

# PEER MENTORING NEWSLETTER TAKEOVER: SUMMER EDITION

## JUNE 2025

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IN THIS EDITION

[LETTER FROM THE PEER MENTORS](#)

[ABOUT THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM](#)

[studierendenWERK BERLIN and Freie Universität Berlin:  
EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[BERLIN EVENTS](#)

[MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER IN BERLIN](#)

[BERLIN SUMMER TIPS FROM THE PEER MENTORS](#)

[BONUS SUMMER TIPS!](#)



# LETTER FROM THE PEER MENTORS

By Merna Mahmoud

Dear Peers,

For the Peer Mentoring Newsletter Takeover, we're thrilled to be curating this Summer Edition just for you! With the semester in full swing and summer just around the corner, it's the perfect time to take a breath, reflect, and maybe even try something new.

Over the past few months, we've had the chance to meet many of you: whether it was through our events, conversations at our pop-up booth, or shared laughs during a picnic. It's been truly exciting to see how this community keeps growing and supporting one another.

In this issue, we've gathered upcoming events and tips to help you navigate the summer semester and make the most of the sunny days ahead. Whether you're preparing for exams, making summer plans, or just looking for ways to connect, there's something for everyone!

We would like to thank you for being part of this journey with us and hope this edition inspires you to make the best of this summer semester. We are always here for you, supporting and cheering you on through every step of your journey at Freie Universität Berlin.

With warm wishes,

♥ Your Peer Mentoring Team



## CONTACT US

[Peer Mentoring Website](#)

[International Student Support Website](#)

## E-MAIL

[international@studienberatung.fu-berlin.de](mailto:international@studienberatung.fu-berlin.de)

# ABOUT THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

By Mithila Nandiny Shome

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After an active spring, we're not done yet — June is going to bring us a plenties of exciting events! Below is the list of all the upcoming events and the online registration form is available here so that we don't miss out:

## OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

**11.06.2025**

### **CONNECT COFFEE: COFFEE, SNACKS, AND TALKS WITH COUNSELORS AND PEER MENTORS**

Grab a cup of coffee and snacks and connect over meaningful conversations at Connect Coffee – a relaxed session on self-care, time management, methods of scientific work as well as opportunities to meet our peer mentors. Whether you have questions, ideas, or just want to chat, this is your space to connect.

**12.06.2025**

### **STOP WAITING, START DOING: STUDY TECHNIQUES & BATTLING PROCRASTINATION**

Need practical tips to stay on top of your studies? We've got you covered at our "Study Techniques & Battling Procrastination" event. Online [registration form](#) required.

**13.06.2025**

### **SPRING FOODIE FEST**

Bring a dish, share your story, and enjoy what others have brought. Our international potluck is all about community, culture, and connection through food and good company. Online [registration form](#) required.

Registration is required for some of the events. You can register through our online [registration form](#).



## PEER MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS

April & May

**03.04.2025**

Orientation Event, Summer Semester 2025: Info Session: Peer Mentoring Program for International Students

**04.04.2025**

How to Find an Apartment in Berlin

**30.04.2025**

Libraries in Berlin

**11.05.2025**

Sunday Picnic at Mauerpark

**15.05.2025**

Excursion: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin / Unter den Linden 8

**16.05.2025**

Online Info Event: German Academic Culture

From welcome booths to mindfulness breaks — here's a look at how our Peer Mentoring Team has been supporting international students this semester and what we've been up to!

On April 3rd, we warmly welcomed our new international students with a mentoring session and a Q&A booth where they could get guidance and tips from our peer mentors. After the formal part, students enjoyed a relaxed outdoor get-together which was a great chance for students to connect with the peer mentors and ask questions.

If you were unable to attend the orientation event and have general questions about your studies, the [Info-Service Studium](#) as well as [General Academic Advising](#) and [Psychological Counselling](#) are always there to support you throughout your studies.

The [Getting Started](#) online guide is another great way to access additional information about starting your studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Also please find further information about our Peer Mentoring Program for International Students and our upcoming events on our [website](#).



For those facing Berlin's housing challenges, the April 23rd session of "How to Find an Apartment in Berlin" covered practical advice on rental platforms, search strategies and understanding the local housing system. This event will be covered again in July and we look forward to announcing more information soon on our [website](#).

We kept the momentum going with a helpful online info session on Berlin's library system on April 30th. Students learned how to access public and university libraries and make the most of FU's and Berlin's library system.

The [Mauerpark](#) picnic on May 11th brought together the Mentors and the students from across programs for a relaxed Sunday afternoon of meeting new friends, playing games, and simply enjoying time together in the heart of Berlin.

On May 15th, we visited the [Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin](#) to explore Berlin's largest research library. Students enjoyed a guided tour by the library staff, could register themselves and gained insights into the important resources available for research and study.



Ever wondered how things really work in German universities? In this interactive session "German Academic Culture" on May 16th, the International Student Support Team gave valuable insights into academic norms, expectations, and examination rules. Our peer mentors also shared their own experiences which created a space for open and relatable conversations. We look forward to covering this event again – the details for the next session will be published soon.

These were the key highlights from April and May – we would like to thank everyone who joined and helped make our events so engaging. Stay up to date about upcoming events by visiting our [website](#)!

# studierendenWERK BERLIN and Freie Universität Berlin: EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

By Idil

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Did you know that [studierendenWERK BERLIN](#) (stW BERLIN) and Freie Universität Berlin offer great events for students?

Whether you're looking to boost your skills, meet new people, or just have some fun, there's something for everyone – and many events are offered in English!

## STUDY/WORK EVENTS

**24.06.2025**     [Bumpy Start in Berlin?](#) (Freie Universität Berlin)

## FUN EVENTS

**28.06.2025**     [Culture Trip: Paddle through the Wind of Change](#) (by stW BERLIN)

## GET TOGETHERS

**12.06.2025**     [Clothes Swap & Karaoke](#) (stW BERLIN)

## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

**01.06.-  
30.06.2025**     [International Month](#) at Freie Universität Berlin  
Join lectures, workshops, cultural events, and networking activities all through the month of June.

# BERLIN EVENTS

By Anna Stratiienko

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Berlin in June is buzzing — and the best part? You can experience a lot of it without spending a single cent. Whether you're into music, architecture, film, or just soaking up summer vibes, there's something happening in this city every week. Here's a quick round-up of free events you won't want to miss:

## CULTURE & MUSIC



### [FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE](#)

Various open-air locations  
21.06.2025

On the longest day of the year, Berlin becomes one giant stage. Musicians take over streets, courtyards, and squares. Walk around the city and follow the music — everything from indie bands to classical quartets.

### [STAATSOPER FÜR ALLE](#)

Bebelplatz, Mitte  
22.06.2025

Enjoy opera and classical music under the open sky right in the city center. No tickets needed; just bring a blanket and sit back as the Staatskapelle Berlin performs on a giant stage.

### [BERLIN JAZZ WEEK](#)

Various venues  
27.06.–05.07.2025

A packed program of performances, many of which are free. Whether you're a jazz lover or a curious newcomer, this is the perfect chance to explore Berlin's jazz scene.

## ART, ARCHITECTURE, & URBAN CULTURE

### [BERLIN BEATS AT HAMBURGER BAHNHOF](#)

Hamburger Bahnhof (Museum Garden)  
13.06.–28.08.2025

Experimental sound meets Berlin summer air. This free open-air concert series takes place in the museum garden – perfect for an atmospheric night out.

### [48 STUNDEN NEUKÖLLN](#)

Various locations in Neukölln  
27.–29.06.2025

This alternative art festival turns Neukölln into a creative playground. With hundreds of pop-up exhibitions, performances, and sound installations, you can explore Berlin's underground art scene up close.

### [ARCHITECTURE DAYS 2025](#)

All over Berlin  
28.–29.06.2025

Curious about Berlin's architecture? Get behind-the-scenes access to design studios, modern buildings, and projects – with tours led by the architects themselves.

## FILM, NATURE, & FESTIVALS

### [OPEN-AIR CINEMA SEASON](#)

Various outdoor locations  
May – September 2025

Berlin's open-air cinema tradition continues all summer. While not all screenings are free, you can often catch independent or short films at no cost – especially in parks or cultural centers.

There's honestly too much to list in one issue of the newsletter, but these highlights should keep your weekends packed. If you're feeling overwhelmed by options – just start with one and see where the day takes you. Berlin in summer is magical like that. See you out there!



# MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER IN BERLIN

By Merna Mahmoud

Summer in Berlin is honestly one of the best times to be here. The city completely changes when the sun comes out, and it can really do wonders for your wellbeing after a long, grey winter (and maybe a stressful semester too). Here's a step by step guide to get the best of Berlin's summer!

## STEP ONE: EMBRACE THE SUNNY DAYS

We don't get long summers here, so when the good weather finally arrives, try to soak it in. Even just taking your reading or lunch outside can give you a real energy boost. It's amazing what a bit of sun can do for your mood and motivation. And if you're looking for peaceful places to enjoy plants and nature, Berlin has some beautiful green spaces. The [Botanischer Garten in Dahlem](#), for example, is a lovely spot to slow down and recharge as you take a walk among thousands of plant species.

## STEP TWO: EXPLORE BERLIN'S LAKES

On warm weekends, heading to a lake like [Wannsee](#) is such a refreshing escape. You can swim, relax, or just have a picnic with friends. It's a personal favourite

spot, and usually June is a good time to start before it gets too crowded later in summer.

## STEP THREE: JOIN OUTDOOR SPORTS OR GROUP ACTIVITIES

Whether it's beach volleyball, yoga in the park, or just a casual football game, moving your body outside is both fun and great for your mental health. Check out the program offered by [UniSport](#) at Freie Universität Berlin; they often have summer courses or open sessions you can join, even as a beginner.

## STEP FOUR: CHERISH THE SMALL JOYS

Summer is also a great time for simple pleasures: exploring different neighbourhoods, grabbing ice cream from new places, reading a book in a shady spot in a [Berlin park](#), such as the [Tiergarten](#), or catching an outdoor movie at a [Freiluftkino](#) (open-air cinema!).

Whatever you do, take time for yourself. Summer is a chance to reset, breathe a little, and enjoy Berlin in a whole new way.



# BERLIN SUMMER TIPS FROM PEER MENTORS

By Dalreen

## GO SPÄTI HOPPING:

One of the most laid-back and fun ways to experience Berlin like a true local is by wandering through a Kiez

(neighbourhood) and stopping by a few Spätis along the way. Grab a cold drink, sit outside, and chat with friends or strangers—it's a great way to unwind after a busy week at uni and get a feel for the city's chill, spontaneous energy.

## DANCE YOUR HEART OUT IN A [TELEDISKO](#):

If you've never danced in a phone booth, now's your chance. At three spots across Berlin, you can blast your favorite song, enjoy a mini light show, and even snap party pics that print on the spot. It's a quirky, affordable

way to let loose—whether you go with a friend or embrace the solo dance floor life.

## CATCH A FREE [LUNCH CONCERT AT THE PHILHARMONIE](#):

Need a midweek reset? Head over to the Berliner Philharmonie on a Wednesday around 1 p.m. for a free midday concert. These 40–50 minute sessions run from September to June. It's a lovely way to break up your day, especially if you're nearby or want a quiet moment of inspiration between classes.

## BONUS SUMMER TIPS!

By Anna Stratiienko

### HYDRATION IS KEY (especially on public transportation!):

Berlin summers can get unexpectedly hot — especially in U-Bahn stations. Always carry a water bottle. Pro tip: Some of Berlin's parks and squares have [public drinking fountains](#)!

## BRING CASH TO SUMMER FESTIVALS

Even in 2025, many smaller vendors at open-air events or flea markets prefer cash. It's always handy to keep a little on you just in case.

Take advantage of student discounts. Whether it's museum passes, cinema tickets, or bike rentals — always ask for a student discount. A lot of summer cultural events offer free entry or reduced prices if you show your student ID.

## DON'T FORGET TO SLOW DOWN:

With so much happening, it's easy to get FOMO. But remember: Berlin summer isn't a checklist. It's a feeling. Enjoy a slow picnic on the sun-lit green areas outside of campus, wander through quiet charming paths of [Steglitz-Zehlendorf](#), or watch the sunset from [Tempelhofer Feld](#) with a fizzy drink in your hands and music blasting out of a portable speaker.

# CREDITS

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Enormous thanks to the Peer Mentoring Team for curating this issue!

We greatly appreciate the empowering and inspiring content the team of peer mentors composed for this issue as well as the many forms of support shared.

Thank you also to all peer mentors for everyone's ongoing contribution to the Peer Mentoring Program.

This newsletter was written by students – honest, direct, and based on their own experiences. It's not official advice from Freie Universität Berlin, but personal insights and opinions. Just as diverse as campus life itself!

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## **CONTENT**

Anna Stratienko

Dalreen

Idil

Merna Mahmoud

Mithila Nandiny Shome

## **DESIGN**

Merna Mahmoud

## **GRAPHICS**

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## **FONT**

Alexander Slobzheninov

[The Peer Mentoring Program](#) for international students is organized by the [International Student Support \(ISS\)](#) of the Student Services Center, Freie Universität Berlin, located at Ilthisstraße 4, 14195 Berlin.