Course offerings

- German language (all levels offered on double-course intensive track plus extra single-course section of "Beginning Experiential German")
- GermanPLUS’ package
- Contemporary Germany in European Perspective
- Integration, Conflict, and Security in Europe
- Exploring Classical Music: Baroque to Contemporary
- Perspectives on 20th Century 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
- 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
- Heritage of the Reformation in Germany and Europe

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 the website.

For further information, please contact:

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VERSION OF OCTOBER 2018
Welcome to FU-BEST, the Berlin European Studies Program of Freie Universität Berlin! We invite you to examine the information available and hope, of course, that you will decide to spend one or more 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 is a premier destination for research and education in Europe.
- It is ranked nationally and internationally among the top research universities in Germany. In 2007, after an intense, nation-wide competition, Freie Universität Berlin became one of nine German universities to be awarded an Elite status by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In 2012, Freie Universität Berlin was granted the honor of being named university of excellence in the Excellence Initiative competition for the second consecutive time. Freie Universität Berlin won the highest number of grants and was selected for its outstanding graduate programs, excellent research clusters and successful internationalization strategy.
- 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 addition to individualized assignments when feasible
- 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
- GermanPLUS+: an attractive course package for those with advanced German language skills

Financial and housing information

- Tuition: 3,600 Euros per semester for the Fall and Spring semesters
- Housing Fee: 2,800 Euros per semester for program-arranged housing in a single-occupancy, fully furnished studio apartment or a homestay (including breakfast and dinner); not applicable when independent housing is arranged
- Program Fee: 2,000 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.
- Application & Technology Fee: 100 Euros (payable after acceptance of admission)
- 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