

Freie Universität Berlin fall / spring / academic year

architecture / business / cinema studies / german language / history / international affairs / literature / philosophy / politics / theater



program snapshot

- Continue or begin German language study; wide range of courses taught in English focusing on modern Germany
- CIEE workshops on different aspects of the city provide an insider's perspective on Berlin
- CIEE-organized activities with German students, including language partners
- Explore other regions of Germany through program excursions
- Live in an accessible, multicultural European capital city

what you'll learn

The Language and Culture program at the CIEE Study Center in Berlin provides challenging and stimulating courses in a range of subjects with the aim of increasing students' understanding of contemporary cultural realities in Berlin, Germany, and Europe, as well as language courses to improve students' facility with the German language.

thoughts from abroad

As the capital of Germany and a European central hub, Berlin, the country's largest city, boasts a population of 3.4 million people and is a major center of culture, politics, media, and science. As home to prestigious universities, diverse architecture, museums, contemporary arts, and festivals, Berlin offers you the chance to work on your German language skills out of the classroom as you stroll the streets admiring the city's architectural achievements or visit one of its many art galleries and museums. You'll study alongside German and other international students at the Freie Universität Berlin, the city's largest university. With CIEE, you'll learn German at your level and witness firsthand the growth Berlin has seen since the fall of the Wall and the reunification of East and West Berlin.

— Resident Director

About the Resident Director

The CIEE Resident Director supervises and administers this program. The Resident Director also assists students with academic, administrative, and day-to-day matters.



about berlin

Berlin, a dynamic and fascinating Central European city of about three and a half million, with a rich and dramatic past, is a center for the cultural and intellectual life of the country. It offers a wide range of cultural offerings, including many museums, theaters, and music venues. The public transportation system is extensive and the city is well connected to other German and Central European cities.

academics

Academic Program

The CIEE Study Center at the Freie Universität Berlin is embedded in the University's European Studies program (FU-BEST). FU-BEST was created with North American students' interests and schedules in mind. It offers an array of courses in various disciplines taught in English focusing on Berlin and Germany, and is set on the North American academic calendar. For advanced German speakers there is the possibility of enrolling in one German-taught course.

Academic Culture

Classes offered through the University's European Studies Program are small in size, consisting of approximately 15–20 students. Content courses meet once per week for 2 and one-half hours, and include field visits in Berlin and surrounding areas. CIEE students have two German language options; one course meets for 12 hours per week and the other for six hours per week. Students take an online pre-departure language placement test to determine their language level before arriving in Berlin.

The European Studies program operates on an academic calendar similar to most North American institutions of higher education, with the fall semester running from September through December and the spring semester running from January through April. Direct enrollment in Freie Universität

Berlin regular courses is not possible as their calendar runs on a different academic schedule.

Nature of Classes

CIEE students take courses with CIEE and other U.S. students.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in German, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to German language proficiency and understanding of German society develops.

Grading System

The U.S. grading scale of A-F is used. Content courses are generally evaluated based on participation, a mid-term, final exam, final paper, and small independent projects focused on specific sites in Berlin. In the German language courses, students are generally evaluated based on exams, quizzes, oral exams, and short papers.



where you'll study

The Freie Universität Berlin is one of Germany's premier institutions of higher learning. The University was founded in 1948 and enrolls 32,000 students. The University, located in Dahlem, the attractive southwestern section of Berlin, is one of nine German universities named by the German government as an institution of excellence. The University is located in a residential area of southwestern Berlin with easy access by public transportation to the city center.

living**Housing and Meals**

Students are placed in student apartments or with host families in the Berlin metropolitan area. Students should expect to use public transportation to commute to their classes. For students in apartments, meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Meals may be taken at cafeterias and at restaurants throughout Berlin as well as on the Freie University campus. For students in homestays, two meals per day are included.

Orientation

Each semester begins with a mandatory, on-site CIEE orientation. CIEE students then participate in the mandatory FU-Best orientation. Together, the orientations cover an introduction to Berlin and German society and culture, academics, 'survival' German tips, and excursions in and around the city. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students are strongly encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops. Wireless Internet and printing capabilities are available at the FU-Best building. Homestays may have an Internet connection.

culture**Cultural Activities and Field Trips**

The CIEE Study Center in Berlin aims to provide an insider's perspective that most people, both locals and tourists, never see. This is done through guided site visits relating to contemporary Berlin and German business policy to unique destinations within Germany. Students participate in weekly field visits associated with their courses. FU-BEST organizes a week-long field trip to two Central European cities. CIEE offers two overnight field trips to places of interest in Germany, such as Munich, Hamburg, or Heidelberg.

immersion**Language Partners**

CIEE recruits students from the University's Department of Foreign Languages to serve as language partners for CIEE students. CIEE organizes structured meetings and students commit to weekly meetings with language partners.

Workshops

CIEE organizes workshops on various themes related to contemporary Germany. These themes may include architecture, politics, and the arts. German students are invited to join and participate in the workshops.

costs**CIEE Fees**

Spring 2010: available 8/15/09
Fall 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fee includes an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, comprehensive student handbook, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs
(Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$1,300
Personal Expenses	\$2,800
Meals (homestay option)	\$ 750
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Visa Fee	\$ 100
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 5,650

Check our website for current fees.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0

duration**Fall**

16 weeks: late August–mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: early January–mid-April

Academic Year 2009–10

36 weeks: late August–mid-April



coursework

Program Requirements

Students typically take German language for eight credits and three additional courses. Students at the beginning level may take German for five credits and four additional courses.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 17 semester/25.5 quarter hours. For the academic year, total recommended credit is 34 semester/51 quarter hours.

Content course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours, unless otherwise indicated.

Language course contacts hours are either 130 with a recommended credit of 8 credits/12 quarter hours, or 80 with a recommended credit of 5 credits/7.5 quarter hours.

Languages of Instruction

German, English

Faculty

FU-Best faculty are all associated with Berlin institutions of higher learning.

courses

Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program Courses

The following list of courses is a representative sample of course offerings, subject to change.

Architecture in Berlin from the 19th Century to Today

Berlin: History, Memory, Literature

Contemporary Cinema in Germany and Europe

Contemporary Germany in European Perspective

European Business Cultures: Management and Marketing in Cross-National Perspective

German Cinema before 1945

German Language (all levels)

History of Central European Classical Music: Baroque to Contemporary

The Human Condition and the Totalitarian Experience

Integration, Conflict, and Security in Europe

Islam and Europe: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions

Literatur und Film in Deutschland seit der Wende (taught in German)

Modern German History in European Context: A Thematic Approach

Perspectives on 20th Century Art in Central Europe

The Promise of German Philosophy: Kant to Hegel

Theatermetropole Berlin: Vergangenheit und Gegenwart (taught in German)

Themes and Issues in Transatlantic Relations

Tragedy and New Beginnings in German Philosophy: From Marx and Nietzsche to Hamermas

