Study Abroad

Marburg, Germany
Spring 2017
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CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted by UW-Eau Claire to the Intensive German Studies Program (IGSP) at Philipps-Universität Marburg. Living and studying in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Building upon foreign language skills
Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field
Increasing understanding of different cultures
Enhancing personal development
Developing different perspectives on US 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!

This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Marburg study abroad program. It is designed to complement the Handbook, study abroad orientation and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that, although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your Peer Adviser will e-mail additional information throughout the semester prior to departure. Please contact the Center for International Education staff, your Peer Adviser, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only you can answer include:
1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of student travelers include advancement in a future profession, desire to gain fluency in a second language, wish to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

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 truly being immersed in German culture, yet you are going with a group of UW-Eau Claire students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time.
GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program
Welcome to the Intensive German Studies Program (IGSP) offered through Philipps-Universität Marburg. In Marburg, you will take classes with international students from a wide variety of countries. Courses are taught in German by instructors from Marburg. You will also take one literature course taught specifically for UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stevens Point students. You will live in student residence halls and walk, bike, or take public transportation to IGSP classes. You can check out the official website here: http://www.uni-marburg.de/international/aus/stud/igsp

In addition to academics, the program includes three excursions. Past destinations have included Berlin, Weimar, Cologne and Eisenach.

The Location
Located in the heart of Germany, Marburg an der Lahn is a small and lively medieval town with a long university tradition. It is a romantic and picturesque old city with its castle, cafés, pubs, boutiques, movie theatres, museums, and theatres all within walking distance.

The Language Institute
The Philipps-Universität in Marburg was founded in 1527. The IGSP is offered through the university language institute and is staffed by professionals who specialize in teaching German language and culture to students from all over the world. You will complete a short placement test before you leave for Germany and will be individually placed in courses in Marburg that match your abilities. There are five possible placement levels (Stufen 1-4, DHS- Stufe).

Academic Calendar
This is a spring semester program. You need to arrive at the Frankfurt am Main (FRA) airport on Monday, January 2, 2017, between 7 am and 11 am.

Important Dates
Arrive: Monday, January 2
Orientation: Tuesday, January 3
Language Course 1: Wed, Jan 4-Tues, Feb 14
Break: Wed, Feb 15 through Mon, Feb 20
Language Course 2: Tues., Feb 21-Tues, Apr 4
Break: Wed., April 5- at least Mon., April 9
Literature Course: The first possible start date is Monday, April 10, and the last possible end date is Tuesday, May 30. The exact dates of the literature course will be announced in March 2017; the class will most likely meet two times/week.
Fieldtrip to Berlin: Sat, Apr 29-Tues, May 2
End of Program: Because the end date for the literature course is not yet known, you should book your flight home for May 31 or later. If the course finishes earlier, you are free to depart earlier, so look for a ticket with a low change fee!

Check-out: Note that you must officially check out with an employee of the dorm, and this cannot be done on a holiday or on the weekend.

Unless you have a late afternoon/early evening flight from Frankfurt on May 30, you will not be able to finish the course and check out in Marburg in time to catch a train to Frankfurt for a flight, so you should plan to fly out on May 31 or later.

Departure from Frankfurt: May 31 or later
Please make your own transportation arrangements to/lodging arrangements in Frankfurt at the end of the program. Any lodging costs you incur after you leave the dorm are your own.

Public Holidays
In addition to the academic calendar above, the following days are public holidays in Germany, and no classes will be held:
April 14 & 17 (Easter)
May 1 (Labor Day)
May 25th (Ascension Day)
ACADEMICS
There is additional information on academic topics such as registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Program Prerequisites
To participate in the Marburg program, you must be in good standing (academic, financial and conduct) and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. We check grades and standing at the end of the semester prior to departure. If you are on probation, we will need to check with Marburg to see if you will be allowed to participate. If you are suspended, you will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Orientation/Placement Exam
In addition to the required CIE orientation, there will be three one-hour sessions during the fall semester organized by the German faculty just for your group, to help you get prepared for your study abroad experience.

During one of these sessions, typically in early December, you will take a placement test that will determine which class level (Stufe) you are placed in for the first language course in Marburg.

Program Structure
The program is divided into three distinct academic sections: two are focused on language and one on literature.

There are five possible levels (Stufen) of language courses. Please 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.

The first language course will meet for approximately six weeks. Classes generally meet from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday-Friday. Unless you have tested into the highest language level (Stufen 5/6), you will have a week of vacation at the end of this first block.

During the second block, you take another comprehensive language course for a second period of six weeks, then have another short vacation. Each of these first two courses culminates in four graded examinations that test listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

During the third section of the program, you will have a German literature course taught just for UW students. 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 German literature pieces, discuss them in class, take notes on a lecture, and write short essays on them. 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.

You will also be expected to complete a series of tasks that are designed to facilitate and guide your contact with the host culture and to write short reflective papers about your experiences. Details will be explained during one of the orientation sessions during the fall semester.
Classes and Credits
Upon successful completion of the program, students who have taken German 201 receive credit for:
German 202
German 313
German 314
German 340**
3 credits of upper-level (300-) German electives

Students who have taken German 202 receive credit for:
German 313*
German 314*
German 340**
6 credits of upper-level (300-level) electives

*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 14/15 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.

Credits and Course Load
Upon successful completion of the program, you will earn 15 or 16 credits. The program also fulfills the UW-Eau Claire foreign culture requirement. Students have occasionally wanted to take an independent study in Germany in addition to their program classes. Independent study credits are not included in the program cost or registration. They must be registered for separately from the program and will incur additional per-credit charges.

Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved by the UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education.

Homework and Exams
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.

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 will be based on the readings you did and the notes you took in class. You may also have a final essay to write, depending on which literature course you take.

Grades
Your language course grades will be based solely on your 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 your attendance, essays/homework assignments, and final test.

The system used to calculate the UW-Eau Claire grades that appear on your transcript, taking into account the various levels of the German courses, will be explained to you during fall semester.

Note that UW- Eau Claire students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail, and that grades from Germany are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.

Transcripts
See additional information on transcripts in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Academic System in Germany
In Marburg you will be taking classes THROUGH the Phillips Universität Marburg, but you won't actually be considered a traditional "student" there. You will be part of a program called the "Studienkolleg" which provides German language courses for international students who just want to improve their German or who eventually want to study at a German university.

These classes are more casual than regular German university courses, because they are conversation courses. 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 times to discuss themes and practice dialogue. You will receive multiple worksheets most nights and be 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.

Some past students have expressed that they felt they had already covered much of the content of their language course in previous courses.

Remember that language learning spirals—you may have been introduced to the dative case in high school, for example, but you will revisit it over and over again, and be expected to use it in more sophisticated ways as you gain command of the language.

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!
**MONEY MATTERS**

*Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW-Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in 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 webpage. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to Marburg, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Costs are estimated based on the exchange rate when the estimate was created and may change at any time.

**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 and have different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.

The exchange rate as of May 2016 was 1 € = $ 0.97 US. You can find current exchange rates at [http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic).

**Money Needed on Arrival**

When you arrive in Marburg, you will need to pay a 250 € 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.

**Personal Travel**

This varies greatly from student to student. It depends on your budget and your priorities.

Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home.

Spring 2016 students who responded to our survey reported spending between $400 and $2,000 on personal travel. Those spending the higher amount noted that they traveled during almost all breaks and many weekends.

**Money Abroad**

You can find extensive information on how to bring money abroad, as well as financial aid and scholarships for study abroad, in your Study Abroad Handbook.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

*Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Before You Go**

In addition to the general health precautions listed in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should consult your physician to see if you should receive any other vaccinations, depending upon the type of travel you plan to do.

**Medical Facilities in Marburg**

If you need medical attention in Marburg, the International Office there can help you make arrangements.

**Counseling Services**

There are English-speaking psychologists in Marburg, and students can contact them directly or ask for assistance at the International Office.

Emergency Contacts
General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook, and the IGSP staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

Safety in Germany
Safety in and around Marburg will be discussed during orientation in Germany.

Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Germany is included in the State Department Consular Information Sheet found at this link: https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/germany.html

If you are traveling independent of the program and are the victim of a crime or if you are arrested abroad, get in touch with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. U.S. consular offices will do what they can to help U.S. citizens in serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties, such as direct you to a reliable doctor or clinic, help you contact family, or re-issue your passport.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Visa
A visa is official permission to visit a country and is granted by the government of that country. If you are a U.S. citizen, you do not need a visa to enter Germany. Once in Marburg, you will need to apply for an Aufenthaltserlaubnis (electronic residence permit) for the length of the program. The International Office in Marburg will go with you to get the required photo taken (this must be done in Germany), help you complete the required forms, and make an appointment to go as a group to city hall and the immigration office to complete the process. You will bring your passport and the required fee (100 Euro in 2016). All other documents will be provided in Marburg.

PACKING TIPS
There is general packing information in the Study Abroad Handbook, and you will receive a packing list at orientation. In addition, you should know the following about Germany.

Climate/Clothing
The weather in Marburg is unpredictable. It usually doesn’t snow much, but cold rain is common for much of the winter. And it may get quite warm as early as mid-April.

What to Pack
You will receive a suggested packing during the pre-departure orientation program.

Appliances
The standard electric current in Europe is 220 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy both a converter and a plug adapter. You may also choose to buy the appliances abroad. Travel hair dryers and razors, which are relatively inexpensive, usually are convertible and come with a plug adapter.

GETTING TO GERMANY
Travel Arrangements to Marburg
It is your responsibility to make your travel arrangements to the Frankfurt am Main (FRA) airport* on the specified arrival date and time. 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.
If you arrive on any other day, or after the specified time on the arrival day, you will need to make your own way to Marburg. Instructions will be provided.

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

*Note that there is another, much smaller, Frankfurt airport, Frankfurt-Hahn, which is actually three hours away from Frankfurt. **There is no pick-up from this airport.** Be sure you arrive at Frankfurt am Main (FRA)!

**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.

**Orientation**
You will have orientation to Marburg and the program when you first arrive in Marburg. Orientation is also on-going in the form of the local/regional trips you take.

**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!

**Room Types**
In most residences, you will have a single room equipped with a sink. 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/What to Bring or Buy**
Sheets, blankets, and a pillow are provided, but you should bring your own towels and alarm clock. You will turn in your bedding every few weeks and receive a clean set in return.

When you check in with the dorm housekeeper, s/he will give you a key to your room, a mailbox key, and a key for one of the cupboards in the kitchen. Once you've moved in, ask someone which refrigerator compartment (Fach) you should use.

**Internet**
Please note that **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.

**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 people do not use the dryers; instead, they tend to hang their clothes on the community drying racks in the dorm bathrooms. You may want to buy your own rack after you arrive.
**Checking Out**

Remember that 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 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 is one is also very near the train station, conveniently, 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 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, don’t 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 **isn't 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 "Stimmmt 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.

Getting Involved

There are many opportunities to get involved in Marburg. Advance planning is key! Here are some suggestions from Uni Marburg and from past students.

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: http://www.uni-marburg.de/sprachenzentrum/sprachen-tandem/index_html-en?set_language=en

Posted Announcements
If you look around while in Marburg, there are often advertisements posted in the university buildings by German students who are looking for someone that they can practice their English with, and the English speaker can practice their German. They can arrange meetings around their own schedule as they please.

Church Services
For those who are interested, past students have also attended church services and had a lot of success getting involved with activities through people they met there.

University & Community 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 have to keep your eyes open and not be afraid to try new things.

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.
COMMUNICATION

General information on platforms for keeping in touch with people at home is in the Study Abroad Handbook, along with information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address.

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.

Internet
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.

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

Telephone 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.

You won’t have a land-line phone in your dorm, but you can still make traditional phone calls from a cell phone (Handy), international calling center, or pay phone. (Note that U.S. cell phones will generally not work in Europe. If you wish to have one, you will need to buy one upon arrival.)

Cell Phones
Past students recommend buying an inexpensive, pay-as-you-go cell phone 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. The recommendation is to use an app like TextPlus or WhatsApp. See details in the Study Abroad Handbook.

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

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. One can almost always count on a German to 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
You will have to learn to wait at the sidewalk until the green man on the traffic light appears before you cross the road, 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.

Speaking German
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." Here's your turn to "tell it like it is." Explain that you've come to Germany for four 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.

Travel While Abroad
See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Field Trips
Three regional tours offered by the University of Marburg are included in the program costs. Past destinations have included Berlin, Cologne, Eisenach or Weimar.

Train Travel in Germany
Check out the Deutsche Bahn web site at http://www.bahn.de/p/view/index.shtml/ 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/
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<tr>
<td><strong>IGSP MARBURG</strong></td>
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<td>Tel: 011 49 6421 2826466</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rebecca.schaffeld@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de">rebecca.schaffeld@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GERMAN CONSULATE IN THE U.S.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulate General, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>676 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL 60611</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. EMBASSY IN GERMANY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Embassy Berlin is located at:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clayallee 170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14191 Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 49-30-8305-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or 49-30-8305-0 (emergencies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax: 49-30-8305-1215</td>
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<td>Phone: (312)202-0480</td>
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<td><strong>UW-EAU CLAIRE</strong></td>
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<td>Tel: (715) 836-4411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.uwec.edu/cie/studyabroad">www.uwec.edu/cie/studyabroad</a></td>
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<td><strong>Department of Languages</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Johannes Strohschänk</td>
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# WEB RESOURCES: MARBURG

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<td><a href="http://www.politicalresources.net/germany.htm">http://www.politicalresources.net/germany.htm</a></td>
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Quotes from Past Marburg Participants

“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., Spring 2015

“Studying abroad made me step back and see the world for how it really is. I have traveled, made new friends, tried weird new foods, but mostly learned about myself. No I truly know where in this world I can go, and the answer is EVERYWHERE. This has been the best six months of my life, ever.” – Kat H., Spring 2014

“It was a whirlwind experience filled with lots of great good, culture and people!”
-Ashley W., Spring 2014

"As difficult as it was to be away from home, I wouldn’t take this experience back for anything, even if it was different than what I wanted to be." – Marya, Spring 2013

“Studying abroad can be very challenging and stressful at times with the language barriers, different currencies, time zones, and hot, smelly public transportation – but its things like walking past a 600-year-old church every day on the way to school, making friends with people from all over the world, and reaching the top of La Sagrada Familia or Neuschwanstein Castle and looking don’t at your view – all of these things make the little everyday hassles completely worth it." – Nicole N., Spring 2013

“I have met students from all over the world, had opportunities that I never imagined that I would have, and even had the opportunity to travel with a friend I met in class where our only common language was German! It was great to be able to put my skills to the test and really learn to embrace trying new things.” – Nicole L., Spring 2013