Frequently Asked Questions

Does Freie Universität Berlin offer off- or on-campus accommodation?
There is no on-campus accommodation, but our accommodation offices offer 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/vv/en/studentenleben

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 mostly course-related fees and go to the student union, the elected student government as well as paying for the public transportation ticket for the entire semester. Students will be asked to pay the fee after arrival in Berlin as part of their enrollment process.

How can I apply for a non-degree exchange?
A non-degree exchange student can only 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 procedures.

What kind of visa do I need to enter Germany and to study at Freie Universität Berlin?
For information on specific services, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/studentenleben

What are the German language requirements to study at Freie Universität Berlin?
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, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK. Upon arrival in Berlin, citizens of these countries (except for the UK) will be asked to provide a proof of the payment of the “semester fees and contributions.”

What is the language of instruction at Freie Universität Berlin?
The main language of instruction is German. However, certain 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-catalogue 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/de/which-student-services-does-freie-universitaet-berlin-offer

Which Student Services does Freie Universität Berlin offer?
Freie Universität Berlin offers a large number of services that are available to students from the very beginning in all possible situations and circumstances. These services include family support, language courses, recreational sports, IT support, and psychological counseling. For information on specific services, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/de/studienberatung
Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 on the principles of academic freedom and democracy. Today, it is one of Germany’s leading research universities, with roughly 30,000 students and professors. As “International University,” we connect students and scholars through unique global alliances of strategic academic partnerships, joint research projects, and international liaison offices. Our global outlook and strategy have made us a leading destination for international researchers and students. Our programs are offered in the following 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 Language and Communication
- Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Department of Philosophy and Humanities
- Department of Political and Social Sciences
- School of Business and Economics
- John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies
- Institute for Latin American Studies
- Department of Veterinary Medicine
- Department of Political and Social Sciences
- School of Business and Economics
- John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies

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

How to come to Freie Universität for an Exchange

Freie Universität Berlin attracts a high number of exchange students every year. For further information on how to come study at our university within the framework of different exchange programs, we usually require you to have degree students to have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies and be interested in specific exchange agreement – to have obtained a certain level of German language proficiency.

- The European Union’s Erasmus+ Program gives students the opportunity to spend part of their studies at another university in Europe. You can apply for two semesters at Freie Universität Berlin within the framework of the Erasmus Program, if your home university has an Erasmus Agreement with Freie Universität Berlin. In addition to our Erasmus Partnerships within Erasmus, we have further partnerships in the Erasmus+ framework. For further information, please contact your home university’s international office.

- The intensive pre-semester language courses take place from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) or the German-American Fulbright Commission. Students apply directly to the external scholarship agency. Scholarships from the DAAD cover the cost of tuition fees, while the Fulbright Commission offers a stipend for living expenses, travel costs, and a one-time reimbursement of a research project. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/auslandsstipendien.html.

For students interested in pursuing degree studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the normal admission procedures apply. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/studien/international/studium_fu/auslandsstipendien.html.

Discover Courses beyond your own Field of Study

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

- cover key aspects of German history, culture, and society.
- offer you the opportunity to study a wide range of topics.
- help you acquire academic and intercultural skills which are useful in a German-speaking academic environment;
- give you confidence regarding your spoken and written (academic) German.

Most of these courses are taught in German to two or three per semester will be offered in English or German to students from all academic fields, with a few courses being designed for students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.

This program is based at the Institute of German and Dutch Studies. The program is designed for exchange students. Courses in this program 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.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/auslandsstipendien.html.

Improve your German

The university’s Language Center, and its department for German as a Foreign Language offers courses for exchange students prior to and during the semester, as well as for a self-studying course, where students can develop their language skills independently. You can also register for a language course, where you will be matched with a native German-speak and can meet up regularly to hone your language skills in an informal setting. The intensive pre-semester language course takes place in the six weeks leading up to the semester start. The reduced course fee for exchange students is €400 Euro (1,350 Euro for all other students). The semester-long course during the semester will have a fee for exchange students and range from €480 to €800 per week.

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