Course offerings

- German language (all levels offered on double-course intensive track plus extra single-course section of “Beginning Experiential German”)
- Contemporary Germany in European Perspective
- Integration, Conflict, and Security in Europe
- History and Philosophy of Modern Art in Central Europe
- German Cinema before 1945
- The Human Condition and the Totalitarian Experience
- Berlin: History, Memory, Literature
- Modern German History in European Context
- The Promise of German Philosophy: Kant to Hegel
- Tragedy and New Beginnings in German Philosophy
- Islam and Europe
- European Business Cultures
- Architecture in Berlin from the 19th Century to Today
- Contemporary Cinema in Germany and Europe
- Themes and Issues in Transatlantic Relations
- European Legal Traditions
- Environmental Politics and Policy in Europe
- Art and Dictatorship
- Pop Culture: European-American Trends
- European Traditions in Sociology
- Media Politics
- History of European Diplomacy
- Europe in the Global Economy
- Jewish Life in Central Europe
- Migration: Dynamics and Controversies in Europe and Berlin
- Women’s and Gender Studies in Transatlantic Context
- Film Music: Listening Outside the Frame
- Music in the Digital Age
- Energizing Europe: 21st Century Renewable and Fossil Transformations
- Green Business
- Start-up Businesses: Theory and Practice in Berlin, Germany, and Europe
- Christianity and Modernity in Contemporary Germany
- Music and Theater on the Stage: Past and Present of European Opera
- Theatermetropole Berlin
- Deutsch, Deutscher, Deutschland: Identität(en), Geschichte, Politik

Academic calendar

- Start of Fall semester: last week of August
- Midterm break: last week of October
- End of Fall semester: mid-December
- Start of Spring semester: end of January
- Midterm break: second half of March
- End of Spring semester: mid-May

Application deadlines
- Fall Semester: April 1
- Spring Semester: November 1

Course enrollment is carried out on a first-come-first-served basis. Application materials can be found on our website.

For further information, please contact:

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Welcome to FU-BEST, the Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program! We invite you to examine the information available and hope, of course, that you will decide to spend one or two semesters with us in the exciting German capital!

About 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
- A spectacular diversity of cultural offerings, featuring countless museums and world-renowned orchestras, opera houses, and theaters
- Ample recreational opportunity in parks, forests, and at the area’s many lakes
- A first-class public transportation network, plus convenient access to various destinations in Germany and throughout (Central) Europe
- A vibrant night-life, producing a “city that never sleeps”...

About Freie Universität Berlin

- Freie Universität Berlin ranks near the top in all of the major German and international university rankings and was awarded the designation “university of excellence” several consecutive times in the Excellence Initiative jointly sponsored by the German federal government and the governments of the federal states.
- The students, instructors, and researchers at Freie Universität include a large number of award winners, who hold distinctions including prestigious academic awards, individual honors, and prizes for theses and dissertations.
- The university campus is located in the charming and mostly residential southwestern section of Berlin. Using Berlin’s superb public transportation network, it is within easy reach of the city’s downtown areas.

Program features

- An academic calendar consisting of two North American-style Fall (September-December) and Spring (February-May) semesters
- Participants can enroll in one or two semesters
- Mandatory enrollment in German language is offered as intensive double-course track at all levels. A single-course Beginner section is also available.
- A menu of non-language courses taught in English or German by expert faculty, covering such topics and disciplines as cultural studies, art history, literature, the European Union, German and European history, German and European politics, architecture, film studies, music history, business, economics, philosophy, and environmental studies
- Local field-trips as integral component of many of the courses, in accordance with the program’s central “extended classroom” concept
- A one-week excursion inside Germany and/or to neighboring countries (included in the semester’s Program Fee)
- A two-month internship option after the conclusion of the Spring semester

Financial and housing information

- Tuition: 3,800 Euros per semester
- Program Fee: 2,150 Euros; includes: Welcome Reception and Farewell Dinner, Orientation Days, several concerts/operas, a museum pass, a monthly public transportation pass, a major offsite excursion, and course materials. Transportation to and from Berlin and other personal expenses are not included.
- Housing Fee: 3,960 Euros per semester for program-arranged housing in The Student Hotel (single-occupancy, furnished room with private bath and shared kitchen); 2,500 Euros per semester for program-arranged housing in the Student Village (single-occupancy, furnished room with shared bath and kitchen facilities); 2,800 Euros for a homestay (private, furnished room; including breakfast and dinner). Participants may also opt out of program housing and arrange their own accommodation.
- Application & Technology Fee: 100 Euros (payable after acceptance of admission)
- Insurance Fee: 200 Euros

Freie Universität Berlin is a fully accredited institution, permitting full transfer of credits earned to participants’ home institutions and, where possible, the use of students’ home financial aid packages.