Study Abroad

MARBURG, GERMANY
2020

Program Guide
# Table of Contents

Academics ............................................................... 5
  Pre-departure Planning ............................................. 5
  Academics IGSP ...................................................... 5
  Registration in Marburg ............................................. 5
  Placement Exam ..................................................... 5
  Credits and Course Load ........................................... 5
  IGSP Structure ....................................................... 5
  Attendance ........................................................... 6
  Grades ................................................................. 6
  IGSP Academic System ............................................. 6
  **Classroom Expectations** ......................................... 7
  Classes at the Studienkolleg ....................................... 7
  **Homework** ......................................................... 7
  **Exams** ............................................................. 7

Academics IUSP .......................................................... 8
  Credits and Course Load ........................................... 8
  IUSP Track Structure ............................................... 8
  IUSP Registration at Marburg ..................................... 8
  Dropping/Adding IUSP Courses ................................... 9
  Reporting Your Registration ...................................... 9
  Syllabi and Academic Work ....................................... 9
  Registration for Exams ............................................ 9
  Grades ................................................................. 9
  Uni Marburg & UWEC Transcripts ................................. 10
  German Academic System ........................................ 10
  Differences in Terminology ....................................... 10

Money Matters ......................................................... 11
  Cost Estimate ....................................................... 11
  Marburg Refund Policy ........................................... 11
  Currency Exchange ................................................ 11
  Money on Arrival .................................................. 12

Cost of Living ......................................................... 12
Health & Safety ....................................................... 12
  Centers for Disease Control ..................................... 12
  Health Insurance in Germany ................................... 12
  Healthcare .......................................................... 12
  CISI Insurance in Germany ....................................... 12
  Services for Students with Disabilities ........................ 13
  Safety in Germany ................................................ 13
  Emergency Contacts ............................................... 13
  911 Equivalent in Germany ...................................... 13

Required Documents ................................................ 13
  Visa ........................................................................ 13
  Residence Permit Process after Arrival ....................... 14
  Visas for Travel to Other Countries ............................ 14

Packing Tips ............................................................ 14
  Weather ..................................................................... 14
  The climate in Germany is somewhat milder than the climate in Wisconsin, but you will still want clothing for all weather ........................................ 14
  Clothing .................................................................... 14
  Converters & Adapters .............................................. 14

Getting To Germany ................................................... 14
  Travel Arrangements ............................................... 14
  Getting to Marburg .................................................. 14
  Early, Late or Delayed Arrival .................................... 15
  If Your Luggage Does Not Arrive ................................. 15

Settling In ................................................................. 15
  Checking In .......................................................... 15
  Orientation ............................................................. 15
  On-Site Support ...................................................... 15
  Local Transportation ............................................... 15
  Student Clubs & Organizations .................................. 15
  Activities/Events .................................................... 15
Volunteer .................................................... 16
Service Learning ........................................ 16
Going Out .................................................. 16
Housing ....................................................... 16
Living Situation .......................................... 17
What's Provided? ....................................... 17
Laundry ..................................................... 17
Internet Access .......................................... 17
Checking Out ............................................. 17
Food .......................................................... 17
Where to Buy Food ...................................... 18
Restaurants .............................................. 18
Communication ........................................ 19
Time Difference ........................................ 19
Internet/Email Access ................................. 19
Landline Phone Information ....................... 19
Cell Phone Information .............................. 19
Calling Information .................................... 19
Snail Mail ................................................... 19
Communicating in German ....................... 19
Cultural Notes .......................................... 20
Greetings & Good-byes ............................. 20
Punctuality ................................................. 20
Tell It Like It Is ........................................... 20
Crossing the Street .................................... 21
Store Hours .............................................. 21
Travel While Abroad .................................. 21
Organized Travel ....................................... 21
Train Travel in Germany ............................. 21
Bus Travel in Germany ............................... 21
Contact Information ................................. 22
IGSP MARBURG ....................................... 22
IUSP MARBURG ....................................... 22
GERMAN CONSULATE IN THE U.S. .......... 22
U.S. EMBASSY IN GERMANY .................. 22
Department of Languages ......................... 22
Web Resources: Germany ....................... 23
Marburg ................................................... 23
Culture ..................................................... 23
Travel ....................................................... 23
Past Participant Voices ............................. 24
Congratulations on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire partnership with the University of Marburg in Germany. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

- **Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field**
- **Increasing understanding of different cultures**
- **Enhancing personal development**
- **Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture**
- **Gaining self-confidence and independence**
- **Learning skills for the future international job market**

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:
1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?

2) Given the way the program is set up, how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is to truly be immersed in German language and culture, yet you have the option of taking classes with all international students, how can you ensure that you get out and interact with the local population?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.
ACADEMICS
Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the ACADEMICS section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Pre-departure Planning
UWEC students can participate in three different program tracks at Uni Marburg:
• the International German Studies Program (IGSP), offered spring semester only
• the International Undergraduate Studies Program (IUSP), offered both semesters or the academic year
• the Regular University Exchange, offered for the academic year or for spring semester.

Be sure you are reading the information for the specific program you are participating in as you go through this guide!

For all three program tracks, please see the UWEC Marburg Academics page for an overview on how to plan your courses at Uni Marburg.

ACADEMICS IGSP

Registration in Marburg
In September or October, you will receive an email directly from Uni Marburg, asking you to register in Mobility Online, their online registration portal. Please register immediately upon receiving the email, since Marburg IGSP staff cannot enroll you or secure housing for you until you do.

Placement Exam
You will take a placement exam in late November or early December, administered by one of the UWEC German faculty members. The exact date and location will be announced early in fall semester.

Credits and Course Load
Upon successful completion of the program, you will earn 15 credits.

Students who have taken German 201 receive credit for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German 202 (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 313 (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 314 (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 340 (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German UD elective-language courses (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who have taken German 202 receive credit for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German 313*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 314*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German UD elective-language courses (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German UD elective-language courses (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students who have already taken 313 and/or 314 on campus will earn credit for a second 313 or 314 course. Credit in those courses may be earned twice.

You are strongly encouraged to meet with your German faculty adviser (if declared German minors or majors) or a faculty member in the German section to discuss your degree plan, course equivalencies and potential substitutions. The 15 credits that you earn by successfully completing the program can count as required courses and/or electives in fulfillment of a German minor or major. Specifics will depend on individual degree plans and will be determined in pre-program advising sessions with German faculty.

IGSP Structure
The IGSP track is divided into three distinct academic sections: two are focused on language and one on reading various forms of German prose.
There are five possible levels (Stufen) of language courses. **Note that even Stufe 1 assumes the equivalent of about 400 previous hours of language study, it is NOT a beginning level.** In the past, most UW-Eau Claire students have placed into either Stufe 1 or 2.

Classes will be quite small, usually between 10 and 16 people. Your classmates will be other international students who are at the same proficiency level. Some will be traditional college age; others will be much older. In many cases, German will be your only common language.

**Block 1:** The first language course will meet for approximately six weeks. Language classes generally meet from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday-Friday. You will have about a week of vacation at the end of this first block.

**Block 2:** During the second block, you take another comprehensive language course for a second period of six weeks. This course will be taught in conjunction with the IUSP track. At the end of this block, you will have a field trip to Berlin.

Each of these first two courses culminates in four graded examinations that test listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

**Block 3:** During the third section of the program, you will have a German literature course taught primarily for UW students, although other students may join the class, also. You will be divided up based on your Stufe levels, so that you are in classes appropriate for your German language skills. You will read different styles of German writing: literature, newspapers, magazine articles, etc, discuss them in class, take notes on a lecture, and write short essays. This course will only meet two-three days a week for a couple of hours at a time, but you will have more homework to do outside of class. Class meeting times may vary; you will receive a schedule shortly before the beginning of the class because your placement will depend on your performance on the last Stufe examination. Towards the end of block three, you will have a fieldtrip to Dresden.

**Additional Tasks:** You will also complete a series of tasks that are designed to facilitate and guide your contact with the German culture and to write short reflective papers about your experiences. Details will be explained during one of the sessions with your UWEC German faculty mentor during the fall semester.

**Attendance**

Attendance will figure heavily into your UWEC grades. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

**Grades**

Your language course grades will be based on attendance, participation and exams. All three parts of the written exam, including the listening and reading comprehension, include sections where your ability to formulate structurally accurate German is being evaluated. It is important to come to class and practice your German every chance you have, even if some of the material might seem to be review. The literature course grades will be based on attendance, essays/homework assignments, and final exam.

Your UW-Eau Claire German faculty mentor will explain the system used to calculate the UW-Eau Claire grades that appear on your transcript. It takes into account the Uni Marburg grade, attendance, and the varying levels of the German courses.

**IGSP Academic System**

In Marburg you will be taking classes THROUGH the Phillips Universität Marburg, but you won't actually be considered a traditional "student" there. For the first block, you will be part of a program called the "Studienkolleg" which provides German
language courses for non-native German speakers who want to improve their German or who eventually want to study at a German university. For the second, you will take a German language and culture course with IUSP participants.

Classroom Expectations
Although you are going to a program for international students, cultural differences are not confined to life outside of the classroom. You are preparing to learn for a semester not only in a different language, but within a completely different university system, constructed on very different cultural assumptions.

Your courses are taught by German instructors educated within the German academic system. Within this system, teachers are expected to present ideas and information; it is the students' responsibility to make sense of the information. You need to ask questions in class, as well as to learn independently and often work together outside of class to understand or expand upon the materials presented in class.

This is a very different approach to education than that of the U.S. system, where the teacher presents the exact information, in an orderly fashion, that students "need" to know in order to pass an exam. Your approach to this new situation is up to you!

Classes at the Studienkolleg
Because this is an intensive language program, you will be in class for 4-5 hours/day. Studienkolleg classes are more casual than regular German university courses, because they are conversation rather than lecture-based. Instead of calling your teacher "professor" or "Herr/Frau ..." you will be on a first-name basis with them. On the first day of class, they will discuss whether you all want to call one another "du" or "Sie." The teachers are very helpful, and some are immigrants themselves, so they know what it's like to learn German as a second language.

The classes are very interactive! It will NOT be a lecture where the teacher speaks the entire time while you take notes. You will work in groups a lot of the time to discuss themes and practice dialogue.

Homework
There is relatively little homework, given the length of time you are in class, but it is expected that you will do it: you will be asked to speak/read aloud in every single class, based on the previous night's homework.

You will receive multiple worksheets most nights and are expected to have them finished before class the next day because you will go over them together in class. Sometimes you will have to write short, 100-word essays and hand them in.

Exams
The exams for the language courses are divided into four parts: Speaking (Mündliche Prüfung), Listening (Hörübung), Writing (Aufsatz), and Reading (Lesung.) You will complete the listening, writing, and reading in one class period. Then you will come in on the appointed day to go over the written exam and to make an appointment for the speaking exam. Please note: even if you do not pass the written exam, you must register for and take the speaking exam.

When you come in for the speaking exam, you will have 15 minutes to prepare based on the prompt you are given (you may bring a dictionary). Then, you will meet with two teachers, and they will ask you questions that you have to answer while they grade you on how well you use your German language skills. Immediately when you are done you will receive your grade.

The exam for the Literature Course is on the readings and the notes you took in class. You may also have a final essay to write, depending on your course level.
**ACADEMICS IUSP**

Uni Marburg uses the European Credit Transfer System, or ECTS. The conversion of ECTS credits to UW-Eau Claire credits is simple: Two ECTS credits equal one UW-Eau Claire credit.

You need to register for at least 24 ECTS credits to be full time and can register for a maximum of 32 ECTS, for a total credit load of 12-16 credits.

**Credits and Course Load**

This is how your credits will typically be divided in the IUSP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED CLASSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive German Language</td>
<td>6 ECTS/3 UWEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Culture Class</td>
<td>6 ECTS/3 UWEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Semester Class 1</td>
<td>6 ECTS/3 UWEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Semester Class 2</td>
<td>6 ECTS/3 UWEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS</td>
<td>24 ECTS/12 UWEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTIONAL CLASSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Semester Class 3</td>
<td>6 ECTS/3 UWEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Conversation Class</td>
<td>1 ECTS/1 UWEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Intensive German Language classes and the German Culture Class transfer back as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German A1.1</td>
<td>German 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German A1.2</td>
<td>German 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German A2.1</td>
<td>German 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German A2.2</td>
<td>German 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German B1/B2/C</td>
<td>German upper division electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Culture Class</td>
<td>Geog elective, lower division, LE-K2R2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep in mind:
- The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits.
- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved in advance by the CIE and Marburg.

**IUSP Track Structure**

The IUSP is divided in two sections. During the first six weeks, all IUSP students take an intensive German language course at an appropriate level, along with a German culture class to introduce you to your host country.

During the second half of the program, you will take regular courses supported by the IUSP. [Academic curricula and course lists](#) for past IUSP semesters are here. The specific courses for each term will not be published until shortly before the beginning of that term.

**IUSP Registration at Marburg**

In July for Wintersemester or December for Sommersemester, begin checking the [IUSP Regular Semester Classes Page](#). If course descriptions are listed, begin researching course options. You can request course equivalencies at this time for courses you are relatively sure you would like to take. Just send the course department, number, title, number of credits, and course description, to Cheryl Lochner-Wright, the Marburg study abroad coordinator, and she will work with the Admissions Office to have equivalencies established. This process can take several weeks.

Once the IUSP class list is complete, you will get an email from the IUSP academic coordinator asking for your [preliminary course choice](#).

During your first week in Marburg, you will have an orientation session on choosing classes. After this
session, you will be required to turn in your final class selections

**Dropping/Adding IUSP Courses**

Because the IUSP works on a shortened semester, there is no drop-add period at the beginning of the regular university semester.

**Reporting Your Registration**

As soon as you confirm your final registration at Uni Marburg, log in to your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire. You will find it at https://studyabroad.apps.uwec.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Abroad.Home. Choose LOGIN from the top toolbar and login with your UWEC username and password.

If a course you are taking is not already in the UW-Eau Claire Transfer Wizard, you will need to provide the following information:

- course title
- course number
- course description
- number of credits
- name of the department you would like credit in

Once equivalencies have been established by all department chairs involved, the courses will be posted to the Transfer Credit Wizard, and you will be able to see them there.

**Equivalency timeline:** The process of determining an equivalency can take four to six weeks. In other words, you will most likely not be able to ask to have equivalencies established for 6-8 courses so that you can choose which one you wish to take.

**Syllabi and Academic Work**

Keep all syllabi and academic work. Because you will register for your classes after arrival in Germany, remember to keep your syllabi and the work that you have done while abroad for review by relevant UW-Eau Claire department chairs in case you want to petition to have a course substituted for a specific requirement.

The German faculty, in particular, are sometimes reluctant to assign course equivalencies until they see examples of work you have done in the class.

**Registration for Exams**

In addition to registering for the class itself, you must also register separately for the final exam for each class. If you do not, you will not be able to take the exam and you will not get credit for the class.

Exams given in Germany may be written or may be oral exams. If you are concerned about having to produce immediate, grammatically correct, and in-depth verbal answers in the German language, many professors are open to an alternative. Some examples include an oral presentation that you prepare in advance, or a written exam. However, it is up to you to make the request, and ultimately, it is up to the professor to decide how to give the exam.

**Grades**

Grades will be converted from the Uni Marburg scale as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>95-97.9</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>90-94.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>88-89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>83-87.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>78-79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>74-77.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>65-73.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>58-64.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>57.9-51</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 0</td>
<td>50.9 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail. Grades from Uni Marburg are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.
Uni Marburg & UWEC Transcripts
Please see the Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook for important information if you are graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.

A Uni Marburg transcript with German grades is sent to UW-Eau Claire at the end of January for the fall semester, and at the end of July for the spring semester. Because Marburg grades will arrive later than the end of the UW-Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate “NR” (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives.

If you are asked where your transcript should be sent, request that an original copy of your transcript be directly sent to Cheryl Lochner-Wright, Study Abroad Coordinator, at the address on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide. The UW-Eau Claire Registrar's Office cannot accept transcripts sent directly to students.

Plan for the future: If the university allows you to request two original transcripts, request that a second copy be sent to you. This can be very important if you decide to go to graduate school, because graduate schools often require original copies of transcripts from each university you have attended. Since there is no centralized transcript system in German universities, it will be virtually impossible to get another original transcript later.

German Academic System
Traditional higher education in Germany is very different from that in the U.S. Students are expected to learn independently and often work together outside of class to understand or expand upon the materials presented. Short quizzes and daily or weekly assignments are very uncommon. Grades are largely based on class participation, along with one major exam, paper, or oral report (Referat).

The type of regular university class you take generally determines the type of assessment that will be used.
- A Vorlesung (lecture) will usually have an oral or written exam.
- An Uebung (lab) grade will be based on in-class performance.
- For a Proseminar (introductory seminar), a Referat or a written term paper is usually expected.
- A Seminar (advanced seminar) may require both a Referat and a paper.

You may also notice that the Germans have a different reinforcement method than we use in the U.S. Instead of pointing out and reinforcing your correct answers and good ideas, your teacher will often point out your mistakes. Do not be surprised or feel offended if your teacher points a finger at you and says, “Das war ganz falsch!” German students are used to this method from grade school on, but it often intimidates American students at first.

Another difference to note is that “student services” are a relatively unknown concept. The university is there to provide access to academic resources. Unlike most U.S. institutions, German universities do not have the mission of “student development.” University students are considered adults who will work their way through the system, asking questions when necessary. As a newcomer to the system and the culture, you will find it necessary to ask questions often!

Differences in Terminology
There are differences in English terminology between the U.S. and Germany. Sometimes the same English word is used to describe two different things and other times different English words are used to describe the same thing. Below is a list of terms that have historically caused confusion for
U.S. students studying in Germany, even those studying in English.

**Faculty vs. Department:** In Germany, what you might think of as a “department” or “college” is referred to as a “faculty.” For example, in Germany the “Engineering Faculty” is the U.S. equivalent of a “Department of Engineering.” Likewise, in Germany, “Faculty” does not refer collectively to the people teaching your courses.

**Module:** “Module” is another word for “course.”

**Titles for Professor:** Address your professor as “Professor. Dr. (last name).” Yes, use both titles together to err on the side of politeness!

**Advising vs. Counseling:** What we would call “Advising” in the U.S. is called “Counseling” in Germany.

**Campus:** In the U.S., a university campus typically has buildings, facilities and outdoor areas all centralized in one place. While some campuses are large and others quite small, there usually exists a “perimeter” and a university structure within which all “campus life” takes place.

German universities are not typically centralized on a campus. Classrooms, libraries, cafeterias, administrative buildings, offices, and student accommodation may be found in various locations throughout the city. You can expect to walk longer distances between campus facilities or between student accommodation and campus facilities; in many cases you may need to rely on public transportation as well.

Students are therefore members of a much larger community than you may be accustomed to on a U.S. campus. Extracurricular activities, intramural sports, gym memberships, and even student accommodation are through city or student organizations, which are not part of the university.

**Freemover:** A “freemover” is a student who applies directly to an institution for a semester or year but does not apply through a formal exchange. You are NOT a freemover.

**Erasmus & Socrates:** “Erasmus” is a European exchange program and “Socrates” is an associated program. You are NOT an Erasmus or a Socrates student. However, because you are an exchange student, some information on the Uni Marburg website may apply to both you and Erasmus/Socrates students.

**MONEY MATTERS**

*UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in the Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Cost Estimate**

You can find the most current cost estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the CIE Marburg website. Be sure you are looking at the correct term AND the correct program track. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to Uni Marburg, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

**Marburg Refund Policy**

If you withdraw any time after Uni Marburg initially accepts you, you are responsible for a €500 fee, in addition to any UW-Eau Claire fees that are non-refundable at that time. **All withdrawals must be in writing.**

**Currency Exchange**

The currency of Germany is the Euro. One Euro has 100 cents. There are 8 Euro coins, ranging in amount from 1 cent to 2 Euros. Coins have
different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.


**Money on Arrival**

When you arrive in Marburg, you will need to pay a €350 room deposit, a €5 meal card deposit, a €100 for your electronic residence permit, and €10 for the biometric photo required for the residence permit.

Be sure to plan in advance for how you will access these funds. Know your daily ATM withdrawal limits and plan accordingly.

**Cost of Living**

For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website: [https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Marburg-Germany](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Marburg-Germany)

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health & Insurance and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook. You will receive additional information at orientation in Marburg, also.

**Centers for Disease Control**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to Germany. Review the [CDC site for Germany](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/international/index.html).

Due to an increasing measles and mumps cases in Europe, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine.

**Health Insurance in Germany**

In addition to the CISI insurance required by the UW-System, the German government requires that you purchase German Student Health Insurance. It does not include the medical evacuation and repatriation insurance included with the CISI coverage. However, while in Germany, you should not need to worry about paying for medical services upfront. The policy will be explained during orientation in Marburg.

**Healthcare**

**Medical Facilities in Marburg:** Marburg has many clinics as well as hospitals and an urgent care clinic. The Uni Marburg International Office will provide written information about how to make an appointment, as well as recommendations and contact information for specific doctor’s offices, during orientation in Marburg.

**Counseling Resources:** Counseling services are available at Uni Marburg in the same building as the Mensa (student cafeteria) and you can contact them directly or ask for assistance at the International Office. [https://studentenwerk-marburg.de/beratung-betreuung/sozialberatung/](https://studentenwerk-marburg.de/beratung-betreuung/sozialberatung/)

There are currently no English-speaking therapists identified in the Marburg area. CISI can identify English-speaking counselors available via Skype or other distance media. Please contact CISI directly or ask for assistance from the UWEC study abroad coordinator.

**Medical Supplies/Medications:** You can find basic medical supplies or medications in local pharmacies (Apotheken). They are plentiful and are identified by a green cross (universal symbol in all of Europe). They even sell personal hygiene items that you might not expect, like toothbrushes.

**CISI Insurance in Germany**

If you have an accident or become ill while studying in Germany, as a rule, use your German insurance while in Germany and your CISI insurance if traveling outside of Germany. If you do use your
CISI insurance, you must pay the price of the medical service up front. You will then file a claim through CISI, the insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

**Services for Students with Disabilities**

Uni Marburg’s Servicestelle für behinderte Studierende (SBS) can provide assistance and accommodations to students.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in Germany. To find more information on this topic, please see the State Department Country Specific Information page. If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

**Safety in Germany**

Information on crime, specific safety issues, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Germany is included in the U.S. State Department’s Germany Country Information website. Specific safety in and around Marburg will be discussed during orientation in Eau Claire and in Marburg.

**Pick-Pocketing:** Pick-pocketing occurs on public transportation and at popular tourist sites throughout Germany. To reduce the risk, do not have your phone or other valuables out in public spaces. An iPhone is a target for pick-pocketers. If you carry a purse, make sure it is across the body and has zippers. Keep your wallet in a front pocket, not a back pocket. Only carry small amounts of cash on you to minimize loss. Using a money belt under your clothing is another way to prevent valuables from being stolen.

**Racially-Motivated Hate Crimes:** Anti-immigrant sentiment has led to harassment and attacks, most often by drunken “skinheads,” on perceived foreigners. Racially-motivated assaults (because of a “foreign” appearance) against U.S. citizens have occurred. If you have concerns, please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator and refer to the resources for multicultural students on the CIE website.

**Emergency Contacts**

General emergency procedures are described in the Safety Abroad section of the Study Abroad Handbook, and Marburg has a Study Abroad Adviser who is available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

**911 Equivalent in Germany**

If you are in an emergency situation in the, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in Germany is 112 for medical emergencies and the first department, or 110 for the police. We suggest you save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Passport information is included in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information about the following topics.

**Visa**

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. At the time of this writing, U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Germany.
Residence Permit Process after Arrival
Once in Marburg, you will need to apply for an Aufenthaltserlaubnis (residence permit) for the length of the program. The International Office staff in Marburg will assist with getting the biometric photo, (this must be done in Germany), help you complete the required forms, and make an appointment to go to city hall and the immigration office to complete the process. You will bring your passport and the required fee (100 Euro in 2019). All other documents will be provided in Marburg.

Visas for Travel to Other Countries
If you plan to travel outside your host country while abroad, you should verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency. Most Western European nations do not require U.S. citizens to have a visa for tourist travel of less than three months.

Packing Tips
There is general packing information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook, and you will get a suggested packing list for Marburg at Orientation 2. In addition, you should know the following:

Weather
The climate in Germany is somewhat milder than the climate in Wisconsin, but you will still want clothing for all weather.

Clothing
Attire at the university will be casual, with jeans and sweaters the primary clothing of choice.

Converters & Adapters
If you plan to bring a hair dryer, razor or other appliance from the US, you will need to buy both a voltage converter and a plug adapter. Another option is to buy the appliances after you arrive.

If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 220 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

If you have several US appliances you plan to use abroad, consider bringing a power strip, also. You will still need to have a voltage converter in order to plug it into the wall.

Getting to Germany
There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Travel Arrangements
It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to the Frankfurt am Main (FRA) airport* on the specified arrival date and time for your program.

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the online Study Abroad Handbook.

*IUSP: You should not book a flight until you have received your official acceptance from the IUSP.

Getting to Marburg
IGSP: A representative of the IGSP will meet the group at an arranged time and place at the Frankfurt airport to assist you in making train connections to Marburg.

IUSP: You are responsible for traveling from the airport to your Marburg on your own. Uni Marburg has information on getting to Marburg from Frankfurt on their website.
From the airport, you can take a train to Marburg. Check rail connections at: http://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/index.shtml

IUSP staff meets students at the Hauptbahnhof (main train station) in Marburg on the designated arrival day.

**Early, Late or Delayed Arrival**
If you arrive prior to the designated arrival date, you are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements until the program begins.

At Orientation 2, you will discuss a back-up arrival plan in case your flight is delayed, and you will be arriving after Uni Marburg staff has left the train station.

**If Your Luggage Does Not Arrive**
Request that it be delivered to the International Office at Uni Marburg: Philipps-Universität Marburg, International Office, Deutschhausstr. 11+13, 35037 Marburg.

**SETTLING IN**

**Checking In**
When you arrive, you will need to bring several things to the International Office at Uni Marburg.

- Passport
- Payment for housing deposit (in cash; up to 350 € depending on placement)
- Payment for biometric photo (in cash; 10€)
- Payment for residence permit (in cash, 100 €)

International Office staff will then help you with the registration and residence permit process. Once you register, you will receive your student ID card (Studienausweis) and coupons that prove your student status at Uni Marburg (Studienbescheinigungen). The Studienausweis and your passport will be your “ticket” (Semesterticket) for free public transportation and discounts at many stores, restaurants, and bars.

**Register every semester:** Note that if you are staying for the academic year, you must complete this process at the beginning of each semester. If you forget, you may have to pay additional fees.

**Orientation**
International Office staff will provide an orientation to Marburg and to your program track when you first arrive in Marburg. Orientation is also on-going in the form of the local/regional trips you take.

**On-Site Support**
The IGSP or IUSP Program Coordinator will be your main contact in the Uni Marburg International Office. Contact information is on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

**Local Transportation**
Most students use public buses to get around Marburg. You can ride free with your Marburg student ID and a personal identity document. There are also taxi companies, and some past students have purchased or rented bicycles.

**Student Clubs & Organizations**
A few other examples of activities that past students have been involved with include the university band, intramural lacrosse, and dance lessons at a local dance school. University students are constantly standing outside of the Mensa handing out flyers for upcoming events. You just keep your eyes open and don’t be afraid to try new things.

**Activities/Events**

**Tandem Language Partners**
A “tandem” partner is a German student who is looking for a German/English language exchange. Because German students will be on semester break during your first few months in Marburg, it is strongly recommended that you try to connect with someone in advance. To do so, visit this website:
Unofficial Language Partners
If you look around while in Marburg, German students who are looking for someone they can practice their English with often post advertisements in the university buildings. The English speaker in turn can practice their German. Partners can arrange meetings around their own schedule as they please.

Volunteer
Uni Marburg has begun to work with a community volunteer organization, Freiwilligen Agentur-Marburg. This is a relatively new opportunity, and you need to do the legwork if you are interested in getting involved. One UWEC student volunteered through the organization in 2017. For more information: [http://www.freiwilligenagentur-marburg.de/](http://www.freiwilligenagentur-marburg.de/)

Service Learning
Past students have used both the Tandem Language program and community volunteering in Marburg to fulfill part or all of their UW-Eau Claire service-learning requirement. See the “Getting Involved” section of this guide for details.

In order to have the course count for a portion (or all – it will depend on how many hours you complete) of your service-learning requirement at UWEC, you will need to complete the service learning forms online once you have your volunteer assignment.

To do so, go to: [https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/students/](https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/students/)

Click on “Create a Project”.

Cheryl Lochner-Wright, the UWEC Marburg coordinator, is happy to act as your UWEC mentor for service-learning. Enter her username, lochnecb, on the form.

For the question, “How would you like your mentor to be involved in your project?” state that your mentor will read and comment on your reflection paper and may ask you follow-up questions as necessary.

If you volunteer through Freiwilligenagentur, someone there will act as the community partner.

Going Out
Note that the culture surrounding going to a bar is very different in Germany than it is in the U.S. The primary purpose is to talk with friends and meet new people. You may have a drink while you are there, non-alcoholic is always an option, but the focus is not on the drinking. It is rare for a German student to be drunk in a public venue.

Housing
Housing for German universities is generally managed by a private Studentenwerk. Studentenwerk Marburg has more than 2,000 rooms in larger and smaller residences, scattered throughout Marburg. Check out various locations on the Studentenwerk website: [http://www.studentenwerk-marburg.de/wohnen.html](http://www.studentenwerk-marburg.de/wohnen.html).

Remember that German students will be on break for much of the time you are there. Therefore, most of the students in the residences during the program will be international students.

A few past students have asked to be allowed to find their own apartments in shared living spaces (Wohngemeinschaften, or WGs). Housing in German university towns is at a premium. If you choose not to live in the Studentenwerk, you are completely responsible for making all your housing arrangements.
**IGSP:** As long as you have completed your Uni Marburg mobility online registration, IGSP staff will arrange your housing in a student residence. You will not find out exactly where you will be living until shortly before the program begins. Students in 2019 lived in several different dorms, all within a few blocks of each other.

**IUSP:** Your acceptance email from Uni Marburg will include details on how to request student housing via their online form. You must apply for housing; it will not be automatically arranged for you.

**Location**
Most dorms are a 15+ minute bus ride to the city and various academic buildings. Be aware that you will be riding the bus a lot!

**Living Situation**
German dormitories are not like their U.S. counterparts. Most have single rooms. Some have private showers in the rooms while others have sinks, with a shared bathroom down the hall. Most have a shared kitchen. If they are apartment-style facilities, there may be as many as eight bedrooms sharing the bathroom and kitchen facilities.

Take note: each floor has common bathrooms, showers, and a kitchen, **all shared with both sexes.** But don't worry, the shower is a separate room with a locking door, and the toilets are individual private stalls.

**What's Provided?**
- Sheets, blankets, and a pillow
- You will turn in your bedding every few weeks and receive a clean set in return.
- Cupboard in the kitchen
- Refrigerator compartment (Fach)
- Keys to room, mailbox and Fach

When you check in with the dorm secretary, you will receive a key to your room, a mailbox key, and a key for one of the cupboards in the kitchen.

**Laundry**
Most dormitories have their own (limited) coin-operated laundry facilities. A past student suggests, "Make sure to hang on to those annoying little 10 and 20 cent coins for laundry!"

Most German students do not use their tokens on the dryers; instead, they hang their clothes on the drying racks in the dorm bathrooms. You may want to buy your own rack after you arrive.

**Internet Access**
Not all dormitories have Internet access! This is equally true for German students and for you. See the “Communications” section of this guide for details.

**Checking Out**
You must officially check out with an employee of the dorm, and this cannot be done on a holiday or on the weekend. After checking out of the dorm, you have to take the “Laufzettel” to the Studentenwerk to get your room deposit back.

Given the distance from Marburg to Frankfurt, unless you have an early evening flight, you will not be able to check out of your residence hall in time to catch a train to Frankfurt and fly out that same day. You will need to make your own arrangements for accommodation in Frankfurt after checking out of the dorm. Any lodging costs you incur after you leave the dorm are your own.

**FOOD**

**University Cafeterias**
There are no meal plans at Uni Marburg. There are two university cafeterias (Mensen). Mensa meals are fairly inexpensive (2 – 4 €). You will need a U-key to pay for meals at the Mensen. The red key is available at the cafeteria, where you have to pay a 5 € security deposit to get it. The key is electronically loaded with money which is deducted
by computer-based cash registers every time you buy a meal.

**Student Residence Kitchens**
The Mensen are open very limited hours, so you may also do quite a bit of cooking in your dorm. You will be assigned a locking cupboard where you may store your food and dishes. Some kitchens are equipped with everything (pots, pans, utensils, mugs, etc.), and you pay a small fee to share them with your floormates. Others have little to nothing, in which case you'll need to buy some basic dishes.

It is not uncommon for people sharing a kitchen to do some grocery shopping and cooking together. Cooking your own meals is a great way to save money and also a great opportunity to meet and make friends with the students that live on your floor. You may want to bring a few American recipes (with metric conversions!) to make for new friends.

**Where to Buy Food**
The major supermarkets in Marburg are:

**Rewe** - this is a big and reasonably priced supermarket not far from the university.

**Lidl** - this one's located near Rudolphsplatz, and it's the dollar store of grocery stores, if eating cheap is your thing.

**Pennymarkt** - also a very cheap food store. This one is conveniently near the train station, but on the street heading away from the city center.

**Edeka** - just off Bahnhofstraße (the street that leads from the train station). It's kind of hidden, but look down side streets to the right as you're walking away from the station and you'll find it. Edeka is one of the better stores to find Bio (organic) products.

Don't forget your REUSABLE BAGS! You can purchase a reusable bag from the store, otherwise they will charge you for a paper bag.

In addition, most drink receptacles have "Pfand," or return deposits. This means most bottles and cans can be returned for cash. If the bottle has the "Pfand" logo, do not recycle them. Bring them back to the grocery store, put them in the Pfand machine, and cash in your receipt at the register!

**Restaurants**
You'll also want to eat out, at least occasionally. Things to keep in mind:

**Water:** Germans love their sparkling water. When you go to a restaurant and ask for water, that's what you'll get, and it is not free. If you want tap water, ask for "Leitungswasser."

**Silverware:** Fork in the left hand, knife in the right, and try to not put them down between bites! You'll get used to it.

**Special Diets:** If you're vegetarian, or have diet restrictions, German restaurants have vegetarian and sometimes gluten free dishes and will often accommodate you by making a dish without meat or with a wheat alternative.

**When you're done:** put your fork and knife parallel across your plate to signal the waiter/waitress that you're done eating.

**Etiquette:** Europeans enjoy sitting for long periods of time to enjoy a meal or drink, and the staff in their restaurants typically won't be in a rush to get you out (unless they're closing for the night).

**Getting the bill:** You'll need to ask for your check ("Zahlen, bitte") and you normally pay the waiter directly at your table. People often split the bill, so be able to tell the waiter what you ordered.
**Tips:** in Austria and Germany, waiters and waitresses don't depend on tips to complete their salary, but it's still important! It should reflect the quality of the service. A good general rule is to round up to the nearest Euro or two with good service, and maybe a few more if the service was excellent. **For example:** if you have a bill of 11,30€ just give the waitress 12€ and say "Stimmt so," which means you don't want change.

BUT: if you have a bill of say, 15,80€ and want to give 17€ but only have a 20€ note, give the waiter/waitress 20€ and say "Drei zurück, bitte." They will then keep the 1,20€ tip.

**COMMUNICATION**

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What’s App, Facetime, etc) is in the Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Time Difference**

Germany is seven hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00pm on a Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 8:00pm on Thursday in Marburg. To see the current time in Marburg visit: https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/germany/marburg

**Internet/Email Access**

Only about half of the dorms provide Internet access. **Plan on NOT having it and be pleasantly surprised if you do.** If your dorm is connected, you will have to pay a fee for service. If it is not, it is very common that students on your floor will have a Wi-Fi router. Past students recommend that you ask around your floor or post a sign in the lobby, asking if anyone has Internet. If you find someone, you just pay them 5-10 Euro each month to share their internet with you. Otherwise, the academic buildings all have Wi-Fi you can use for free.

There are computer labs in the library and in various other departments. You must use your Uni Marburg account to log in.

**Landline Phone Information**

You won’t have a land-line phone in your dorm. You can make traditional phone calls from an international calling center (often located at the post office) or pay phone.

**Cell Phone Information**

Past students recommend buying an inexpensive, pay-as-you-go cell phone (Handy) once in Marburg to use to text friends in country. There are plans that receive free incoming texts/calls, and within Germany rates are cheap, but calling or texting internationally is expensive. Their recommendation is to use an app like TextPlus or WhatsApp for international communication. Another alternative is to buy prepaid SIM cards for your smart phone.

**Calling Information**

**From the US to Germany:** First dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 49, the country code for Germany, then 6421, the city code for Marburg, and the rest of the number.

**From Germany to the U.S.:** To “phone home” while you are abroad using a calling card or calling collect, you must dial an access code to get an American operator.

**Snail Mail**

International airmail takes 7-10 days to cross the Atlantic in either direction.

**Communicating in German**

Those of you on the IGSP have been studying German for years, while IUSP students may begin to learn German in Marburg. In either case, you are going to apply your language skills in day-to-day life. Here are some things to keep in mind.
Before You Go: Start listening to German music, movies, TV in German (with subtitles for IUSP!). Get your ear accustomed to it before you get there!

Also, IGSP students, start reading it, beyond what is required for class. Consider changing your phone language to German, reading websites from Germany, finding online newspapers.

Fluency: In the words of a past language student, "I am going to warn you right now: you WILL NOT be fluent after only four-five months in another country. I improved in my reading, writing, listening and speaking, but I did not sound like a native. Don't expect to come home fluent, or you will spend your whole time abroad frustrated with yourself. Take things one day at a time and you will be so impressed with yourself. There were days where I would all of a sudden realize that I was participating in classes that were only in German! It's definitely a great feeling to see how much your German speaking is improving."

Speaking: Speak as much as possible. You have SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES to speak German, and there are many people willing to help you:

Language Professors: It's their job to help you improve, so they will correct you in class and will require you to speak often. They are always willing to help explain things or sit down and talk with you about things you don't understand.

Other People You Meet: German natives KNOW that you are not a native speaker even before you open your mouth. In most cases, if you make an effort to communicate with them, they will be very kind and patient with you. In addition to this, get to know local students. Many of them are studying English and would LOVE to get together and talk. One thing to remember: you need to make the effort to get to know them.

Particularly for IGSP students, this can be a double-edged sword. You are going to Germany to practice your German, but many Germans will see an opportunity to practice their English. As one former student observed, "People would constantly speak broken English with us, even when we would consistently attempt German." Explain that you've come to Germany for five months to learn German, and you would appreciate it if they would help by speaking German to you. Most people will be happy to do so. It is also a fact that you will be taking classes with English-speakers. Speaking German with them, too, is key to successful language learning.

CULTURAL NOTES

Greetings & Good-byes

Germans are used to greeting and taking leave of one another. When you meet someone on the street or at a meeting, first you shake hands, greet the person and make polite inquiry about the person's everyday life. (Did you have a good trip to school? Did your test go well yesterday?) Then you can get on to business.

When you take leave, you again shake hands and say a few words of departure. (Have a good evening. Have a good trip home. My regards to your parents.)

Punctuality

This is a stereotype, but Germans, in general, are punctual. Most Germans will arrive on time or a little early to an appointment or date. If you have an appointment for a certain time, be there a few minutes early. If you are late, even by a few minutes, apologize and give the reason for your tardiness. Being late shows a lack of respect for the other person.

Tell It Like It Is

Some German customs may take you some time to get used to. One common trait is the tendency to be quite direct. (This tendency also exists in parts of the U.S., although not in the Midwest.) Try not to feel insulted, or that you're not liked, if someone tells you something you wouldn't have mentioned to them. To many Germans, it is just an observation to say that you look like you've gotten fatter, or that
they think you’re lazy because you don’t spend enough time on homework.

**Crossing the Street**
Learn to wait at the crosswalk until the green man on the traffic light appears, regardless of traffic. Otherwise, you may find yourself in a situation where you have to test your German with the police.

**Store Hours**
Unlike in the U.S., retail employees in Germany are entitled to working hours similar to everyone else. Some stores and banks are closed from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. They may also close as early as 4:00 or 6:00 p.m. Some offices close at noon every day except one or two days a week. Stores and offices are usually closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. This requires you to plan ahead for your shopping.

**TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD**

See additional information in the **Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.**

**Organized Travel**
Uni Marburg includes some fieldtrips in the program costs. Past destinations have included a weekend trip to Berlin and Dresden, and daytrips to Cologne, Eisenach or Weimar.

**Train Travel in Germany**
Check out the Deutsche Bahn web site at [https://www.bahn.de/p/view/bahncard/index.shtml?dbkanal_007=L01_S01_D001_KIN0004_top-navi-bahncard_LZ01](https://www.bahn.de/p/view/bahncard/index.shtml?dbkanal_007=L01_S01_D001_KIN0004_top-navi-bahncard_LZ01) for the best train deals within Germany.

If you plan to travel within Germany, you can buy a "Junior Bahncard." It gives you 50% off the ticket price in Germany and is valid for a year from date of purchase. The "Schoenes Wochenende" ticket is another money-saving option. Details on the web site!

**Bus Travel in Germany**
Long distance, or coach, buses, are not as quick and accessible as the train but do tend to be less expensive. Details here: [https://www.flixbus.com/](https://www.flixbus.com/)
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<td><strong>IGSP MARBURG</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Raphael Peter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philipps-Universitaet Marburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutschhausstraße 11+13 / room +2 / 0060 D - 35037 Marburg / Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel: 011 49 6421 2825997 Email: <a href="mailto:raphael.peter@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de">raphael.peter@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de</a></td>
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| **IUSP MARBURG**    |
| Rebecca Schaffeld   |
| Program Coordinator |
| Room 02.0060        |
| Tel: +49 (0) 6421 28 26466 Email: rebecca.schaffeld@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de |

| **Anne Poser**      |
| Academic Coordinator|
| Philipps-Universität Marburg | International Office  |
| International Undergraduate Study Program (IUSP)  |
| Deutschhausstr. 11+13 35032 Marburg, Germany  |
| Phone: +49 (0)6421 28-26191* Email: anne.poser@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de |

* If calling from inside Germany, drop the "011-49", add a "0", and dial the rest of the number.

| **GERMAN CONSULATE IN THE U.S.** |
| Consulate General, Germany 676 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3200 Chicago, IL 60611 |

| **U.S. EMBASSY IN GERMANY** |
| Clayallee 170 14191 Berlin GERMANY Tel: 49-30-8305-1200 or 49-30-8305-0 (emergencies) Fax: 49-30-8305-1215 Phone: (312)202-0480 |

| **UW-Eau Claire** |
| Cheryl Lochner-Wright | Senior Study Abroad Coordinator |
| 3 Schofield Hall | University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire |
| Eau Claire, WI 54702 Email: lochnecb@uwec.edu |
| Tel: (715) 836-4411 Web: www.uwec.edu/cie/studyabroad |

| **Department of Languages** |
| Dr. Martina Lindseth | Centennial Hall 4604 |
| 715-836-5903 Email: lindsemu@uwec.edu |

| **After Hours Emergency** |
| (715)577-9045 |

Remember that in most cases, local contacts are best in local emergency situations.

If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day. You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.
### Web Resources: Germany

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<th>Marburg</th>
<th>Culture</th>
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| University of Marburg Homepage  
https://www.uni-marburg.de/de | Oberhessische Zeitung  
(Marburg area)  
(http://www.oberhessische-zeitung.de/index.htm) | Deutsche Bahn AG  
https://www.bahn.com/i/view/index.xhtml |
| IGSP  
https://www.uni-marburg.de/en/studying/studying-at-umr/exchange/igsp | About Germany  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany | Travel by Train  
| IUSP  
https://www.uni-marburg.de/en/studying/studying-at-umr/exchange/iusp | German Language  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language | Jugendherberge Deutschland: Hostels  
http://www.jugendherberge.de/ |
| University of Marburg E-mail Access  
https://home.students.uni-marburg.de/imp/login.php | Dict.cc (www.dict.cc): A German-English dictionary, including phrases. Also available in an app that does not require Wi-Fi. | Map of Germany  
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/germany.html |
| Studentenwerk Marburg  
http://www.studentenwerk-marburg.de/ | Newspapers  
http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/germany.htm | |
| Marburg Homepage  
http://www.marburg.de/ | Political Resources: Germany  
http://www.politicalresources.net/germany.htm | |
| Marburg Bus Routes & Schedules  
https://www.stadtwerke-marburg.de/verkehr/bus-bahn/fahrplaene | | |
**Past Participant Voices**

**What They Wish They Had Known Before They Left**
- More about the layout of the city.
- Nothing—the program helps you take care of the important, confusing things.

**The Best Part of Their Experience Mid-way Through**
- Meeting new people from around the world—Europe, the Middle East, Africa, even others from the United States!
  - The city.
  - Everything! Time to travel in Europe.

**Biggest Adjustments They Had to Make**
- The school schedule. Classes are at the same time every day and earlier than what I usually take back home.
  - Learning public transportation.
  - Very unreliable Wi-Fi—but not a big deal.

**How They Summed It Up**

“A time of my life that I will never forget! I achieved everything I set out for and then some. The opportunity to not only visit, but live in, an entirely different culture is one of the most valuable experiences one can ever have. I cannot say how glad I am that I studied abroad.” Kanu S.

“I would sum up my study abroad experience as the most challenging, exciting, difficult, and yet amazing experience of my life so far. I met so many interesting, new people, was pushed way out of my comfort zone, got more frustrated than almost any time before, but experienced so many amazing things I will never forget that made it all SO worth it.” - Rebecca T.

“My study abroad experience wasn’t just learning more German, it was learning about the differences between people from other countries, while celebrating their culture at the same time. Seeing the United States from a different viewpoint has opened my eyes to so much that I hadn’t considered. Listening to the stories people have to tell has humbled me and made me appreciate where I am, while hoping for peace for those who remain affected by war. I now have friends from more than 15 countries including Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Holland, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Japan, Hong Kong, and many others. Study abroad for me was learning, living, laughing, and loving, and I will never forget it.”

Emilie Z.