

**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 at one of the 21 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 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 an overseas university on study abroad and exchange are credit-bearing. Credit will only be given where there is a prior agreement. Retrospective credit is not normally given. **Every student who wishes to have overseas studies credited in lieu of one or more University of Melbourne German Studies subject(s) must take part in an initial consultation with the German Studies exchange coordinator in one of their office hours during teaching periods before designing their study plan.** Credit is not normally given for short courses offered through the DAAD, such as the “Winterkurs” in Essen, Freiburg or Leipzig or for other courses not offered through a university.

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 65% (H3) across your degree
- study the equivalent of at least a full-time load while overseas
- obtain faculty approval on a Melbourne Global Mobility 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 [Outbound section](#) of the University's Melbourne Global Mobility website.

4. Where can I go?

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

- **Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**
(founded 1948, 33.000 students, 17% international)
[Freie Universität Berlin website](#)
- **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany**
(founded 1810, 37.000 students, 13% international)
[Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin website](#)
- **Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg, Germany**
(founded 1386, 25.000 students, 17% international)
[Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg website](#)
- **Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany**
(founded 1457, 22.000 students, 16% international)
[Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg website](#)
- **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München**
(founded 1472, 47.000 students, 13% international)
[Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München website](#)
- **Universität Wien, Austria**
(founded 1365, 88.000 students, 24% international)
[Universität Wien website](#)

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?

German major students, Honours students and Diploma of Languages (German) students can get up to 37.5 points credited for German Studies. Students doing breadth studies and students doing a minor in German Studies can normally only get the equivalent of one 12.5 pts University of Melbourne subject credited, in exceptional circumstances up to 25 points.

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 Languages
- German Studies as a breadth studies track
- 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

- University language courses at the level of B1 of the European Framework for Languages and above. Pre-semester intensive language courses at the relevant university and at the appropriate level can normally be credited as equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Language and Culture subject, but the fees for such courses, while often reduced for exchange students, is not normally covered by the exchange agreement
 - Literature subjects
 - Linguistics subjects
- and the following types of subjects (if approved as consistent with the definition of German Studies at Melbourne University, even if not offered by department other than the “Germanistik” or “Deutsch als Fremdsprache” departments at the exchange university:
- 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 and Accumulation System’ (ECTS, purely based on contact hours) for awarding credit. However, similar types of subjects at different German speaking universities carry different ECTS points loads, making ECTS points as a sole measure for credit unreliable. Also, the German Studies Program is taking great care that your exchange subjects fit into your overall sequence of German Studies subjects at Melbourne University. For each subject or combination of subjects at the German speaking university that you choose, the German Studies exchange coordinator must determine equivalence with an appropriate University of Melbourne German Studies subject. While the German Studies Program takes ECTS loads into account, other measures for equivalence of an exchange subject with a Melbourne University German Studies

subject, such as comparable year level, contact hours and assessment, are also part of the decision to recommend credit for exchange subjects to your home faculty.

Therefore, early contact with the German Studies exchange coordinator (normally only available in the regular consultation hours during teaching periods) is essential!

Most German speaking universities adhere to the following system of subject:

- V = Vorlesung (lecture without tutorials), very often not assessed at all and therefore not bearing exchange credits
- GK = Grundkurs (introductory subject)
- Ü = Übung (a smaller subject often with less than equivalent assessment; but 2 Übungen can often be bundled as equivalent to a Uni Melbourne subject)
- PS = Proseminar (undergraduate course at 2/3 year level)
- HS = Hauptseminar (advanced/honours level subject)

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. You will discuss your choice of exchange subjects with the German Studies exchange coordinator.

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

Second year students (2nd semester)

These students will generally take

- 1 language class/course at the appropriate level (at least B1 in the European Framework for Languages) = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Language and Culture subject
- 1 or 2 language seminars or Übungen on aspects of syntax, vocabulary = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Language and Culture subject
- 1 Grundkurs in any subject / or a Proseminar = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Cultural Studies subject

Third year students

These students will generally take

1. 1 language class/course at the appropriate level (at least B1 in the European Framework for Languages) = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Language and Culture subject
2. 1 Grundkurs in any subject / or a Proseminar = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Cultural Studies subject
3. 1 Proseminar in an approved area = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Language and Culture or Cultural Studies subject

Honours students

These students will generally take

1. 1 Proseminar in an approved area = equivalent to a 12.5 pts German Honours Language subject

2. 1 Proseminar in an approved area = equivalent to a 12.5 pts Cultural Studies subject
3. 1 Hauptseminar in an approved area = equivalent to a 12.5 pts Cultural Studies subject

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. In most cases, 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 and contact the German Studies exchange coordinator by email with the details of your subject substitutions including the URL to the subject in the final online handbook for the relevant semester. The German Studies exchange coordinator will then check your substitution and reply to your email (normally approving your substitution), copying the reply to the exchange advisor in the Arts Faculty Student Centre. German Studies can be fairly flexible about which subjects you choose, but you must check with us first before committing yourself to a whole semester of study.

14. Where do I find information on language courses?

Subject to equivalent ECTS points, assessment, language skills level and contact hours such courses offered at or through a German speaking university, can qualify for credit in lieu of a UoM German Studies subject. However, most of these courses are charging a fee which is not covered by the exchange agreement. In many cases, exchange students from a partner university (such as UoM) qualify for reduced rates.

Freie Universität Berlin

1. intensive course before the semester:
[Pre-semester German course details](#)
2. free courses during the semester:
[Deutsch-Sprachkurse für Programmstudierende](#)

Humboldt-Universität Berlin

1. intensive course before the semester:
[Intensivkurse Deutsch als Fremdsprache details](#)
2. courses during the semester:
[Winter Semester 2013/2014](#)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

1. intensive course before the semester,;
[Preparation courses in German 4-week intensive courses for foreign students details](#)
2. courses during the semester:
[German Instruction for Foreign Students Enrolled in a Degree Programme details](#)

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Details of courses:

www.sli.uni-freiburg.de/sprachen/Deutsch/ (When you navigate on from this pages, please be advised that many pages on the University of Freiburg server are switched off for maintenance during local night time!)

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

1. intensive course before the semester, different length:
[Intensive course details](#)
another intensive course before the semester, €380.00 :
[The Preparation Course - Intensive German language course details](#)
2. courses during the semester:
[Study German 2014 details](#)
or [German accompanying course](#)

Universität Wien

1. February intensive course:
[February Intensive 2014 details](#)
September intensive course:
[Summer intensive details](#)
2. FREE course during the semester
“Deutsch für Internationale Studierende” at the Germanistisches Institut:
[course details via the link “Vorlesungsverzeichnis”](#)

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

Freie Universität Berlin, [Institut für deutsche und niederländische Philologie](#)

Humboldt-Universität Berlin, [Institut für deutsche Sprache und Linguistik](#)
[Institut für deutsche Literatur](#)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, [Germanistisches Seminar](#)

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, [Deutsches Seminar](#)

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, [Institut für deutsche Philologie](#)
[Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprache](#)

Universität Wien, [Institut für Germanistik](#)

16. Where do I get help at German speaking 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. Student Unions or Clubs might also be helpful.

Freie Universität Berlin

[Akademisches Auslandsamt](#)
[Student council AStA](#)

Humboldt-Universität Berlin

[HU International](#)

[For exchange students](#)

[International Club "Orbis Humboldtianus"](#)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

[Akademisches Auslandsamt](#)

["Info Café International \(ICI\)"](#)

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

[International Office](#)

[For exchange students](#)

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

[International Office](#)

[For exchange students](#)

Universität Wien

[Büro für Internationale Beziehungen](#)

[For exchange students](#)

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

- Melbourne Global Travel Grants
- Melbourne Global Financial Assistance
- Melbourne Global Scholarships in Language Study
- OS-HELP Loans from the Australian government
- A range of scholarships from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

For more information about Study Abroad see the Melbourne Global Mobility [Study Abroad Funding](#) web page.