

Freie Universität Berlin

fall / spring / academic year



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



program snapshot

- Begin or continue your German language study in the heart of Berlin
- Take a wide range of courses taught in English focused on modern Germany and Europe, and explore both on overnight program excursions
- Get an insider's perspective on Berlin through CIEE workshops on diverse aspects of the city
- Participate in organized activities with German students, including language partners
- Live and learn in an exciting, 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 that aim to increase students' understanding of contemporary cultural realities in Berlin, Germany, and Europe. Intensive language courses serve to improve students' facility with German and deepen learning and social exchange experiences.

thoughts from abroad

Berlin is a city that wakes up every morning to reinvent itself. It is a place of stark contrasts—dark memories and bright new dreams—where 3.4 million people live, work, and play.

As capital of Germany, Berlin sits at a cultural and political crossroads between Eastern and Western Europe with influences, from Teutonic to techno running through the people, architecture, museums, cuisine, music, and arts.

In Berlin you will study at the Freie Universität, one of only nine top German universities funded under the German Federal Excellence Initiative. Your German will improve in and outside the classroom as you immerse yourself in the vibrant pulse of a city once divided by a wall, now reunited and changing every day.

Come to Berlin so you too can say, “Ich bin [ein] Berliner.”

— Benjamin Lorch, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Prior to joining CIEE Benjamin Lorch served at the University of Chicago as the Managing Director of the *Chicago Public Schools—University of Chicago Internet Project*, a model program for University educational outreach and community partnerships. He is also a double graduate of the University where he studied urban development, policy, and media.

In 2006, upon being selected as a Robert Bosch Fellow, Mr. Lorch returned to his German family roots and moved to Berlin. He worked at the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (International and EU Cooperation Division (Bonn)) and then subsequently headed communications and recruited students for the Berlin School of Creative Leadership Executive MBA Program.



about berlin

Berlin is the dynamic and fascinating capital of Germany with a dramatic and disturbing past. As a center of German cultural and intellectual life, the influence of Berlin reverberates around the world. It offers an incredibly wide range of cultural offerings, including many museums, theaters, restaurants, cafés, music venues, and green spaces. With low rents and inexpensive food prices Berlin is an attractive place for artists and young people who flock to the city and make it one of the most dynamic places in the world to work, live, and study. The 24-hour public transportation system is extensive and the city is well connected to other 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 the interests and schedules of North American students in mind. It offers an array of courses in various disciplines taught in English focusing on Berlin and Germany. The semester is aligned with the North American academic calendar. Advanced German speakers may enroll 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 two 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 test to determine their language level placement 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 regular Freie Universität Berlin 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 written assignments.



where you'll study

The Freie Universität Berlin is one of only nine premier German institutions of higher learning, as named by the German Federal Excellence Initiative. The University was founded in 1948 with the support of the United States Government and other international partners. Today the University enrolls 31,000 students each year and boasts 15 departments offering over 100 programs. The University is the host of the European Studies Program also known as FU-BEST, located in Dahlem, a leafy southwestern section of Berlin. The Freie Universität enjoys easy access to Berlin's city center via fast and reliable public transportation.

living

Housing and Meals

Students live either in studio apartments or with host families and 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. However, each studio apartment includes a kitchenette and food markets can be found within walking distance. Meals can also be taken at cafeterias and restaurants throughout the city and on the Freie Universität campus. For students in homestays, two meals per day are included.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Berlin before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

Each semester begins with mandatory, on-site CIEE and FU-BEST orientation sessions. Together, these workshops cover program policies and provide an introduction to Berlin and German society, culture, academics, communication as well as 'survival' tips. Guided excursions in and around Berlin also help students become accustomed to 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 CIEE Study Center and the FU-BEST building. Homestays may have an Internet connection. Studio apartments do not have an Internet connection. Students may purchase it at an additional cost, but connectivity is limited.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The CIEE Study Center in Berlin provides an insider's perspective that most people, both locals and tourists, never see. Guided site visits and self-guided excursion assignments unveil local culture, history, politics, and art that link classroom learning to modern realities. A weeklong field trip to two European cities helps to place Germany within the context of the European Union and a separate two-day, one-night field trip to another German city such as Munich, Hamburg, Leipzig, or Dresden exposes the diversity of the German states.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0
- Applicants must have reached the equivalent of at least second semester sophomore status

engagement

Language Partners

CIEE works with the Freie Universität to recruit German students from the Department of Foreign Languages to serve as language partners for CIEE students. Structured weekly meetings and more informal events with language partners help students improve their language skills.

Workshops

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

duration

Fall

16 weeks: late August–mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: early January–mid-April

Academic Year

36 weeks: late August–mid-April

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2010: \$15,200

Spring 2011: available 8/15/10

Academic Year 2010–11: \$28,900

The CIEE fees for 2010–11 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, two meals per day in the homestay, orientation, cultural activities, field trips, pre-departure advising, residence permit expenses, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2010)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$2,800
Meals (Apartments)*	\$2,250
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 400
(Students receive a free student subway pass from Freie Universität)	
Visa Fee	\$ 100
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 7,200

*Additional meals for the homestay option are estimated at \$750.

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

Students typically take German language for four or eight credits and two or three additional courses. Students at the beginning level may take German for four credits and three additional courses. Students at the intermediate or advanced level may take German for eight credits and two additional courses. Students also take the Seminar on Living and Learning for an additional two credits.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 13-16 semester/19.5-24 quarter hours. For the academic year, total recommended credit is 26-32 semester/39-48 quarter hours.

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

Language class contact hours are either 130 with a recommended credit of 8 U.S. credits or 90 with a recommended credit of 4 U.S. credits.

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

European Legal Traditions

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 Habermas

CIEE Elective Course

CLST 3001 BERL

Seminar on Living and Learning in Berlin

The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Berlin is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Germans are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Germany. Contact hours: 25. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours.

