WILLKOMMEN IN BERLIN!
AGENDA

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   - BUREAUCRATIC NECESSITIES
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   - COURSE SELECTION AT HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT
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6. CONTACT INFORMATION & QUESTIONS?
Brown in Germany: Meet the Site Staff

Dr. John Roper
Academic Director
at CIEE Berlin

Allie Drexler
Program Coordinator
at CIEE Berlin
Berlin’s Districts (*Bezirke*)

- A city of neighborhoods (*Kieze*)
- 3.5 million people
- Spree River runs through it
- Large sections are parks and forests
Berlin’s Public Transit System

3.5 million people, but only 1.1 mil. cars because:
Orientation Highlights

**Tuesday, February 25**
Arrival Day & Program Orientation Begins
Plan to arrive at CIEE Global Institute-Berlin by **12 Noon**.
An *optional pick-up is available from Tegel Airport on this date*.

**Orientation Location**
CIEE Global Institute - Berlin
Gneisenaustraße 27
10961 Berlin

**Nearest subway station:** Gneisenaustraße* (on the U7 subway line)
Additional details for traveling to CIEE with public transit are later in this presentation.

*The Gneisenaustraße station does not have an elevator and cannot be accessed by people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Students with a mobility or physical disability who wish to take public transit should contact us in advance for alternatives with the bus.*
Courtyard and Lobby at CIEE Global Institute - Berlin
Orientation Highlights

**Wednesday, February 26 – Thursday, March 5**
- **Orientation**, covering:
  - University logistics
  - Bureaucratic necessities
  - Housing search
  - Neighborhood overviews
  - Health, safety, and security

**Friday, March 6 – Friday, April 1**
**Intensive German Language Course** at Humboldt-Universität

**Note:** Humboldt will have its own orientation activities for international students once the summer semester begins. We’ll have more details when you arrive.
Orientation Highlights

During Orientation:
- Cultural events and city exploration
  - City Tour
  - Theatre Production
  - Memorial Visits
  - Museums
  - Musical Concerts
**Bureaucratic Necessities**

**During Orientation:**
- Register with Berlin municipal authorities
- Open a local bank account
- Enroll in German health insurance from April 1*

*EU citizens in possession of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are exempt from the German requirement to be insured with a recognized mandatory health insurance provider in Germany.

**During the first week of the semester at Humboldt:**
- Review Course Selection/Academic Advising
- Apply for a German residence permit (student visa)

**NOTE:** Your passport will be in the possession of the Berlin Foreigners' Registration Office (*Ausländerbehörde*) up to 8 weeks. Currently, 4-6 weeks is typical, but the situation is variable; 3 weeks is the minimum.

As a result, **please do not make international travel plans until orientation** and we have a better sense of current processing times.
Semester Dates

Monday, April 13
Semester Courses Start at Humboldt-Universität

Saturday, July 25
Semester Courses End

Monday, July 27 – Saturday, August 8
Examination Period

See the Humboldt-Universität Calendar at:
https://www.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/de/international/incomings/calendar
Course Selection at Humboldt

You can take courses in up to two different departments at Humboldt University.

Most courses are worth 3-7 credit points based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Brown students are required to collect 27-30 European Credit Transfer System points during the program. You should expect to take approximately 4-6 courses. We will discuss exactly how this works during Academic Orientation after your arrival.

Courses at Humboldt generally meet once a week for either 45, 90, or 180 minutes.
Course Selection at Humboldt

Participants in the advanced level track (with fifth-semester college-level German) are expected to take all of their courses in German at Humboldt University.

Because there’s always room for improvement with language skills, advanced level students are also encouraged to enroll in a German as a Foreign Language course (DaF) course at the Sprachenzentrum during their regular semester.
Course Selection at Humboldt

Students in the **intermediate track** (third-semester college-level German) may take advanced level courses in English at Humboldt University.

**Intermediate level students are required to enroll in a German as a Foreign Language course (DaF) course at the Sprachenzentrum** during their regular semester, in addition to the intensive language course during orientation.
Course Selection at Humboldt

Be in touch with your concentration advisor if you need courses for concentration credit.

And think about declaring German as a concentration upon returning to Brown!
Departure

**Tuesday, August 11**
Departure*

Students should plan to be in Berlin until at least the first week of August

*Important Note: Student departure dates vary depending on individual student exam schedules. Students should make their return flight arrangements to allow for flexibility and should finalize a return date once the exam schedule at Humboldt is announced.
### Holidays

#### Public Holidays during the Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 10</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Monday, April 13</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Friday, May 1</td>
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<td>Friday, May 8</td>
<td>VE Day</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 21</td>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
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<td>Monday, June 1</td>
<td>Pentecost</td>
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Day Trips and Overnight Excursion

**Day Trips**
Dessau (March 21)*
Lübbenau (May 16)*

**Overnight Excursion (two nights)**
Ostsee (July 10-12)*

*These are past destinations; exact dates and destinations to be determined with you during orientation*
Optional Orientation Housing

If you require assistance to find housing during the orientation period, please contact Allie after this orientation. CIEE Berlin’s housing manager can offer you a room at the CIEE Global Institute in a shared double room with the other Brown in Germany participant.

How you will live:
In a large room shared with 1-2 other students
Rooms have private, en-suite bathrooms with showers
Mini-Refrigerator and microwave in each room

What we provide:
Linens, bedding, personal wardrobe space, desk and chair
Wi-fi throughout building
Fully-equipped kitchens on each residence floor

What you need to bring:
Towels, and a lock for your wardrobe
Laptop or tablet computer
Optional Orientation Housing

Rent will cover residency from Tuesday, February 25 through Noon on Friday, March 27.

Rent will be paid on site in Berlin and is due by Friday, April 3. It’s also a chance to practice using your new German bank accounts to transfer money.
Several options for handling money while in Germany are described below. Whatever you decide, the best advice is to come with at least two ways to obtain money so that in the event that one method fails or is inconvenient, a back-up option is available.

In Berlin, you will probably make most of your purchases with cash.

*Please note that credit and debit cards are not typically accepted in Berlin.*

Our recommended approach is to plan to use your ATM card as your primary source for cash. It is good to bring some cash as back up.
Money

Bank Cards
Previous students say that ATMs are the best way to access money.

There are many ATMs throughout Berlin, but please consult your local bank before you leave to identify the best options for you.

Do note that ATMS in Europe:
- Access only checking, not savings accounts.
- Do not provide your available balance.
- May charge excessive fees if privately owned (rather than at a bank).
- Require a chip
Money

Credit Cards
Bring a credit card, if you can; it can come in handy for travel, the occasional larger purchase, and, only if necessary, expensive emergency cash advances (you need to know your PIN for these).

Keep in mind, however, that many places do not accept credit cards and foreign transaction fees may apply.

Cash
If you bring cash for cases when it is difficult to get to a bank, we recommend bringing $50 bills. We do not recommend that participants travel with large amounts of cash.
Money

Cost of Living
Berlin is a fairly affordable city, especially in comparison to other world capitals

Meals:
€15 / day
For your reference:
A typical lunch costs = €5-€6
Dinner = €10-€12
Coffee = €2

Housing:
€500 / month is the market rate of a room in a shared, privately rented flat

Personal Expenses (varies due to your spending habits, does not include travel):
€250 / month

Books:
up to €200 (varies depending on discipline)
Communication

Mobile Phones

You are required to have a *working* phone number that you can be reached at in case of an emergency.

Previous Brown-in-Germany participants have purchased an inexpensive cell phone (costing about 30 euros) and pay-as-you-go minutes after arrival in Germany. Site staff can help you with any questions you have about this process during orientation.

If you plan to bring your own phone and use a German SIM card, speak with your mobile provider in the US first to determine if your phone is unlocked and discuss any network considerations for use abroad.
Communication

Computers and Internet
Wi-Fi (commonly referred to in Germany as WLAN) is widely available in the city.

You will be able to use the eduroam wireless internet connection at all university campuses in Berlin (TU and FU, as well as Humboldt).

Bring your own USB stick if you plan to print at Humboldt or at the CIEE Global Institute.
Packing

Bring only the basics.

Average Temperatures in Berlin:

Raincoats and sturdy shoes are expensive in Germany, consider bringing them with you.
A Note about Computers

Voltage in German = 220 volts

Most power converters for laptops computers can handle 110-230 volts of input.

Check the label on the box between your computer and the plug that goes into the wall.

In all cases you will need to bring a European plug adaptor (not a voltage converter) that has two round pins for the wall sockets here and accepts the flat plugs found in the US.

Do not stress out about finding this adaptor in the US; you can also purchase them here.
Airport Arrival

Optional pickup at Tegel Airport (TXL)
- Pick-up time will be announced, based on your arrival schedules
- Meeting Point is in Terminal A

Otherwise
- Take a taxi to Gneisenaustraße 27
- Take public transit (BVG)
- Transit stop is U-Bahn Station: Gneisenaustraße (U7 subway line)
Arrival and Orientation

Getting to CIEE Global Institute - Berlin

Taxi
The cost of a taxi from Tegel Airport to CIEE Berlin is approximately 35 euros. Ask about the approximate cost of the ride and whether credit cards are accepted; there are ATMs in the terminal. Be sure that the meter is used (usually located in the rear view mirror). The common tip for the taxi driver is to round up by no more than 10%!
Arrival and Orientation

Getting to CIEE Global Institute - Berlin

**BVG**
Berlin’s public transportation network (BVG) is safe, reliable, and inexpensive.

A one-way ticket (good for two hours) **costs €2.80**.

Tickets are sold at the airport information desk and on buses (follow the signs with the bus image). Take the X9 or 109 bus to Jakob-Kaiser-Platz and switch to the U7 subway. Travel in the direction of “Rudow” and get off at Gneisenaustraße. The Institute is within feet of the Gneisenaustraße stop and is located on the south side of the street, centered between the subway station’s two exits.

*The Gneisenaustraße station does not have an elevator and cannot be accessed by people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Students with a mobility or physical disability who wish to take public transit should contact us in advance for alternatives with the bus.*
Safety & Security

Although Berlin is a safe city, you must be careful about what you do and where you go, just as you would in any major city in the world. Follow these general rules:

• Always **be aware of your backpacks and bags** especially among crowds. Do not carry large amounts of cash with you.

• You will have **to carry either your passport or a copy of your passport** as identification throughout your time in Germany.

• **Make sure not to walk in the bike lanes** that run down the sidewalks and streets. Berlin bikers are notoriously unforgiving and will aggressively ring their bell at you.

• **Respect the “Walk/Do Not Walk” signals** at crosswalks. Do as (most) Berliners and wait at the red signal or you may painfully find yourself at the wrong place at the wrong time; cars have the right of way at all unmarked intersections.

• **Never carry valuables in the back pockets of your pants.** If you are the victim of a pickpocket, or if something is stolen, CIEE staff will help you make a report.
CIEE Staff and Emergency Contact Info

Once the program starts on February 25

In case of emergency, a CIEE Berlin staff member is always on call:
+49 30 69 80 78 866

You will receive an emergency contact card with this information (and more) when you arrive in Berlin.

CIEE Global Institute - Berlin Contact Information in case of extreme emergency and while traveling to Berlin:

Allie Drexler, Program Coordinator
CIEE Global Institute - Berlin
Gneisenaustraße 27
10961 Berlin
Germany
Telephone: +49 179 8511893
Email: adrexler@ciee.org
Final Things for You To Do

For your residence permit application in Germany:

- Pack the financial guarantee form
- Pack a copy of a photo ID (passport preferred) of the person who completed and signed the form
- Pack the associated bank statements
Contact Information

• Allie Drexler  
  Program Coordinator, CIEE Berlin  
  adrexler@ciee.org

• Orientation Location  
  CIEE Global Institute – Berlin  
  Gneisenaustraße 27  
  10961 Berlin

  *If you are delayed en route to orientation, please inform the CIEE Berlin staff by dialing +49 179 8511893.*
Questions for you:

Tell us about you!

Major?
Interests?
German level?
What excursions do you want to do while you are here?
What brings you to Berlin?
What are your goals for the semester?
THANK YOU!

Und bis bald in Berlin!