

Special offers for exchange students at Freie Universität Berlin

Study Program “Cultural, Social, and Historical Perspectives on Berlin and Germany”

The Institute of German and Dutch Languages and Literatures offers a study program exclusively for exchange students like you, with a thematic focus on the culture, society, and history of Berlin and Germany, and, to some extent, other German speaking countries. Courses in this study program pursue several goals:

- To convey knowledge about key aspects of the history, culture, and social situation in Berlin and Germany that are relevant for an understanding of the present situation
- To impart academic and intercultural skills which will help you be successful while studying at Freie Universität Berlin
- To help you gain confidence regarding your spoken and written (academic) German

You may choose up to four courses per semester. To obtain full credits, regular attendance (80%) is expected, along with “active participation,” which takes on different forms depending on the course: giving a presentation, writing up the minutes of a course session, handing in texts, or simply actively taking part in class discussions. At the end of the semester, students usually take a 90 minutes written examination; in some cases, however, students may have to submit written work (essays) during the semester instead.

There are two types of courses within this study program:

Modules 1, 2, and 3

The courses in these modules are designed for students from all academic fields and provide a general, transdisciplinary introduction to relevant aspects of German culture, history, and society. Most courses are taught in German; two or three courses are taught in English. All modules are offered every semester.

Module 1: “Kulturelle Orientierung in Berlin (Cultural Orientation in Berlin),” taught in German, language requirement: German B1; 4 hours per week; 10 ECTS credits. The course includes visits to museums, exhibitions, theatres, and/or memorial sites.

Module 2: taught in English, language requirement: English B2; 2 hours per week; 5 ECTS credits. Courses in the past semesters: Berlin, Seen from the Outside / Berlin Now! / (G)lobal Berlin. In/Outsider Narratives / Reading, Writing, and Screening the City. Images of Berlin in Text and Film.

Module 3: taught in German, language requirements: German B1; 2 hours per week; 5 ECTS credits. Courses in past semesters: Berlin im Bild – Bilder von Berlin (Images and Pictures of Berlin) / Geschichte(n) und Nachgeschichte(n) des Nationalsozialismus im Berliner Raum (History and Memorialization of National Socialism in and around Berlin) / Berlin als multikulturelle Stadt (Berlin as a Multicultural City).

Modules 4, 5, and 6

The courses in these modules are designed for students of the Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies. In these courses, students engage with films, literary texts, and other works of art which are analyzed with regard to their specific medial and aesthetic qualities as well as in their historical, political, social, and cultural context. All modules are taught in German and are offered every semester.

Module 4a: language requirement: German B1; 4 hours per week (including e.g. film screenings, visits to museums, exhibitions, memorial sites, etc.); 10 ECTS credits. Courses in past semesters: Film in der DDR: zwischen Kunst, Kritik, Unterhaltung und Propaganda (Film in the GDR: Between Art, Criticism, Entertainment and Propaganda) / Berlin im Film (Berlin in Film) / Berlin als multikulturelle Stadt (Berlin as a Multicultural City).

Module 4b: language requirement: German B1; 2 hours per week, 5 ECTS credits. Courses in the past semesters: Das geteilte Berlin (Berlin as a Divided City) / Berlin in der Literatur (Berlin in Literature) / Berlin in der Kinder- und Jugendliteratur (Berlin in Literature for Young Readers) / Berlin in der Migrationsliteratur (Berlin in Migrant Literature).

Module 5: language requirement: German B2; 2 hours per week; 5 ECTS credits. Courses in past semesters: Filme der Weimarer Republik (Films of the Weimar Period) / Nationalsozialismus im Film (National Socialism in Film) / Die deutsche Wiedervereinigung in Literatur, Film und Alltagskultur (German Unification in Film, Literature, and Everyday Culture).

Module 6: language requirement: German B2; 2 hours per week; 5 ECTS credits. Courses in past semesters: Jüdisches Leben und Jüdische Literatur in Berlin (Jewish Life and Jewish Literature in Berlin) / Erinnern an die DDR: Fakten und Fiktionen (Remembering the GDR: Fact and Fiction).

More information about past courses can be found under “Additional courses for exchange students”:
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/fach?id=160000&sm=163783>

Learning German at Freie Universität Berlin

Language Courses

As an exchange student, Freie Universität Berlin gives you opportunities to learn and improve your German. The department German as a Foreign Language in the university Language Center offers courses for exchange students before and/or during the academic semesters, as well as having a well-equipped self-learning center where students can develop their language skills independently or find a tandem-partner.

→ Pre-semester Language Courses for Exchange Students

General information: these pre-semester courses are especially for exchange students like you and take place in the six weeks before the beginning of the winter or summer semesters. Your lesson times are from Monday to Friday between 9:15 and 13:30, and a completed course earns you 6 ECTS credits. As an exchange student, you benefit from much cheaper fees: € 600 for exchange students (€ 1,350 for other students). Classes have a maximum of 16 participants. On the first day of the course, students are asked to take a language placement test.

You can attend courses from A2 to C1 level.

Please take into account that the A1 courses are **not** available for exchange students, **only** for students following a Master's program held in English and PhD students whose research work is mainly in English.

http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/vorkurs_deutsch/index.html

→ Language Courses for Exchange Students during the Semester

General information: the Language Center offers German courses during the semester free of charge, which is a great opportunity for you to continue improving your German during your stay at Freie Universität Berlin. The program during the semester provides German language courses at levels A2, B1, B2 and C1. All course objectives are based on the skill-specific proficiency levels described in the Common European Framework (CEF), developed by the Council of Europe.

The computerized language level assessment test "onDaF" is carried out at the Language Center. It is free of charge and obligatory in order to take part in a German language course at the Language Center.

Detailed information is available on the following website: <http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/programmstudierende/ondaf/index.html>

Courses offered/hours per week/credits awarded

A2.1–A2.2 | 8 ECTS credits | 8 hours per week

A2.2–B1.1 – Bridge Course | 8 ECTS credits | 8 hours per week

B1.1 | 8 ECTS credits | 6 hours per week

B1.2 | 5 ECTS credits | 4 hours per week

B2.1 – with thematic projects | 5 ECTS credits | 4 hours per week

B.2.2 – Studies related course | 5 ECTS credits | 4 hours per week

B2.2 – Foundation course: Communication in studies | 10 ECTS credits | 8 hours per week

C1 – Advanced courses | 5 ECTS credits | 4 hours per week

Advanced course A: fields of interaction in an academic (or professional) context – reception and production of complex texts

Advanced course B: forms of discourse in higher education and career – presentation, argumentation, discussion, and criticism

Advanced course C: working with texts, working on texts

Please see the Language Center website for details and up to date information!

<http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/programmstudierende/kursangebot/index.html>

Self-learning Center and Tandems

An important part of the Language Center is its self-learning center, where you can practice and learn German in a flexible manner in your own time. You will find all kinds of self-teaching materials, including course books, language-learning software, newspapers, magazines, and movies.

It's a well-known fact that there is nothing like speaking a language in order to learn it. A good way to do this is by finding a tandem partner. In a tandem, two native language speakers teach each other their respective languages. The Language Center has an online platform which you can sign up for as soon as you are enrolled. You are then put in touch up with German-speaking students who are also looking to develop and improve their foreign-language skills. The Language Center also offers workshops on tandem learning.

<http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/slz/index.html>

Courses in English

Many departments at Freie Universität Berlin offer courses taught in English. As the courses change each semester, please use the online course-catalog's search engine to find the most recent courses offered in English. Please take into account that the search engine does not differentiate between bachelor's and master's courses.

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/search>

University Sports

University Sports at Freie Universität Berlin provides a service for all members of the university. Every semester a wide range of courses, sport activities, competitions, and events are organized and offered to students and employees of Freie Universität Berlin and of partner universities in Berlin. One of the main objectives of University Sports is to provide special opportunities for international students and to develop an open and inclusive cultural environment to favor intercultural exchange among students of any nationality at Freie Universität Berlin. University Sports also offers classes which are given in English.

<http://www.hochschulsport.fu-berlin.de/en/index.html>

International Club

The International Club is a group of students who wants to promote internationalization at Freie Universität Berlin, and it organizes a wide range of events and activities for international and national students. Membership costs € 10 for one semester and € 15 for two semesters and comes with plenty of perks, such as a free drink at the monthly international bar nights, reduced rates for trips and events, and a network of German and international students.

http://www.fu-berlin.de/studium/international/internationaler_club/index.html