

Academic Calendar and Important Dates

	Winter term	Summer term
Semester dates	October 1 to March 31	April 1 to September 30
Lecture period	Mid-October to mid-February	Mid-April to mid-July
Exam period	During the last two weeks of the lecture period; may vary from department to department	During the last two weeks of the lecture period; may vary from department to department
Lecture-free period	Mid-February to mid-April	Mid-July to mid-October
Enrollment in person for exchange and program students	Begins September 1	Begins March 1
Orientation period	During the first week of October	During the first week of April
Course registration	During October	During April
Suggested arrival	At least 5 to 10 days before orientation starts	At least 5 to 10 days before orientation starts

For the dates of the specific semester you will be spending at Freie Universität Berlin, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studienorganisation/termine



Freie Universität Berlin

An excellent opportunity!

Become an exchange student at Freie Universität Berlin

www.fu-berlin.de/exchangestudents

Contact

Freie Universität Berlin
Office of International Affairs
International Student Mobility – Welcome Services
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14195 Berlin | Germany
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Imprint

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Frequently Asked Questions

Does Freie Universität Berlin offer on- or off-campus accommodation?
There is no on-campus accomodation, but our accomodation service offers various off-campus dorms and single or shared apartments. Since there has been an increase in the demand for student housing, we recommend that students apply as soon as possible after having received their admission letters.
For more information, please see:
www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung

Does Freie Universität Berlin charge tuition from exchange students?
Exchange students do not pay tuition or registration fees. However, all students pay the so-called "semester fees and contributions" of currently approximately 300 € per semester. These are non-university related fees and go to the student union, the elected student government as well as paying for the public transportation ticket for the entire semester. Students will be asked to pay the fee after arrival in Berlin as part of their enrollment process.

How can I apply for a non-degree exchange?
As a non-degree exchange student, you cannot apply to Freie Universität Berlin directly. Application procedures, deadlines, and formalities are set by our partner universities' international offices or by the external scholarship agency, depending on the type of non-degree exchange. Please contact the International Office of your home university or the external scholarship agency directly to find out more about the application procedure.

What kind of visa do I need to enter Germany and to study at Freie Universität Berlin?
Students who are citizens of the following countries do not need a visa in order to enter Germany: Member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Monaco, San Marino, South Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the USA. Upon arrival in Berlin, citizens of these countries (except EU and EEA) must apply for a residence permit.
Students who are not citizens of the countries listed above must apply for a visa at their local German Embassy or German General Consulate before coming to Germany. For more information, please contact your local German Embassy or German General Consulate.
It is not possible to study in Germany on a tourist visa.

What are the German language requirements to study at Freie Universität Berlin?
Depending on the exchange agreement or the conditions of the external scholarship agency, a certain level of German language skills may be required. Generally, in order to follow and successfully complete courses, German language skills equivalent to at least B1, preferably B2 (CEFR), are recommended.

What is the language of instruction at Freie Universität Berlin? Are there any courses taught in English?
The main language of instruction is German. However, some departments regularly offer courses taught in English. Their availability may vary and cannot be guaranteed. As the courses change each semester, please consult the online course-catalogue for an overview of courses taught in English. The online course-catalogue is generally available about three months prior to the beginning of the semester.
For more information, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en

Which Student Services does Freie Universität offer?
Freie Universität Berlin offers a large number of services that aim to support students from the very beginning in all possible situations and circumstances. These services include family support, language courses, recreational sports, IT support, and psychological counseling.
For information on specific services, please see:
www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/beratung



Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 on the principles of academic freedom and democracy. Today, it is one of Germany's leading research universities with nearly 30,000 students and 4,000 staff. As an "International Network University," we connect students and scholars through a unique global alliance of strategic academic partnerships, joint research projects, and international liaison offices. Our global outlook and strategy have made us a leading destination for international researchers and Germany's most popular university amongst international doctoral candidates.

We are one of eleven Universities of Excellence in the German government's Excellence Initiative and have placed prominently in institutional rankings, including the CHE University Ranking, the Funding Ranking of the German Research Foundation (DFG), and the QS World University Ranking. As one of Germany's most international universities, we have scored top positions in rankings of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for years.

Berlin is one of the most exciting cities in Europe. As Germany's capital and cultural metropolis, it attracts people from around the world. A vibrant and constantly changing city, it is a center of cultural, political, and economic life.
The Dahlem campus hosts the majority of the university's 15 departments and central institutes, more than 20 libraries, various student cafes and dining halls – including Germany's first vegetarian university dining hall – university sport facilities, and the Botanic Garden. The campus is surrounded by wonderful green gardens and lakes.

Departments, Schools, and Central Institutes

We offer a wide range of studies and highly selective programs on all academic levels. We have an especially strong reputation in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the life sciences, and natural sciences.
Our programs are offered in the following departments, schools, and central institutes:

- Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy
- School of Business and Economics
- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department of Education and Psychology
- Department of History and Cultural Studies
- Department of Law
- Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Department of Philosophy and Humanities
- Department of Physics
- Department of Political and Social Sciences
- Department of Veterinary Medicine
- Institute for East European Studies
- Institute for Latin American Studies
- John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies

Together with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin offers medical studies at the Medical School Charité – University Medicine Berlin. For further information on the exchange programs of the Charité, please contact the Charité International Cooperation Office.

How to come to Freie Universität for an Exchange

Freie Universität Berlin attracts a high number of exchange students from all over the world every semester. You can come study at our university within the framework of different exchange programs. We usually require non-degree exchange students to have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies and – depending on the specific exchange agreement – to have obtained a certain level of German language proficiency.

- The European Union's Erasmus+ Program gives students the opportunity to spend part of their studies at another university in Europe. You can spend one or two semesters at Freie Universität Berlin within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program, if your home university has an Erasmus-Agreement with Freie Universität Berlin. In addition to our Erasmus-Partnerships within Europe, we also have partners in the Erasmus+ Worldwide program. For further information, please contact your home institution's international office.

- The direct or departmental exchange program is for students, whose home university has a bilateral exchange agreement with Freie Universität Berlin. Direct and departmental exchange students cannot apply to Freie Universität Berlin directly, they have to be nominated by their home university first. Application procedures, deadlines, and formalities are set by our partner universities' international offices.

- You can also come to Freie Universität Berlin within the framework of a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) or the German-American Fulbright Commission. Students apply directly to the external scholarship agency.

- Outside of our regular exchange programs, we also offer international students the opportunity to spend some time at Freie Universität Berlin in the FU-BEST (Freie Universität Berlin European Studies) and FUBIS (International Summer and Winter University) programs. For more information on these programs, please see: www.fu-berlin.de/fubest and www.fu-berlin.de/fubis

For international students seeking to pursue degree studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the normal admissions procedure applies. For more information, please see
www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu

Advantages for Exchange Students

- A simplified admission and enrollment procedure
- Support from our student exchange office and an extensive orientation program before the semester starts, making your first steps at our university and in Berlin easier
- A wide range of German language courses for exchange and program students during the semester, from basic to advanced level (A2 to C1 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Language)
- The opportunity to take courses about Berlin, its history, and culture that have been designed specifically for exchange and program students

Discover Courses beyond your own Field of Study

Freie Universität offers a program of studies exclusively for exchange students. Courses in this program

- cover key aspects of German history, culture, and society in a European perspective, providing knowledge relevant to an understanding of current affairs, culture and everyday life in contemporary Berlin (and Germany more generally);
- help you acquire academic and intercultural skills which are useful in a German-speaking academic environment;
- give you more confidence regarding your spoken and written (academic) German.

Most of these courses are taught in German; two or three per semester will be offered in English. They are open to students from all academic fields, with a few courses being designed for students from Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies.

This program is based at the Institute of German and Dutch Languages and Literatures. For more information about the program, the specific courses and enrollment, please see:
www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/auslandssemester/Studienangebot-fuer-internationale-Gaststudierende

Improve your German

The university's Language Center and its department for German as a Foreign Language offer courses for exchange students prior to and during the semester, as well as providing a self-learning center, where students can develop their language skills independently. You can also register for a language tandem, where you will be matched with a native German-speaker and can meet up regularly to hone your language skills in an informal setting.
The intensive pre-semester language courses take place in the six weeks leading up to the semester. The reduced course fee for exchange students is 600 Euro (1,350 Euro for all other students). The German courses during the semester are free of charge for exchange students and range from 4 to 8 hours of classes per week.

For more information on the various programs of the Language Center and course registration, please see:
www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch



