Your Invitation to an
International Exchange Semester
at Freie Universität Berlin

www.fu-berlin.de/incoming-students

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How to Design Your International Exchange Semester at Freie Universität Berlin

Orientation

As an incoming student, you may experience one week of orientation in order to get to know the university, the programme structures and their fellow students more easily. The orientation days include different information events concerning everyday university life as well as activities like campus tours or boat trips. The International Office also organizes further excursions and workshops like “Intercultural Training” during the semester. The International Club offers you and German students a variety of events like movie or bar nights and excursions all year long, which makes it a great place to meet people from all over the world and to become acquainted with Berlin and the university. You also have the opportunity to achieve an intercultural exchange and learn the German language at the same time by taking part in the Tandem Programme of the FU Language Centre.

Courses for International Exchange Students

As an exchange student may sign up for special courses on “Berlin and Germany in a European Perspective”. The different modules cover key aspects of German history, culture or society and help you acquire useful skills for a German academic environment:

- Orientation in Berlin and Germany (GER)
- Central Aspects of German and European Society and Culture (GER)
- Key Issues of German and European Culture (GER)
- Film, Art and Literature in a Social and Cultural Context (GER)
- Aspects of German and European Culture (ENG)
- German and European Politics (ENG)
- German Media – Media in Germany (ENG)
- German History in a European Context (ENG)
- Economy and Economics in Germany and Europe (ENG)

German Language Courses

The FU Language Centre offers German language courses prior to and during the semester. For exchange students there is a reduced participation fee for the six-week intensive pre-semester courses. The courses during the semester range from 4–8 hours per week and are free of charge.

For further information, please check our homepage:
www.fu-berlin.de/incoming-students

We are looking forward to welcoming you at Freie Universität Berlin!
Frequently Asked Questions

Does Freie Universität Berlin offer 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

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, 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 visas do I need to enter Germany and 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, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, and the USA. Upon arrival in Berlin, citizens of these countries (except EU and EEA) may need to apply for a temporary residence permit. Students who are not citizens of the countries listed above must apply for a visa at their local German Embassy or German General Consulate before coming to Germany. For more information, please contact your local German Embassy or German General Consulate. It is not possible to study in Germany on a tourist 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, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended.

What is the language of instruction at Freie Universität Berlin?

The main language of instruction is German. However, some departments regularly offer courses taught in English. Their availability may vary and cannot be guaranteed. As the course 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/exchangestudents

Which Student Services does Freie Universität Berlin offer?

Freie Universität Berlin offers a large number of services that are open to support 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/en/studierende

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An excellent opportunity! Become an exchange student at Freie Universität Berlin

www.fu-berlin.de/exchangestudents
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.
- give you more confidence regarding your spoken and written language skills.
- help you acquire academic and intercultural skills which are useful in a German-speaking academic environment.
- are open to students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.

Advantages for Exchange Students

- Support from our student exchange office and an extensive orientation program before the semester starts, making your first steps at our university easy.
- A wide range of German-language course for exchange and program students during the semester, from basic to advanced levels.
- Free use of the campus and university facilities.
- The opportunity to take courses at other Berlin universities which have been designed specifically for exchange and program students.
- Courses in this program are open to students from all academic fields, with a few courses being designed for students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.


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