

SRH UNIVERSITY HEIDELBERG
HEIDELBERG SUMMER SCHOOL

“Doing Business in Europe”

Frequently Asked Questions



Why study in Heidelberg, Germany?

There is no better place to experience and learn about the third largest economy in the world than in Germany itself. Here, you'll find the perfect combination of both academic rigor and fun!

Heidelberg is a charming old city, yet simultaneously one of the most progressive BIOTECH regions in Europe. Come and experience the combination of high-tech industry and hundreds of years of history that makes Heidelberg exciting!

REQUIREMENTS & ELIGIBILITY

Do I have to be able to speak German?

No. The Summer School courses and activities are all held in English. In addition, most people in Germany speak English (or at least try to). But there will be a fun German language survival course, so if you'd like to try out your German skills around town, you'll find ample opportunity!

What documents do I need to enter Germany?

If you are a US citizen, you only need a valid passport. Currently, no visa is required. Citizens of other non-EU countries should check with their international office before booking.

Are there any eligibility requirements for the program?

Yes. Students must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher to participate in the Summer School program.

Do I need any kind of insurance?

Yes. Students must have medical insurance when enrolled in the study abroad program. Confirm with your insurance company at home that you are covered for medical expenses during international travel, or simply purchase a short-term travel health insurance plan.

Do I get credit for the courses I take?

Students should be able to have their courses accredited by their home university. In most instances, the summer program is pre-approved and your study abroad office can provide information about cross-listings.

SRH University Heidelberg will issue grade transcripts for your home university.

Do a minimum number of students have to register for the program to take place?

No, the Heidelberg Summer School will take place regardless of how many students sign up – and it's filling up quickly!

TRANSPORTATION

Which airport should I fly to?

Frankfurt, the largest German airport, is less than an hour away.

Will there be group flights?

Since most students plan to travel in Germany and throughout Europe before and/or after the program, most universities do not offer group flights. You will probably book your flight yourself. But please check with your international office to make sure.

How do I get from the airport to the university?

You can opt to be picked up by the shuttle service (TLS), which will meet students at the official Meeting Point at the airport and take them directly to their on-campus apartments. More detailed information will be provided by e-mail before your flight.

Is there public transportation in the area?

The public transportation system in Heidelberg and the surrounding region is excellent. It is convenient and easy to use, and there are fast, direct connections from campus to the city center (and back) every ten minutes during the day.

When you arrive, you'll receive a pass for buses, trams, and trains. Valid during the whole program, it will allow you to use all public transportation within the wide regional network. You will receive detailed information (including a map of the network) on your first day.

Transportation – useful websites

Want to take a sightseeing trip on the weekends, or travel around Germany before or after the program? Plan your travels online!

1) The German Rail (*Deutsche Bahn*) website offers a comprehensive overview of train schedules, services, and prices.

➤ www.bahn.com

2) The local transportation system is the VRN (*Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar*). Click the flags on the left to select a language.

➤ www.vrn.de

FOOD AND DRINK

Is the tap water safe?

Yes – you do not need to be concerned about drinking the tap water in Germany. Not only is the water in Heidelberg safe and clean, it is even tasty.

What's the food like in Germany?

You may already be familiar with some of the famous traditional dishes, like bratwurst and sauerkraut. However, cuisine in Germany is more than just sausage. Traditional food can range from pasta (*Spätzle*) to soups and vegetables and dumplings. Regional differences vary broadly – from fish in the north, to crepes in the west and goulash in the east.

Aside from traditional cuisine, Heidelberg also offers a cosmopolitan assortment of international restaurants. Italian food is especially popular. Turkish cafés and shops are a quick and easy haven from pork dishes. Or you can sample the Thai, Chinese, Greek, or American food on offer. And don't worry, many Germans are also vegetarians. There is as much variety in Heidelberg as in any student town and urban center.

And of course, Germany is famous for its high-quality beer. Local breweries abound in Heidelberg and the region. But did you also know that the southwest of Germany produces award-winning wine?

The Summer School team will be more than happy to provide insider tips and recommendations. Just ask!



Locally-brewed beer

What kind of meal plan is included?



A meal plan is included in the cost of the program and will cover all group meals on weekdays. You might notice that the “big cooked meal” in Germany is typically at lunchtime. Breakfast and dinner are often lighter, consisting of a platter of bread, cheeses, cold cuts, and spreads. At breakfast, you can also find muesli, yogurt, fruit, and often a soft-boiled egg, along with coffee/tea and juice.

A hearty traditional meal with dumplings

MONEY

Are US dollars accepted?

The official currency in Germany (and in other European Union countries, except the UK) is the Euro. There may be some tourist shops that accept other currency; however, we recommend that you change your money into the local currency, the Euro.

How much is a Euro in US dollars?

Currently, one Euro is \$1.34. One dollar equals 0.75 Euro (*status: Dec 2011*).

For the latest exchange rate, check online at www.xe.com.

Where can I change money?

We recommend changing some money into Euros before you leave, in order to have some cash when you arrive and cover expenses for the first couple of days. Once you are here, you can go to a local bank (there are many in the city) and exchange your money. You can also check with your home financial institution to see how much it costs to withdraw cash from a European ATM.

Frankfurt Airport also has several money exchange bureaus. However, that is generally an expensive option: the exchange rate they offer is not as favorable as in local banks. Still, if you find yourself at Frankfurt Airport with no cash at all in Euros, money exchange bureaus are located in:

Terminal 1 – Hall B, levels 0, 1, 2, and 3
Terminal 1 – Hall A, level 1

For a map of the airport, go to www.airportcity-frankfurt.com.

How much spending money will I need overall?

The amount of money you will need per day depends on your spending habits. Your room, board, and weekday meals are already covered in the cost of the program. Thus we would recommend about 10 Euro for weekdays to cover odds and ends. On weekends, you'll need to buy your own food (either at the supermarket or in restaurants) and you'll certainly want to do some shopping and activities!

Will my credit card / bank card work?

Some notes about cards:

a) Credit cards (especially Master Card and Visa) are accepted in bigger stores, hotels, and restaurants. Keep in mind, though, that your credit card company will probably charge currency exchange fees for purchases abroad. Find out about this in advance so you don't come home to any nasty surprises.

b) Debit cards (bank cards) from foreign (i.e. non-German) institutions are usually not accepted in stores. If you go shopping, you'll have to pay either with cash or a credit card. However, you can most likely use your debit card to withdraw cash from ATMs. Again, find out from your bank how much the transaction fee would be.

- In many cases, your bank may have a partner institution in Germany, so that withdrawals from the German partner's ATMs are free! For example, Bank of America has a partnership with Deutsche Bank, so you can use your Bank of America card to make withdrawals for free at Deutsche Bank ATMs. It's worth finding out!

c) It's a good idea to notify both your credit card company and your local bank that you will be overseas, so that they don't block your account due to "suspicious activity".

d) In general, cash is preferred at cafés, bars, little shops, even supermarkets. So be sure to carry enough cash with you if you are going out for a meal or a night on the town.

COMMUNICATIONS

Can I use my cell phone in Germany?

Probably. Mobile phone providers in Germany use the GSM 900/1800 standard, so you need to check if your cell phone is compatible. (Just call your service provider and they can advise you.) Otherwise, you can buy a prepaid card in Germany, or go to an internet café or call shop.

Are computers available at the SRH University Heidelberg?

You will be able to use the computers on campus. All students will be given access and other necessary information on the first day of the program. Personal laptops are therefore not necessary, but can be used in the living accommodation (where internet access is also available).

FACILITIES

Are the rooms furnished?

The rooms are fully furnished, complete with bedding and towels. Shower gel is also provided. For shampoo or other toiletries, there are many supermarkets and drugstores close by.

Are there washing machines on campus?

There are two laundry rooms on campus. The Summer School team has already reserved the washing machines on certain days during the program. If you need additional time to do your laundry, please ask the team members. They will schedule this for you.

Detergent will be provided. Bleach is not necessary.

What about shopping and supermarkets?

Heidelberg offers a huge variety of smaller and larger stores in the city center and the commercial district. There is even a grocery store in the immediate vicinity of the university (5 minutes' walk).



The SRH University Heidelberg campus (main buildings)

THE PROGRAM

What day is scheduled for arrival?

Arrival is scheduled for **Session One on Sunday, 3 June** between 10am and 6pm, and for **Session Two on Sunday, 24 June** between 10am and 6pm. Of course, you are free to spend some time in Germany before this; just keep in mind that you would need to arrange accommodation for that time period. If you want to stay on campus, we would be glad to assist you in finding suitable accommodation.

What does a typical day look like?

Since the program offers 6 credits in 3 weeks, each day includes two morning lectures and two afternoon lectures. Each lecture is scheduled for 90 minutes, with breaks in between.

The first class of the day is from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., followed by a short break. The second class goes from 10:45 - 12:15pm. We then break for lunch, and the second half of the day runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. After that, the day is your own.

Some of the excursions and activities planned for the program take place in the evening. Timetables for these are provisional and may be subject to change.

Do I have to buy books for the classes?

All teaching materials will be provided by the university and are covered in the cost of the program.

Will there be time for traveling and sightseeing?

Of course. Since lectures finish in the afternoon, you will have free time to travel around after class on weekdays. (Summer days are long in Germany!) On weekends, we offer some exciting, yet optional, group excursions. Or you can make your own travel plans.

In addition, there is a lot of sightseeing included in the excursions during classtime!

Many students also choose to extend their time in Europe by doing their own traveling before or after the program.

There is a lot to see... take advantage of this opportunity to explore and discover!

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

What's the weather like in Germany during June and July?

Summers in Germany are usually pretty nice – warm and sunny. The average high temperature between June and August is about 75° Fahrenheit (24° celsius). Nights are short but can be cooler.

You can check the weather in many German cities on www.weather.com.

What kind of clothes should I bring?

During the day, summery clothing is fine. Be sure to have a sweater or light jacket for the evenings. You will also want to have: comfortable shoes for walking around during excursions, an umbrella for possible summer showers, and maybe something nice for going out on the town.

What do you recommend for sightseeing?

There is a lot to do and see! For a list of interesting recommendations, check out www.germany-tourism.de and enter "Heidelberg". You can also visit lots of easy-to-reach places in the surrounding area: castles, vineyards, other cities, museums... The Summer School team will be more than happy to provide more information tailored to your interests.



Take a cruise down the Neckar River! (On the right: Old Town Heidelberg)

Still have questions? Give us a call!

Either at +49 6221-88-1017, or email Norman Glutsch: norman.glutsch@fh-heidelberg.de.

We look forward to welcoming you to Heidelberg!