A Study Abroad Survival Guide – Part 1
Hamburg Edition

University of Rhode Island
German International Business Program
HELLO AND WELCOME

to the URI German IBP Study Abroad Survival Guide – Part 1! Congrats for making it this far and take a deep breath - it will all make more sense soon (hopefully). The purpose of this guide is to answer as many questions as possible about Germany, Germans, Hamburg, and lots of other things you might be wondering about. It was made by students who studied abroad and want to help you avoid any big issues with your year abroad. This doesn’t mean everything will always go perfectly, but what’s a year abroad without some stories to tell? So without further ado, *lass uns doch mal anfangen!*
## Table of Content

- Keep in touch .................................................. 4
- Preparing for your Year Abroad ....................... 4
- Apply for scholarships .................................. 4
- Optional: Apply for preliminary experiences abroad ..... 4
- Take GER 202 and finish your internship applications ..... 6
- Practice your German .................................. 9
THE YEAR BEFORE

Keep in touch

You will be sent an invitation to join the “GIEP/IBP Abroad AY ” Group for students who are going to Germany in their academic year.

There are many application deadlines in the next few months. You will have to apply to study abroad, register at the German university, get your courses pre-approved, apply for student housing, and find your internship in Germany. You are therefore required to check your URI email and WhatsApp groups on a regular basis, and reply to any email messages from the IEP program within 48 hours, and WhatsApp messages within 24 hours.

Also you can join the “German IEP Support” WhatsApp Group if you are in your 3rd, 4th or 5th year of the program. Just ask the IEP Coordinator for the links to join. Here you can exchange ideas with students going abroad, those who are in Germany right now and those who have returned from Germany. Returning students are an excellent resource to have to answer any questions you might have!

Timeline for Preparing for your Year Abroad

Visit the German International Engineering Program page to view a timeline and learn more about how to prepare for your year abroad. Part of this preparation will include mandatory paperwork that you need to fill out in URI Abroad for your application and permission to study abroad, your application to the host university, as well as pre-departure orientations, and visa advising. Be sure to pay close attention to the deadlines listed in the timeline and to follow all the processes and guidelines so that you stay on track to complete everything. IEP works very hard to ensure that you are selected to attend your chosen program, however nothing is guaranteed. The program is a direct exchange with our partnering universities. Therefore the number of slots at partner universities is limited and may change from year to year.

Apply for scholarships

Trust us, you’re going to want to have all of the money you possibly can when you are abroad. Whether it is $20,000 or $20, any amount of scholarship money helps you immensely. Apply to any scholarship in which you are eligible because you never know what may happen! Keep in mind that the majority of scholarship applications require recommendation letters. Make a note of the deadlines and ask for references at least a month in advance. For the DAAD scholarship, for example, you will need to have an institute placement, so you will need to contact the institution and find a place willing to take you and give you some sort of project. This is not something you can do over break, because people in Germany will not email you back during the holidays. You know how you dislike it when professors give large assignments at the last minute? Well professors and other mentors would appreciate more advanced notice, too. You probably will not get the best
recommendation letter if the writer is chugging coffee and rubbing their eyes the night before it’s due. That is, if they agree to write you one at all!

Make sure to occasionally check the IEP specific scholarship website (https://web.uri.edu/engineering/academics/iep/scholarships/) as there may be new scholarships posted for which you all could be eligible.

UAS7
All IBP students are eligible to apply for the UAS7 program, an alliance of seven leading universities of applied sciences (UAS) in Germany, including the HAW Hamburg. The scholarship includes 1000 EUR in travel scholarship, student mentor support, and you will be invited to participate in recreational and cultural activities.
http://www.uas7.org

Optional: Apply for preliminary experiences abroad

For students enrolled in the German IBP, it is crucial to get some short-term immersion experience in the country in which they will spend their senior year. You can also review the following suggested internship, research and study opportunities that are available in Germany to gain preliminary experience, and to foster professional and personal relationships that will serve you later during your official term abroad.

USA Interns-Program
The program assists the development of future global leaders by encouraging students to do a summer internship (8 weeks to 6 months) with a German host employer. Selected candidates may expect a wide range of services including employment matching, post-match coordination, information on German work permit waiver, orientation seminar and assistance in writing a professional cover letter and resume. A payment of 250 Euros must be arranged with the application before any further plans may be made. For more information regarding the program and application please visit: https://www.steuben-schurz.org/usainterns/applications/applications.htm

CBYX for Young Professionals
The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) is a yearlong fellowship to study and work in Germany. The CBYX program annually provides 75 participants with 2 months intensive German language training, 1 semester of study at a German university or university of applied sciences, 3-month internship with a German company in the participant’s career field, transatlantic airfare, health insurance, and monthly living expense stipends. For more information regarding the program and application please visit: https://culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange-young-professionals/

University Summer Course Grant
This specialized Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) program provides scholarships to attend a broad range of three- to four-week summer courses at German universities which focus mainly on German language and literary, cultural, political and economic aspects of modern and contemporary Germany. Applications are open to undergraduates who have completed at least two academic years at the start of the scholarship period and requires German language skills equivalent at least to level A1 of the Common
European Framework of Reference for Languages. For more information regarding the program and application please visit:
https://www.daad.org/en/find-funding/undergraduate-opportunities/university-summer-course-grant/

J-Term in Germany
This program led by URI’s German Department will allow students to explore the culture, technology environment and communicate with their budding language skills. Course work will be supplemented with company visits, city tours and research institute visits. Additionally students will visit the Deutsches Museum, the Pinakothek Munich, the Daimler Museum Stuttgart, and more. Students must be enrolled in Germany during the academic year to be eligible to apply for this program. Students will earn 3 URI credits for GER 487: Directed Study. View Winter J-term trips for more information regarding the program and application

UROP International
RWTH Aachen’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP International) is designed for students from North America universities who have a GPA of 3.2 or higher and wish to gain research experience by conducting research projects at RWTH Aachen University. The program during a ten-week research summer school between the middle of May and the end of July. A total of 60 students can participate but only 30 scholarships of 1,850 Euros each are available. If you do not receive a scholarship, you should estimate around 2,000 Euros for your living expenses. In addition you need to include three months’ rent (ranging from 220 and 300 Euros a month) and the cost of enrollment, which is approximately 230 Euros and includes a ticket for public transportation in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Additionally, there is a deposit of two months’ rent, which is reimbursed when you move out as long as the dorm is left in good condition. US or Canadian citizens usually do not need to apply for a visa if their stay does not extent a duration of 3 months. For more information regarding the program and application please visit:

ThinkSwiss Research Scholarships
ThinkSwiss Scholarships support highly motivated and qualified U.S. undergraduate students to get research experience or to participate in a summer school course in Switzerland. This program provides a monthly scholarship of CHF 1,600 (approx. USD 1,650) for a period of 2 to 3 months (CHF 4,800 maximum), which covers the majority of the average student’s living costs. For more information regarding the program and application please visit: http://thinkswiss.tumblr.com/About

Take GER 202 and finish your internship applications
You need to make a Lebenslauf (resume) and a Bewerbungsschreiben (cover letter) in German, which you will use for institutes and internships. There are different norms for both of these in Germany, so you can’t just translate something you have in English. For example, it is customary to put a professional picture of yourself on your resume, as well as details like age and marital status. In this course, you will learn about possible companies to complete your required internship at, write your cover letters, and develop skills needed to be successful during your year abroad. If you take GER 202 or not, submit the final internship application(s) including your Lebenslauf and Bewerbungsschreiben to Dr. Tracksdorf or Dr. Berka by the deadline: May 4th.
You can get some examples of previous students from either Dr. Tracksdorf or Dr. Berka, but here are some other resources for them:

- [https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-speak-business-german-4072786](https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-speak-business-german-4072786) (with English explanations of some terms)
- [https://www.ego4u.de/de/cram-up/writing/cover-letter](https://www.ego4u.de/de/cram-up/writing/cover-letter) (this one is actually for Germans applying abroad, but has some helpful stuff) “Wortlisten und Wendungen” (word lists and phrases) at the bottom is a reeeaaaally nice list of translations, but be careful about using things that are too fancy and very unrealistic for your German level
- [https://www.bewerbung-tipps.com/](https://www.bewerbung-tipps.com/) (Anschreiben on the side also refers to cover letter, that and the Lebenslauf tab are the main things to look at here)
- Googling “Lebenslauf Beispiele” or “Lebenslauf Tipps” (yes, 2 P’s) will also get you lots of examples to look at
- Additional guidance is provided in this link from the Steuben Schurz Gesellschaft, an organization which places US students into internships in Germany [https://goo.gl/De5vGA](https://goo.gl/De5vGA)

### Apply for your semester at the HAW Hamburg

The application process is an online application process. You will be nominated by the URI International or Education Abroad Office. Once you are in the HAW system you will be automatically sent the link with the application forms. You will be required to send the following:

- HAW Hamburg application form
- Proof of payment of the semester contribution
- Health insurance form (students studying in non-EU countries only)
- List of courses* to be taken in Hamburg (Learning Agreement)
- students choosing classes in German should provide proof of German (at least B1)
- Design students should also send a small portfolio of their work as a pdf

Part of the online application includes the application for student housing in dorms, managed by Studierendenwerk Hamburg. Otherwise, students will need to find their own room or apartment in or around town.

### Plan ahead

Curriculum sheets can be found here: [https://web.uri.edu/advising/advising-by-major/](https://web.uri.edu/advising/advising-by-major/) to get the appropriate one for major and start year.

### Practice your German

Feeling Nervous about German? - *Mach keinen Stress!* If you already spoke perfect German, you wouldn’t need to go anyway. But if you start to get nervous, here are a couple things you can use to practice a bit beforehand.
AT URI
  o Buddies (recommendation: go once a week)
  o Tandem
  o Kaffeeestunde
  o Movie Nights

ON-LINE TRANSLATORS
  o If you haven’t been introduced to it already, LEO (www.leo.org) is just about the best
    German-to-English dictionary on the web.
  o Google Translate (http://translate.google.com/) is getting better, and some people like the Dict.cc
    (http://www.dict.cc/) layout.
    **Download the dict.cc app to your smartphone and install the German/English dictionary – this will
    let you look up vocabulary on your phone on the fly without an internet connection**
  o Linguee (www.linguee.com/) – unlike LEO, Linguee incorporates a search engine that provides
    access to large amounts of bilingual sentence pairs found online.

GAMES, MEDIA, & HOW-TO
  o There are tons of games and quizzes on www.sporcle.com and some other quiz sites. Here’s one for
    example: http://www.sporcle.com/games/McFly/essentialgermanverbs. These are a nice easy way
    to practice some basic vocab.
  o Mein Weg nach Deutschland (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMj9kUPrnBk) – A YouTube
    video series published by Goethe-Institute provides an excellent resource for those to imagine what
    it’s like to be an Ausländer in Germany
  o MrWissen2go (https://www.youtube.com/user/MrWissen2go) – a great YouTube Chanel that talks
    about current topics in word affairs and in pop-culture auf Deutsch.
  o Learn German: Deutsch für Euch (https://www.youtube.com/user/DeutschFuerEuch) - a great
    YouTube Chanel that can serve as a good refresher on your basic grammar and vocabulary
  o Get Germanized (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCesZBmRS6lgZ3uuibB8RdX0A) – a great
    YouTube Chanel that talks about German culture and language auf Deutsch and in English.
  o And here’s another nice one so you can ask Germans where they are from and not have to
    awkwardly nod when you have no idea what they are saying:
    https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3014
  o You can also download apps like Duolingo (https://www.duolingo.com/)for free!
  o Coffee Break is a popular language podcast on Spotify. Listen to Coffee Break German when you are
    on-the-go to hear some great lessons in the context of situations you may encounter abroad
    (https://open.spotify.com/show/3QiX0ZkJiLyGWmpemackWB)
  o Deutsche Welle (https://www.dw.com/de/themen/s-9077) and Tagesschau
    (https://www.tagesschau.de/) are also great news sites geared for people learning German. It’s also
    a great way to stay up-to-date on current events.
  o https://forvo.com/ is a site where native speakers from all languages put up clips of themselves
    pronouncing words. So use this if you see a word but don’t know how it’s pronounced.
  o www.about.com has a surprisingly good German learning section, with a lot of well-written articles
    about grammar and pronunciation. Here are a couple interesting ones:
    o Zungenbrecher (tonguebreakers a.k.a. tongue twisters) with audio:
      https://www.thoughtco.com/german-tongue-twisters-zungenbrecher-1444645
    o Falsche Freunde - words that may seem similar to English words, but aren’t:
MUSIC

- Seeed - *Augenbling*, *Riddim No.1*, *Aufstehn*. Probably the biggest act in Germany right now, they have stuff anywhere from reggae to dance music. Check out the guest verse from CeeLo Green on *Aufstehn*; it comes out of nowhere.

- Madsen – is a German rock band that hails from the Wendland. Their music combines elements of pop, rock, indie and punk together with lyrics in German. Songs worth listening to include: *Du schreibst Geschichte*, *Wenn der Regen* and *Du bist wie du bist*.

- Peter Fox - *Alles Neu*, *Haus am See*. The lead man in Seeed, he also has a really well known solo album, *Stadtaffe*. The whole thing is worth a listen.

- Kraftklub - *Ich will nicht nach Berlin*, *Eure Mädchen* - A rock/punk group who really don’t like the hipsters in Berlin.

- Cro - *Einmal um die Welt*, *Du*. He describes his music as “Raop,” Rap/Hip Hop. Some pretty clever lyrics and relaxing feel.

- Clueso - *Gewinner*, *Chicago*, *Barfuss*. Acoustic guitar music, a bit of a breather. If this is more your thing, also check out Philipp Poisel or Bosse.

- Die Ärzte - *Westerland*. Some old rockers, kind of like the Green Day of Germany. Not the most new/hip music, but worth a listen.

- Lena - 99 Luftballons. What, were we going to NOT put this on the list?

- Honorable Mentions: Die Toten Hosen and Fettes Brot - Two more pretty well-known German bands.