



## **Study Abroad in Berlin**

Prepping for FU-BEST: What can students expect?

### **Academia**

The FU-BEST program offers an academically challenging and enriching learning environment



## Feeling at Home in Berlin

We advise students hoping for a positive cultural immersion and integration experience here in Berlin to be open-minded and realistic, show initiative, and demonstrate commitment and reliability. During a FU-BEST semester, cultural and social learning takes place to a considerable extent outside the classroom setting. Getting to know Germans is the best and most insightful way to learn more about German culture, practice speaking German, and establish new overseas friendships.

Our program offers a volunteering as well as language tandem option for which FU-BESTers can sign up. These options are only two of many great ways to get to know German students and other locals, but they also require good time management as well as openness and reliability. Cultural exchange is a process of give and take, and will succeed if all sides involved are engaged and dependable.

## Transportation

Berliners are urban commuters: whether they rely on public transportation or take the car to get to places, the commute within Berlin is inevitably time-consuming for everyone on a daily basis. Getting to the Lankwitz campus may also take a while, especially depending on where one lives. All students in Berlin are by definition commuter students.



To give you a better and more precise idea of commuting time, and what that means for personal time management: Getting somewhere in under 30 minutes in Berlin is considered fairly quick and close-by; planning to get from door to door in 30-45 minutes is normal. Taking 50-60 minutes to get to your final destination is considered a more extensive commute, but it rarely takes more than an hour to get anywhere inside the city's borders.

## Housing

FU-BEST students are given the choice of opting for housing provided by the program (either apartments or homestays). Every semester we also have a few students who decide to find a semester-long accommodation in Berlin independently. However, this independence comes with more responsibilities on the student's side.

Our apartment option is not comparable to the type of dormitory housing participants from the U.S. might know from their home universities. FU Berlin does not own any accommodation, and the apartment complex used by FU-BEST is not in close proximity to any of Freie Universität's facilities. FU-BEST participants living there are considered regular and independent tenants, living in studio apartments on their own.

Students choosing a homestay will ideally have a communicative and enhancing language learning experience involving the person or people with whom they are living. Please keep in mind that the homestay host could be anything from a family of five to a single-person household, and it is therefore important that students be curious and open to meeting and living with locals who have different backgrounds. FU-BEST participants are usually very happy with their homestays and describe their experiences as valuable and overall positive.