

**The University of Melbourne  
School of Languages and Linguistics  
German Studies Program**

**OVERSEAS STUDY GUIDE  
For students of German**

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**1. Should I study overseas?**

Yes! Participation in an official exchange program of the university or the study abroad scheme is highly recommended for students of German. The preferred countries are Germany and Austria but it is possible to study German at one of the Universitas 21 partner Universities in countries where German is not spoken. Overseas study in a German-speaking country is recommended for students taking German as part of their major as well as the Diploma of Modern Languages (or the new generation Diploma of Languages). It is highly recommended for students intending to take an honours degree.

**2. Will I get credit for courses taken overseas?**

Yes! Courses taken at overseas universities on study abroad and exchange are credit-bearing. Credit will only be given where there is a prior agreement. Retrospective credit is rarely given. Credit for language courses offered by other institutions such as the Goethe Institute is not normally given. Neither is credit normally given for short courses offered through the DAAD, such as the “Winterkurs” in Essen, Freiburg or Leipzig.

**3. Study Abroad and Exchange – when am I eligible?**

You need to:

- have completed, or be about to complete, at least one year of study and 75 points at the University of Melbourne by the due date of applications;

- have achieved a weighted average of at least 70% (H2B) across your degree;
- study the equivalent of at least a full-time load while overseas
- obtain faculty approval on a Melbourne Abroad application;
- demonstrate through a financial plan your ability to support your stay overseas;
- satisfy host institution and host country entry requirements; and
- be a 'good ambassador' for the University of Melbourne.

For general information on going on exchange see the University's website:

<http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/>

#### **4. Where can I go?**

The University has exchange agreements with four prestigious universities in Germany and one in Austria:

- **Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**  
(founded 1948, 43.000 students, 12% international)  
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/>
- **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany**  
(founded 1810, 37.000 students, 13% international)  
<http://www.hu-berlin.de/>
- **Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg, Germany**  
(founded 1386, 25.000 students, 17% international)  
<http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/>
- **Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany**  
(founded 1457, 21.000 students, 17% international)  
<http://www.uni-freiburg.de/>
- **Universität Wien, Austria**  
(founded 1365, 63.000 students)  
<http://www.univie.ac.at/>

#### **5. How long can I go?**

You can study for either 1 or 2 semesters overseas. Honours students do not normally stay on exchange for longer than 1 semester.

#### **6. When can I go?**

Students generally go in second semester of their second year, in third or fourth year (honours).

You can take part of your undergraduate degree or part of your honours year overseas.

#### **7. Can I get credit for my degree when studying overseas?**

Yes, for most study taken as part of an approved exchange program. (Credit is only given when prior approval is sought.)

#### **8. How much credit can I get?**

Most students take 37.5 points per semester, which is the minimum for a full-time equivalent load. It is possible under exceptional circumstances to take up to 50 points per semester (as the maximum). For year-long exchanges up to 100 points of your degree may be awarded. The usual workload is, however, 75 points. Honours students may only take 37.5 points of their year overseas.

**9. Do I need to take German as part of a special degree to go overseas?**

No. You can go overseas with a

- Bachelor of Arts degree
- Diploma of Modern Languages / Diploma of Languages in German
- Any combined degree with an Arts component
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

**10. What sort of subjects can I study overseas?**

You can take a combination of the following type of courses at the appropriate level:

- Language courses at the level of 'Mittelstufe' (level B.1 of the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages") and above
- Literature subjects
- Linguistics subjects
- Cultural studies subjects
- History subjects
- Politics subjects
- Philosophy subjects and other approved areas of study

**11. What will be my overseas workload?**

In Germany and Austria all universities use the 'European Credit Transfer System' (ECTS) of awarding credit. However, since each university (and often each faculty or department) has its individual way of allocating ECTS points to subjects, the number of ECTS points credited to a particular type of subject is extremely inconsistent among universities across the German speaking area. For this reason, it is impossible to apply a rigid formula of translating ECTS credits at German and Austrian Universities to University of Melbourne points. Therefore, it is essential for students in the German Program to discuss the equivalence of exchange subjects to subjects at Melbourne University with the German Studies Program exchange representative while discussing their exchange study plan. The German Studies program exchange representative will then confirm the equivalence of exchange subjects (or their combinations) to the Faculty exchange representative, irrespective of the ECTS credits allocated to those subjects.

Most German and Austrian universities adhere to the following types of subjects:

- V = Vorlesung (lecture without tutorials) (is normally not assessed and therefore can not normally be credited)
- GK = Grundkurs (introductory subject)
- Ü = Übung (a smaller seminar)
- PS = Proseminar (undergraduate subject, often equivalent to 2/3 year level)
- HS = Hauptseminar (advanced/honours level subject)
- AS = Aufbauseminar (undergraduate seminar)
- VS = Vertiefungsseminar (3/4 year, more advanced seminar)

The German Program recommends that students take subjects to the equivalent of 37.5 University of Melbourne points. This is the minimum requirement for a full-time load and attracts full HECS. Only in exceptional circumstances does the department recommend students take the equivalent of 50 points at Melbourne while on exchange.

## **12. What subjects can I choose?**

You can take a combination of language and culture/literature subjects. The recommended mix of subjects depends on your level of proficiency in German and what year you are in.

The following mix of subjects is to be taken as a general guide:

### **Second year students (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)**

These students will generally take

1. 1 language class/course at the appropriate level (usually Mittelstufe / Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level B1 or B2 )
2. 1 or 2 language seminars or Übung on aspects of syntax, vocabulary
3. 1 Grundkurs, Aufbauseminar or a Proseminar in an approved area

Students who have an H1 in the language may substitute the language seminars for other PS or GK.

### **Third year Students**

These students will generally take

1. 1 language class/course at the appropriate level (usually Mittelstufe/ Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level B1 or B2)
2. 1 Grundkurs, Aufbauseminar or a Proseminar in an approved area
3. 1 Proseminar or Vertiefungsseminar in an approved area

Students who have an H1 in language may substitute the language seminars for other PS or GK.

### **Honours Students**

These students will generally take

1. 1 Proseminar or Vertiefungsseminar in an approved area
2. 1 Proseminar or Vertiefungsseminar in an approved area
3. 1 Hauptseminar or Vertiefungsseminar in an approved area

## **13. What subjects do I put down on my credit agreement and exchange form?**

When you fill out the credit agreement you will not be able to choose the actual subjects you will be taking. The subjects for the coming semester (listed in the *Vorlesungsverzeichnis* – the undergraduate handbook) are not available more than a month or so beforehand. It is more likely than not that you will only choose your actual subjects when you get to Germany.

The way to get around this is to choose EXAMPLES of subjects from the current semester. That is, choose an example of the type of subject at a particular level (say a ‘Proseminar’) from the department of your choice (say ‘Germanistik’) on a topic that interests you (say “Die Literatur der Neuen Sachlichkeit der Weimarer Republik”).

When you get to Germany you can make your final selection. You should substitute subjects that are suitable equivalents. You must contact the German Studies Program exchange representative by email, stating what subjects you finally choose for which Examples you originally put in your study plan. We can be fairly flexible about which subjects you choose and will normally confirm your choice by reply mail within a short time, but you should check with us first before committing yourself to a whole semester of study.

## 14. Where do I find information on language courses?

### *Freie Universität Berlin*

1. **Before:** four-week intensive course **before** the semester (120 contact hours), € 500.  
For details and to register:  
<http://web.fu-berlin.de/deutsch-vorkurs/>
2. **During-semester:** free courses during the semester  
[http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/sprachangebot/deutsch/sprachkurse\\_fuer\\_programmstudierende/index.html](http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/sprachangebot/deutsch/sprachkurse_fuer_programmstudierende/index.html)  
There is a link for registering for these courses (Anmeldung) and a placement test (Einstufungstest) that you can take in advance to know what level you should be taking.

### *Humboldt-Universität Berlin*

1. **Before:** 4-week intensive language courses **before** semester (100 contact hours).  
<http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/sprachen/deutsch/intensivkurs>  
You can do a placement test online (link Einstufung und Test). If exchange students get more than 40 points then you get the first language course free of charge. If you get below 40 points then you should do a preparatory course (studienvorbereitender Kurs), after entrance test (possible to do online), one of 7 levels @ € 400 per semester.
2. **During-semester** Language courses during semester are not free and cost between 15 € per hour of tuition.  
[https://zope.sprachenzentrum.hu-berlin.de/kursangebot/index\\_html#deutsch](https://zope.sprachenzentrum.hu-berlin.de/kursangebot/index_html#deutsch).  
Go down to “Deutsch als Fremdsprache” and click on link “Übersicht der Kursstufen” for program of all language courses. Courses are offered at 6 levels and range from 2-4 ECTS, including an advanced language course for students of German literature “Spezialkurse für Studierende der Germanistik” for 2 ECTS.
3. Online German course during semester (more than 200 contact hours), € 95.00  
<http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/sprachen/deutsch/duo>

### *Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg*

1. **Before:** „Vorbereitende Deutschkurse“ (preparation courses)  
20 hrs. p.w., € 230 including breakfast  
Details and registration form: [http://www.isz.uni-hd.de/e\\_courses\\_vdk.html](http://www.isz.uni-hd.de/e_courses_vdk.html)  
You can register for the course by email (address at bottom of page)
2. **During-semester** „Studienbegleitender Deutschunterricht für ausländische Studierende“ (German language classes for International Students during the semester)  
4 hours p.w. for € 100/semester, or 8 hours p.w. for € 200/semester.  
For details: [http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/zentral/isz/D\\_Kurse\\_SBD.html](http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/zentral/isz/D_Kurse_SBD.html)  
You must register by email four days before you take the placement test (Einstufungstest) at the email address at the bottom of the page, at the Internationales Studienzentrum Max-Weber-Haus  
[http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/zentral/isz/D\\_Anmeld.html](http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/zentral/isz/D_Anmeld.html)  
Telephone +49 6221 457410, Fax +49 6221 457430, E-Mail: [t93@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:t93@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de),  
Address: Ziegelhäuser Landstraße 17

### *Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg*

1. **Before:** Before the semester (March, August, September)  
„Internationale Sprachkurse“ at the Sprachlehrinstitut  
3 weeks of language tuition for € 480 plus € 270 for accommodation  
Details and registration: [http://www.sli.uni-freiburg.de/internationale\\_sprachkurse](http://www.sli.uni-freiburg.de/internationale_sprachkurse)
2. **During-semester:** „Semesterbegleitende Sprachkurse des Sprachlehrinstituts“ (Language Courses at the Language Institute during the semester)

<https://www.verwaltung.uni-freiburg.de/lfsfserver/servlet/de.his.servlet.RequestDispatcherServlet?state=wtree&search=1&root120082=112069511205581119935112047311202721120220&trex=step>

3. free cultural courses during the semester  
6 choices of Landeskunde seminars:  
<https://www.verwaltung.uni-freiburg.de/lfsfserver/servlet/de.his.servlet.RequestDispatcherServlet?state=wtree&search=1&trex=step&root120082=1120695112055811199351120473112027211197381120550&P.vx=kurz>

### *Universität Wien*

1. **Before:** intensive course before the semester  
about 60 hrs. p.m., about € 375.00; accommodation extra  
For details and to register:  
[http://www.univie.ac.at/WIHOK/wihok\\_index\\_e.html](http://www.univie.ac.at/WIHOK/wihok_index_e.html)
2. **During:** free course during the semester  
„Deutsch für Ausländer“ (German for Foreigners) at the Germanistisches Institut / Deutsch als Fremdsprache <http://www.univie.ac.at/daf/LV.htm>  
6 hrs. p.w. at level 1, 4 hrs. at level 2
3. FREE course during the semester:  
2 hrs per week: <http://www.univie.ac.at/daf/Deutschkurs.htm>

### **15. Where do I find information on culture subjects etc?**

*Freie Universität Berlin*, Institut für deutsche und niederländische Philologie:

<http://www.germanistik.fu-berlin.de/>

look at courses offered in the “Bachelorstudiengang”, for 2<sup>nd</sup> years look under “Aufbauphase” (AS = Aufbauseminare), for 3<sup>rd</sup> years and 4<sup>th</sup> years look under “Vertiefungsphase” for “Vertiefungsseminare” (VS): <http://www.fu-berlin.de/vorlesungsverzeichnis/ws0809/phil-geist/007005002002001001.html>

*Humboldt-Universität Berlin*, *either* Institut für deutsche Sprache und Linguistik:

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/linguistik/>

For courses look under link “Studium”, go to “Lehrangebot” then to “Kommentiertes Vorlesungsverzeichnis”, choose the right semester, then choose “Bachelorstudiengänge”

Or: Institut für deutsche Literatur:

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/literatur/>

Choose link “Studium”, click on link to “Vorlesungsverzeichnisse”, then choose “Bachelorstudiengänge” to download complete handbook.

*Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg*, Germanistisches Institut:

<http://www.gs.uni-hd.de/>

Click on link to “Vorlesungsverzeichnis” on the right, choose the appropriate “Kommentiertes Vorlesungsverzeichnis” for the semester you are going to be in Germany.

*Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Deutsches Seminar:*

<http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/germanistik>

Choose either linguistics (“Sprachwissenschaft”) or literature (“Neuere deutsche Literatur”)

Then choose from the list of links on the left the link “Vorlesungsverzeichnis”

*Universität Wien, Institut für Germanistik:*

<http://www.univie.ac.at/Germanistik/>

Choose link on the left “Vorlesungsverzeichnis” and choose either one

## **16. Where do I get help at German universities?**

As an international student – variously called Internationaler Studierender, Austauschstudent, Programmstudierender in German – the *International Office* of your host university is your first port of call for all queries related to your studies. Students’s Unions or Clubs might also be helpful.

*Freie Universität Berlin*

Akademisches Auslandsamt: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/einrichtungen/beratung/international/>

For exchange students: [http://www.fu-berlin.de/zuv/abt-4/mobilitaet/stud\\_in/index.html](http://www.fu-berlin.de/zuv/abt-4/mobilitaet/stud_in/index.html)

Student council AStA:

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/einrichtungen/verwaltung/studentenschaft/beratung/auslaenderberatung.html>

*Humboldt-Universität Berlin*

Amt für Internationale Angelegenheiten: <http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/>

For exchange students: [http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/an\\_die\\_hu-en/studenten](http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/an_die_hu-en/studenten)  
„Guide for international Students“,

[http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/an\\_die\\_hu-en/wegweiser](http://www.international.hu-berlin.de/an_die_hu-en/wegweiser)

*Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg*

Akademisches Auslandsamt: <http://www.zuv.uni-heidelberg.de/AAA/>

For exchange students: [http://www.zuv.uni-heidelberg.de/AAA/english/info\\_hd\\_stud.htm](http://www.zuv.uni-heidelberg.de/AAA/english/info_hd_stud.htm)

*Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg*

International Office: <http://www.io.uni-freiburg.de>

Information for International Students: <http://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/international/>

*Universität Wien*

Büro für Mobilitätsprogramme:

<http://international.univie.ac.at/de/portal/mobilitaet/studierende/jointstudyincoming/>

## **17. What scholarships can I apply for to subsidize my study overseas?**

- Melbourne Global Scholarships (\$2,500)
- Melbourne Global Financial Assistance (up to \$2,000)
- Melbourne Global Scholarships in Language Study (up to \$6,000)
- Universitas 21 funded scholarships for U21 universities (such as Freiburg and Nottingham)
- OS-HELP Loans from the Australian government (loans of up to \$5,000)
- A range of scholarships from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Information available from the DAAD Information Centre Sydney <http://ic.daad.de/sydney/>, or from our resident DAAD lecturer, Ms Katrin Titz: [http://www.grs.unimelb.edu.au/staff/katrin\\_titz/index.html](http://www.grs.unimelb.edu.au/staff/katrin_titz/index.html)

For more information about Melbourne Global see:  
<http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/>