WILLKOMMEN IN BERLIN!
AGENDA

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Brown in Germany: Meet the Site Staff

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(Brown in Germany '00)  
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(Brown in Germany '08)  
Program Coordinator at CIEE Berlin
Berlin’s Districts (Bezirke)

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

3.5 million people, but only 1.1 million cars
Orientation Highlights

**Tuesday, February 20**

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 appear later in this presentation.
Orientation Highlights

**Wednesday, February 21 – Thursday, March 1**

**Orientation**, covering:
- University logistics
- Bureaucratic necessities
- Housing search
- Neighborhood overviews
- Health, safety, and security

**Welcome Dinner**

**Friday, March 2 – Thursday, March 29**

**Intensive German Language Course** at Humboldt-Universität

**Note**: *Humboldt has its own orientation activities for international students once the semester starts on April 16. We’ll have more details when you arrive.*
Bureaucratic Necessities

During Orientation:
Register with Berlin municipal authorities
Open a local bank account

During the first week of the semester at Humboldt:
Review Course Selection/Academic Advising
Enroll in German Health Insurance*
*EU citizens in possession of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are exempted from the German requirement to be insured with a recognized mandatory health insurance provider in Germany.
More Bureaucratic Necessities

**During the first week of the semester at Humboldt:**
Apply for a residence permit (*Aufenthaltserlaubnis*)*
*EU citizens do not have to apply for a residence permit

**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.

As a result, **please do not make international travel plans for April/May.**
Semester Dates

**Monday, April 16**
**Semester Courses Start** at Humboldt-Universität

**Saturday, July 21**
**Semester Courses End** at Humboldt-Universität

See the Humboldt-Universität Calendar at:
https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/prospective-students/info/academic-calendars
Course Selection at Humboldt

Brown students are advised to take between 4 and 6 courses decided in consultation with the on-site coordinator during orientation.

This number approximates the normal load of a German student while still allowing for your adjustment to a new culture and language.

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

**Sunday, August 4**

**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

Berlin Holidays During the Program

- Monday, April 2: Easter Monday
- Tuesday, May 1: Labor Day
- Thursday, May 10: Ascension Day
- Monday, May 21: Pentecost Monday
Day Trips and Overnight Excursion

Day Trips
Dessau*
Lutherstadt Wittenberg*
Görlitz*
Weimar*

Overnight Excursion (two nights)
Prora/Rügen*

*These are past destinations; exact dates and destinations to be determined with you during orientation
Optional Orientation Housing (Citadines or CIEE)

How you will live:
- In a large room shared with 1-2 other students
- Private, en-suite bathrooms with showers

What we provide:
- Linens, bedding, personal wardrobe space, desk and chair
- Wi-fi
- Kitchens

What you need to bring:
- Towels, and a lock for your wardrobe
- Laptop or tablet computer
- ATM card to get euros
- Prescription medications for the duration of your stay
- See packing list in the Brown-in-Germany Handbook for more
Courtyard and Lobby at CIEE Global Institute - Berlin
CIEE Global Institute in Kreuzberg: The Bergmannkiez

- Central location
- Mixed income, mixed cultures
- Tradition as “alternative Berlin” but with some gentrification
- Friendly, open and tolerant
- Lots of great opportunities to eat, drink and explore!
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 or travelers checks as back up, though the latter are often expensive to cash.
Money

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

Meals:
Expect to spend approximately €15 / day.
For your reference:
A typical lunch costs €5-€7
Dinner = €10-€12
Coffee = €2-4

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
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).
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.
Communication

Mobile Phones

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

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

Bring only the basics.

Average Temperatures in Berlin:
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 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.
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 25 euros. Ask about the approximate cost of the ride and whether credit cards are accepted; ATMs are in the terminal. Be sure that the meter is used (usually located in the rearview 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 assistance.
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 cameras 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.

• If you are the victim of a pickpocket, or if something is stolen, inform us. We will help you make a report.
CIEE Staff and Emergency Contact Info

Once the program starts on February 20

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; for all other purposes, use the emergency number provided above.

Martin Kley, Director
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10961 Berlin
Germany
Telephone: +49 157 32436007
Email: mkley@ciee.org
Final Things for You To Do

Before you depart Brown:
Register for the Intensive Language Course at Humboldt-Universität

Before you arrive in Germany:
Send flight arrival details (and let us know if you want to be met at the airport)
Pack the financial guarantee letter
Pack a copy of a photo-ID (passport preferred) of the letter’s author
Contact Information

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Orientation Location
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Gneisenastraße 27
10961 Berlin

*If you are delayed en route to orientation, please inform the CIEE Berlin staff by dialing +49 30 69 80 78 866.*
Danke und bis bald -

Wir freuen uns auf euch!