

German

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN

Because language shapes both how we understand and how we negotiate our world, learning a second language produces a deep awareness of difference (linguistic and cultural) while at the same time providing bridges to move across those differences. Informed respect for other cultures, tolerance, cosmopolitanism, self-awareness, and flexibility are the hallmarks of a liberal education, and the study of foreign languages fosters precisely these capacities.

Even partial knowledge of a foreign language broadens intellectual horizons, diversifies ways of thinking, heightens sensitivity, and enriches self-understanding: it gives us new eyes that open up new worlds. Learning another culture in depth through study of its language also provides a unique platform from which we are able to gain perspective on our own culture and language specifically.

Command of a second language is a highly marketable skill that opens the door to a wealth of professional opportunities. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “demand for multilingual workers is rising fast,” and there is a “supply and demand mismatch at middle and upper management for employees who can speak a second language.” In a recent survey of businesses, over 80% said they would place a greater emphasis on “international competence” in hiring and training over the next decade.

All the aforementioned benefits increase in direct proportion to the degree of mastery one has attained in studying a foreign language, and it is universally acknowledged that study abroad, immersion in the target language and culture, is the ideal way to achieve deep mastery. Thus, study abroad can be viewed as the ultimate ideal of language study.

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures provides two study-abroad programs where students earn in-residence credits, which can satisfy general LSA requirements and requirements for the German concentration.



GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your general and German advisors about your interest in going abroad	Contact information: Kalli Federhofer, German concentration advisor: kallimz@umich.edu
2.) Visit the OIP: Learn about program offerings and attend the OIP study abroad fair and information sessions.	OIP's Study Abroad Fairs: Fall Fair – Mid September Summer Fair – Mid January
3.) Narrow down your program options: Review course offerings and how they can satisfy concentration and distribution requirements.	See OIP's website: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm
4.) Research program costs: Review OIP information on program costs; learn about scholarship options and financial aid for which you may be eligible.	http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm
5.) Apply for your program.	Online application: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Timing: Study abroad is not just for juniors! Rather, the timing (and program choice) varies by your academic goals in studying abroad. In planning for study abroad in German, Kalli Federhofer will be able to help you understand the number of options that are available to you and which ones might best suit your particular situation. While you are studying abroad, you will be able

"The study-abroad program is very well organized, and I consider it to be one of the most beneficial aspects of the Department. I have benefited from it immensely, both in terms of academics and personal growth."
~ Sabrina M. (Freiburg 2005-06)

to meet many of the College requirements for graduation.

Satisfying distribution and general LSA requirements with courses taken abroad:

- ◆ **Distribution credit** – To use a course or courses taken abroad to satisfy Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, or another distribution category, you should meet with your LSA advisor before going abroad. Take detailed course descriptions or as much information as you can gather to the advising appointment. If you are unable to get this information ahead of time, or if your course elections change while abroad, bring back as much course information as you can, so that your advisor can effectively evaluate the course upon return.
- ◆ **Race and Ethnicity** – It is generally advisable to take R & E class on campus. However, if you want to use a course taken abroad to satisfy this requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. As part of your petition, you need to provide a syllabus for the course and write an argument explaining how you felt the course met the spirit of the requirement. Petition forms with the R & E criteria are available on the web or at the Newnan LSA Advising Center. Keep in mind that you may not be able to get a syllabus for the course, so you should bring back as much course information as you can—e.g. reading lists, coursepacks, papers, etc. If the syllabus and/or course materials are not in English, contact the Academic Standards Board to see if you need to have them

translated. Board members can translate Spanish, French, and German.

- ◆ **Quantitative Reasoning** – To use a class taken abroad to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. You need to present a course syllabus as well as materials showing the type of work done in the course (homework, quizzes, exams, and textbooks are helpful.)
- ◆ **Upper Level Writing Requirement** – It's extremely rare for a study abroad course to be approved for Upper-Level Writing. Generally these courses must be taught on campus by U-M faculty. If you want to request an exception, contact the Sweetland Writing Center, but keep in mind that such approvals are not likely granted.

Counting courses taken abroad towards the German requirements – Courses taught in German will count towards your German concentration/minor. You should plan to meet with your concentration advisor, [Kalli Federhofer](#), to discuss this possibility before going abroad.

Funding study abroad – Students who have financial aid through the U-M can apply their financial aid to any U-M programs sponsored by OIP or other units in the University. See below for other funds that might be available for Freiburg or Tubingen.



ACADEMIC YEAR, TERM-LONG (FALL OR WINTER) PROGRAMS

The Office of International Programs offers over 80 study abroad options. Credit from these programs appears on your U-M transcript as in residence credit and can be used to meet any College requirements. There are two programs that are particularly appropriate for students wanting to enhance their German.

ACADEMIC YEAR IN FREIBURG (AYF)

Full-year program (September through July). Students from the University of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan State assemble at one of the most beautiful locations in Southwest Germany and enroll in either regular university courses, language courses for international students (SLI courses), or courses specifically designed for AYF students. In the second half of their stay, students have the opportunity to pursue an internship with a local company and earn academic credits. A Resident Director, who is a professor from one of the four participating universities, supervises the students abroad.

The Max-Kade Foundation provides funding for students who study in Freiburg. The German Department gives out three Arati Sharangpani Memorial Awards (\$800 each) annually for students who participate in the AYF program. Open to students from all U-M programs. Junior Standing is required. Students must have completed fourth semester German (German 232) prior to the start of the program. A preparatory course for AYF students is available in Winter.

WINTER TERM IN TÜBINGEN

Single semester program. This program has two components: from mid-January until the end of March, students live in Horb, a small place twenty miles outside Tübingen, where they take language courses at the Hermann-Hesse Kolleg. A family-stay in Horb is arranged for this time. Early in April, students move to Tübingen where they take regular university courses or language courses for international students (ISP courses). Students earn credits for both the Horb and the Tübingen segments.

Students who study in Tübingen are usually qualified for financial assistance through the Baden-Wuerttemberg Fellowship. Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors from all the U-M programs. Students must have completed third semester German (German 221/231) prior to the start of the program.

*"I would recommend this program to other students because it has exponentially bettered my German and because Tübingen is a wonderful place. Horb was confining at times, but was bearable for the ten weeks. Tübingen was worth the wait."
~Matthew L. (2007)*

INTERNSHIPS

The German Department offers its students help in finding internships in German speaking countries and attempts to find options that match the students' abilities, interests, and career choices, ranging from auto companies to biotech firms to museums and nature reserves.

The Department accommodates the Midwest Office of CDS International. If you are interested in obtaining a paid or unpaid (summer) internship through CDS, contact Peggy Wunderwald-Jensen (pwjensen@umich.edu), MLB 3416.

You can sign up for a preparatory work-abroad course before the beginning of the internship and a credit-granting course after your return.

