. As an “International Network University,” we continue a tradition of strategic academic partnerships, joint research projects, and direct and departmental exchange programs. Since 1955, when the University of Berlin dissolved, our university has played an active role in cultural, political, and economic life.

Berlin is one of the most exciting cities in Europe. As Germany’s capital and cultural metropolis, it attracts people from around the world. A vibrant and constantly changing city, it is a center of cultural, political, and economic life.

The Dahlem campus hosts the majority of the university’s 15 departments, schools, and central institutes.

Departments, Schools, and Central Institutes

- Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy
- School of Business and Economics
- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department of Education and Psychology
- Department of History and Cultural Studies
- Department of Law
- Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Department of Political and Social Sciences
- Department of Physics
- Department of Philosophy and Humanities
- Department of Arts & Humanities
- Department of Cultural Studies
- Department of Veterinary Medicine
- Institute of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences
- Institute for Latin-American Studies
- John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies
- Institute for Comparative Literature

Together with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin offers medical studies at the Medical School Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. For further information on the exchange programs of the Charité, please contact the Charité International Cooperation Office.

For more information on the various programs of the Language Center and course registration, please see: www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/

Discover Courses beyond your own Field of Study

Freie Universität offers a program of studies exclusively for exchange students. Courses in this program...

- are offered in various fields including culture, and society in a European perspective, providing knowledge relevant to understanding current affairs, culture and everyday life in contemporary Berlin (and Germany more generally);
- give you more confidence regarding your spoken and written (academic) German;
- improve your German

The university’s Language Center and its department for German as a Foreign Language offers courses to foreign students prior to and during the semester, as well as providing a self-learning center, where students can develop their language skills independently. You can also register for a language test, which will be matched with a native German-speaker and can meet regularly to help you improve your language skills in an informal setting.

Advantages for Exchange Students

- A simplified admissions and enrolment procedure
- Support from our student exchange office and an orientation program before the semester starts, making your first steps easier in Berlin and in Berlin campus.
- A wide range of German language courses for exchange students during the semester, from basic to advanced level
- The opportunity to take courses about Berlin’s history, and culture that have been designed specifically for exchange students

Courses are taught in German and English. They are open to students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.

For more information on the various programs of the Language Center and course registration, please see: www.sprachzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/

Improve your German

Outside of our regular exchange programs, we also offer in-International students the opportunity to spend some time at Freie Universität Berlin in the FU-BEST (Freie Universität Berlin-European Students) and FUBIS (International Summer and Winter University) programs. For more information on these programs, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/stud/and www.fu-berlin.de/das

For international students seeking to pursue degree studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the normal admissions procedure applies. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/stud/ademic/ibse

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The intensive pre-semester language courses take place in the six weeks leading up to the semester. The course is offered at a reduced price for exchange students and range from 4 to 8 hours of classes per week.

For more information on the various programs of the Language Center and course registration, please see: www.sprachzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/

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