

Direct Exchange Program

Fact Sheet Academic Year 2023/2024

Contact Information		
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	Incoming	Outgoing
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Address	Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin) Student Mobility Unit Illtisstraße 4 14195 Berlin Germany	
Homepage	www.fu-berlin.de/exchangestudents	
Film portrait	https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/bids/fu-studium/video	
Office hours	Tuesday/ Thursday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, 2 – 5 pm and by appointment	
Important dates	winter term 2023/24	summer term 2024
Semester dates	1 October 2023 – 31 March 2024	1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024
Orientation	First week of October	First week of April
Lecture period	16 October 2023 – 16 February 2024	15 April 2024 – 19 July 2024
Exam period	During the last two weeks of the lecture period; may vary from department to department	
Suggested arrival	In time to attend the orientation program	
Academic calendar	http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studienorganisation/termine	
Application		
Deadline	30 April 2023	30 October 2023
Application process	All applicants must be officially nominated by the home university prior to the deadline mentioned above. This may be done either with an official nomination letter or with an e-mail from the home university. The nomination must contain the full name, birthdate, sex, e-mail, study area and duration of the student's stay. Students must complete the online application form and upload all required documents until 30 April respectively 30 October: https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/form/5949803983fb963f532593f4/eng	
Required documents	The documents should be in German or English or accompanied by an English translation. - Photocopy of the student's passport (page with photograph) - Photocopy(ies) of the student's transcript - Photocopy(ies) of the student's B. A., M. A. or any other final degree (if available)	
Acceptance letter	Students will receive the letter of admission via e-mail from the beginning of June for the winter term and from the beginning of December for the summer term.	
German language	German language requirements / Language courses	
German language requirements	Direct exchange students are exempt from a German language exam (DSH or TestDaF), which is otherwise required for international degree-seeking students studying at a German university. However, we expect language skills equivalent to level B 2 of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) in the humanities and the social science departments and B 1 in the natural sciences. A language certificate is not necessary, because we expect that our partner universities guarantee the required language skills.	

German language requirements / Language courses	
Language of instruction	Almost all subjects are taught in German. Please note that subjects taught in English outside the Departments of English and North American Studies are very limited in number. Students must have an English language level of C1 to join courses at the John F Kennedy Institute for North American Studies. Availability may vary and cannot be guaranteed. An overview of subjects taught in English is available at https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/fb . Please use the “advanced search option” to find courses in English.
Preparatory German language courses	A six-week intensive preparatory German language course (20 x 45 min of instruction per week) will be offered prior to the beginning of the summer resp. winter term. Basic knowledge of German is required. All language levels, including absolute beginners are offered. If students attend the pre-semester language course, a spot in an adequate level German language course during the semester will be guaranteed (not mandatory). The course fee will be approx. 700 €. Places are limited, interested students should apply as soon as possible! http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/vorkurs_deutsch
Language courses during the semester	German language courses, offered during the semester, are free of charge. If students wish to participate in a German language course, they have to take a placement test first, which will be offered during the orientation period shortly before the semester starts. Without this test, exchange students are not eligible to take language classes. Further information is available at: http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch
Courses in other languages	The Language Centre (ZE Sprachenzentrum) offers a limited number of language courses. Please note that students need to take a placement test first and that the number of places is limited. Further details are available at: https://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachtests
Visa requirements	
Entry visa	Students who are citizens of EU or EEA countries, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Switzerland or the USA do not need a visa in order to enter Germany. Upon arrival in Berlin, citizens from these countries (except EU) must apply for a residence permit (see under “Arrival in Berlin”). Students who are NOT citizens of the countries listed above must apply for a student visa (<i>Visum zu Studienzwecken</i>) at the local German Embassy or a German General Consulate <u>before</u> they come to Germany. We therefore urge those students to apply for a study visa as soon as possible. It will take at least six weeks, sometimes a few months, to process the visa application. The necessary documents concerning the admission to our university (and, if applicable, the scholarship offer) will be sent via e-mail to the student as soon as possible. More information is available at: http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/einreise_aufenthalt/visum
Health insurance	
Waiver	Exchange students must have comprehensive health insurance valid in Germany for enrollment as a full-time student at FU Berlin AND for obtaining a residence permit. Students who EITHER have the European Health Insurance Card (EU and EEA students only) OR who can provide proof of an adequate comprehensive health insurance valid in Germany (unlimited in case of illness or rescue) may request an insurance waiver. Please note that a waiver can only be obtained at a German state-regulated health insurance company, not at the university. Since many insurance policies purchased outside Germany require substantial co-payments, have caps or exclude many illnesses it has been increasingly difficult for exchange students to obtain a waiver. We therefore urge all students younger than 30 years to purchase a German student health insurance for about 115 € per month. The German student health insurance policies are very comprehensive and are automatically accepted by the office granting residence permits. More information is available at: http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/einreise_aufenthalt/krankenversicherung
Mandatory fees	
Social fees / public transportation	Exchange students are exempt from university fees, but they still need to pay the so-called semester ticket and social fees of approx. 270 € per semester. These are non-university related fees and pay for the student union as well as for a public transportation ticket for the whole area of Berlin for the entire semester. Students will be asked to pay the fees via PayPal before arrival in Berlin as part of the enrollment process.

Pre-arrival requirements	
<i>Distributed Campus</i>	<p>Distributed Campus is an online platform, which is especially designed for exchange students who have already received their letter of admission. It comprises all the information mentioned above and a lot more useful links, deadlines and insights about life in Berlin in one platform. Students will receive registration details to access the platform at: https://distributed-campus.org/dc-root with their letter of admission.</p> <p>Registration for and use of the platform is required for participation in the exchange program.</p>
Arrival in Berlin	
<i>Enrollment</i>	<p>Upon receipt of all necessary documents (Health Insurance, Payment, Enrollment Form), students will be enrolled. After enrollment, students can immediately set up their FU-ZEDAT-Account. Students need this account in order to register for courses and use the FU-Net, Wi-Fi and computers on campus.</p> <p>As participants in our exchange program, students will be admitted and enrolled as full-time students at Freie Universität Berlin for the duration they have been nominated for by their home university.</p>
<i>Residence permit</i>	<p>After arrival, students must apply for a residence permit (<i>Aufenthaltserlaubnis</i>) within three months (except students from EU or EEA countries). Students will be provided with detailed information and assistance upon arrival in Berlin.</p>
Accommodation	
<i>Private accommodation</i>	<p>Either students can organize their own private accommodation (such as student-shared apartments, so-called <i>WG=Wohngemeinschaft</i>) or use the university's accommodation service offered by the ERG GmbH.</p>
<i>University housing service ERG</i>	<p>The accommodation service offers a variety of accommodation options, including dorms, shared flats and fully furnished single apartments. All housing options are available from the beginning of September/October or March/April onwards and cost about 400 – 850 € per month. For more information, please see the following website: http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung.</p>
<i>Registration deadline</i>	<p>Since there has been a dramatic increase of student housing demand, students wishing to use our accommodation service must apply <i>online</i> as soon as possible and no later than December 10 or June 10 using the link above. Registrations will be on a first come, first served basis.</p>
<i>On-campus accommodation</i>	<p>Please note that on-campus accommodation is not available. Further information about accommodation options will also be available to students via the Distributed Campus platform.</p>
Orientation	
	<p>Orientation takes place 5-10 days before the lecture period starts. It is necessary to participate in our orientation program. Students will be provided with essential information about studying at Freie Universität Berlin such as course selection and using the FU-Net, campus tours and how to use libraries and computers. The current orientation program is available online at: https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/veranstaltungen/orientierungsveranstaltungen/index.html</p>
Selecting courses and attending classes	
<i>Undergraduate programs</i>	<p>The Freie Universität Berlin offers a broad variety of undergraduate programs: <i>Art History, Ancient Near Eastern Languages and History, Arabic Studies, Archaeology, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biology, Business Administration, Byzantine Studies, Catalan, Chemistry, Chinese Studies, Classical Archaeology, Comparative Literature, Computer Science, Digital Media and Technology, Economics, Educational Science, Egyptian Philology, English Language and Literature, Equine Sciences, Film Studies, French Language and Literature, Galician Language and Literature, Geographical Sciences, Geological Sciences, German Language and Literature, Greek Language and Literature, History and Cultures of the Middle East, History, Iranian Studies, Islamic Studies, Italian Language and Literature, Japanese Studies, Jewish Studies, Korean Studies, Language – Literature – Culture: Dutch, Language and Society, Languages of Classical Antiquity, Latin American Studies, Latin Language and Literature, Management, Media and Communication Studies, Meteorology, Modern Greek Language and Culture, North American Studies, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Portuguese-Brazilian Studies, Psychology, Religious Studies, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Spanish Language and Literature, Theatre Studies, Turkish Studies.</i></p> <p>With few exceptions, all undergraduate programs are open for exchange students.</p> <p>Enrollment in the following courses is subject to availability of lab classes and to prior approval by the institute/department: <i>Biochemistry, Bioinformatics and Biology</i>. Restrictions apply in <i>Pharmacy, Law, Business Administration and Economics</i>.</p> <p>The Law Department prefers direct exchange students from institutions who also accept law students. There are only very few places available for other exchange programs.</p> <p>The School of Business Administration and Economics requires excellent German language skills (at least level B2) for classes taught in German. There is only a varying and very limited number of classes in English.</p> <p>Please note that <i>Human Medicine</i> and <i>Veterinary Medicine</i> are NOT open to exchange students.</p>

Master's programs	<p>The Freie Universität Berlin offers a range of master's programs. The following programs are open for exchange students without restriction: <i>Modern German Literature, Philosophy and Political Science</i>.</p> <p>All other programs are restricted and need prior approval by the institute / department.</p> <p>Admission to a master's program (non-degree status), is only possible with the approval of the department offering the master's program. Please contact us if you plan to nominate students for a particular master's program. Fee-based continuing education master's programs are NOT open to exchange students.</p>										
PhD programs	If students have the necessary prerequisites, exchange students may be enrolled as visiting PhD students.										
Special classes for exchange students	<p>The Institute of German Languages and Literature offers a study program exclusively for exchange students. The seminars focus on the culture, society and history of Berlin and Germany and should be regarded as an additional offer to the basic study program. Detailed information can be found here: https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/auslandssemester/Studienangebot-fuer-internationale-Gaststudierende</p>										
Modules	Bachelor's and master's programs are structured around modules, which usually consist of two content-related courses (e.g. a lecture and a seminar). While modules are offered on a regular basis (at least every 2 nd semester), the content of the individual lecture or seminar might vary from one semester to the other.										
Study and examinations regulations	Detailed module descriptions specifying contents, structure, contact hours and credits (<i>Leistungspunkte, LP</i>) can be found in the study and examination regulations (<i>Studien- u Prüfungsordnung</i>): http://www.fu-berlin.de/studium/studienorganisation/pruefung/Archiv_stud-pruef-ordnungen (German only).										
Course catalogue	The courses offered during the <i>current</i> semester are listed in the course catalogue (<i>Vorlesungsverzeichnis, VV</i>) which is available about one month prior to the beginning of the semester at https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/fb . It is structured by departments, degrees and modules.										
Course registration	Students have to register for courses on our online portal <i>Campus Management</i> before the semester starts. Access and further information will be provided during the orientation period. Please note that in order to attend classes within our master's programs, students need prior approval of the respective lecturers or program directors.										
Subjects taught in English	An overview of subjects offered in English is available at https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/fb . Please use the "advanced search option" to find courses in English. Most subjects taught in English, will be offered by the Department of English Philology and the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies.										
Courses at other universities in Berlin	Exchange students may also attend courses at <i>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</i> , the <i>Technische Universität Berlin</i> and <i>Universität Potsdam</i> . In order to gain credits for these courses, students need prior approval of the respective lecturer and must fulfil the university's requirements.										
Course approval at partner universities	When applying for an exchange to Freie Universität Berlin, some of our partner universities require that students have to get their subject selection approved prior to handing in the application. Since applications have to be submitted at least six months before the beginning of the exchange semester, it is not possible for students to access the course catalogue of the respective semester in time. We therefore recommend students to get modules approved instead of individual subjects (see study and examination regulations)										
Grading system											
Grading scale	<p>All departments, except for the Law Department, use the following grading scale:</p> <table> <tr> <td>1,0 – 1,5</td><td>very good</td></tr> <tr> <td>1,6 – 2,5</td><td>good</td></tr> <tr> <td>2,6 – 3,5</td><td>satisfactory</td></tr> <tr> <td>3,5 – 4,0</td><td>sufficient</td></tr> <tr> <td>5,0</td><td>fail</td></tr> </table>	1,0 – 1,5	very good	1,6 – 2,5	good	2,6 – 3,5	satisfactory	3,5 – 4,0	sufficient	5,0	fail
1,0 – 1,5	very good										
1,6 – 2,5	good										
2,6 – 3,5	satisfactory										
3,5 – 4,0	sufficient										
5,0	fail										
De-enrollment / Transcript of Records											
De-enrollment	At the end of their stay at Freie Universität Berlin, exchange students should de-enroll (<i>Exmatrikulation</i>). This is very important, especially if students wish to return to a German university at a later point.										
Transcript of Records	<p>Transcripts from Freie Universität Berlin are not issued automatically. Students who wish to obtain a Transcript of Records have to fill out a form and contact our transcript officer at incoming@fu-berlin.de before leaving Berlin. Students will be provided with detailed information and assistance via e-mail before departure.</p> <p>Important: Students should apply for a Transcript of Records no later than three months after their stay. Freie Universität Berlin cannot issue any transcripts after that time. The transcript will be issued once the student's grades are released.</p> <p>The original Transcript of Records will be sent to the international office of the home university. We will send a copy via e-mail to the student.</p>										

Last updated: July 2022