Frequently Asked Questions

Does Freie Universität Berlin offer an on- or off-campus accommodation?

There is no on-campus accommodation, but our accommodation services offers various off-campus dorms and single or 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 letter. For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung

Does Freie Universität Berlin charge tuition fees to 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 contributions support the "student union", which organizes social events, cultural activities, and services such as language courses, recreational sports, IT support, and psychological counseling. These services include family support, language courses, recreational sports, IT support, and psychological counseling. These services include family support, language courses, recreational sports, IT support, and psychological counseling.

What kind of visa do I need to enter Germany and to study at Freie Universität Berlin?

It is not possible to study in Germany on a tourist visa. 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 A2, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended. 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 B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended. 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 B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended. 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 B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended. 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 B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended. 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 B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended.
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 nearly 35,000 students and more than 1,500 academic staff members. It is a public, non-profit institution of higher education and a key institution of cultural, political, and economic life. A vibrant and constantly changing city, it is a center of cultural, political, and economic life. The Dahlem campus hosts the majority of the university’s 15 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 Law
- Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Department of Philosophy and Humanities
- Department of Political and Social Sciences
- Institute for Latin American Studies
- Institute for European Studies
- Institute for East Asian Studies
- Institute for History and Cultural Studies
- Institute for Education and Psychology
- Institute for Chemistry
- Institute for Earth Sciences
- Institute for European and International Studies
- Institute for History and Cultural Studies
- Institute of Veterinary Medicine
- Institute of Education and Psychology
- Institute of Political Science

Freie Universität Berlin attracts a high number of exchange students from all over the world every semester. You can come study at our university within the framework of different exchange programs. We usually require non-degree exchange students to have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies and – depending on the specific exchange agreement – to have obtained a certain level of German language proficiency.

The University'sGerman Language Program is designed to provide the opportunity to spend part of your studies at another university in Germany. You can spend one or two semesters at Freie Universität Berlin within the framework of the Erasmus-Program, your home university has an Erasmus-Program with Freie Universität Berlin. In addition to our Erasmus-Program, we also accept students in the Language Program. For further information, please contact your home institution's international office.

The concept of international exchange programs is for students who are in a Bachelor’s or a Master’s program. If you complete a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree at Freie Universität Berlin, you are eligible to enrol in programs at other universities, including other universities in Germany. If you are considering a second degree, you may wish to contact the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for more information on the various programs of the Language Centre and its department for German as a Foreign Language. The university’s Language Center and its department for German as a Foreign Language offer courses for exchange students. You can also register for a language test in the German language before your arrival. The intensive pre-semester language courses take place over six weeks leading up to the semester. The course is offered at a reduced price for exchange students, German courses during the semester are free of charge for exchange students and range from 1 to 4 hours of classes per week.

Discover Courses beyond your own Field of Study

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

- are offered in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
- offer insights into a European perspective, providing knowledge relevant to understanding current affairs, culture and everyday life in contemporary Berlin (and Germany more generally).
- help you acquire academic and intercultural skills which are useful in a German-speaking academic environment.
- give you more confidence regarding your spoken and written (academic) German.

Courses are taught in German and English. They are open to students from any academic field, with a few courses being designed for students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.

Improving your German

The university’s Language Center and its department for German as a Foreign Language offer courses for international students. Students have priority to and during the semester, as well as providing a self-learning center where students can develop their language skills independently. You can also register for a language test, where you will be matched with a native German-speaker who can help you improve. Also our study abroad centuries program students have the opportunity to take courses about Berlin, its history, and culture that have been designed specifically for exchange and program students.

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For more information on the various programs of the Language Centre and course registration, please see our website:

www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/