

2026 Freie Universität Berlin Summer Short-Term Exchange Program

I Application and Preparation

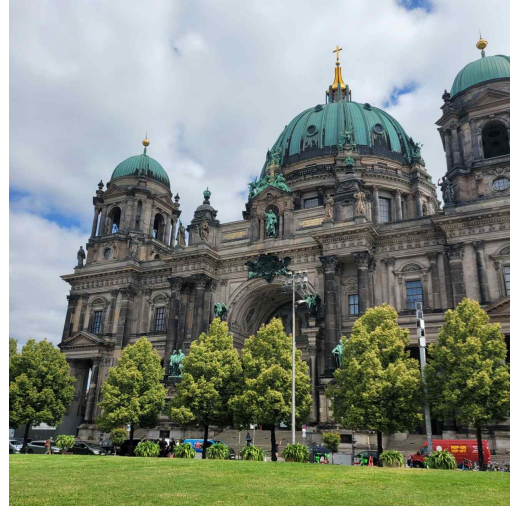
I participated in Term III of the international summer program called FUBiS at Freie Universität Berlin. The program did not require a nomination process, so I was able to register directly through the FUBiS website. After registration, I selected my courses and accommodation according to the instructions provided by the university and transferred the program fee stated on the invoice. About one month before the start of the program, They sent us a series of emails containing a student guide, course information, and accommodation and move-in instructions. I didn't need to obtain a visa, and whenever I had questions, the university responded to my emails quickly. Therefore, I did not experience any difficulties during the preparation process, as I could simply follow the instructions provided by Freie Universität.

II Classes and University Life

I took a course called "Berlin Architecture, Culture and City Marketing, 1750-Present." The class was held twice a week, with six hours of classes each day. I chose this course because I wanted to understand the history and development of Germany and Berlin. I was also interested in the course because it included many field trips. At first, I was worried that I might have difficulty understanding the course because it was not related to my major. However, the course was designed at a level that students from different academic backgrounds could follow. The midterm consisted of a short essay, while the final assessment was a group presentation. The professor was very kind and supportive, and the workload and examination requirements were not too demanding, which made the course enjoyable.

The class was structured around both lectures and field trips. We first learned about the general history of Berlin and its major landmarks and then visited various sites in person. We visited famous places such as the Humboldt Forum, Checkpoint Charlie, and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, as well as less tourist-oriented sites such as Hufeisensiedlung, the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism, and the Berlin Wall Memorial. If I had visited these places by myself, I probably would have focused mainly on taking pictures. However, listening to the professor's explanations helped me understand the history, significance, and geographical context of each site in much greater depth. I was also able to exchange opinions with students from various countries and

gain new perspectives. Thanks to this course, I was able to experience Berlin not simply as a tourist, but as a city with a complex history and culture.



We could have lunch at the university cafeteria, known as the Mensa, but I usually bought food at the nearby supermarket. The university also organized activities such as tea time during lunch breaks to help students get to know one another, as well as various optional programs on days without classes, including a river boat tour and a Reichstag Building tour. By participating in these activities, I was able to meet and make friends with students from different countries.

III Accommodation

I stayed at Studentendorf Schlachtensee. I had a private room, while the bathroom and kitchen were shared with other residents. In the building where I stayed, all of the residents were Korean female students. Although this was convenient and made daily life easier, I felt that it reduced my opportunities to communicate with international students, which was somewhat disappointing. The shared areas were occasionally cleaned by staff, so they were generally well maintained, while I was responsible for cleaning my own room. There were supermarkets such as ALDI and EDEKA nearby, making it convenient to buy groceries. The kitchen was also equipped with most of the basic cooking utensils, so it was possible to cook meals at the dormitory.

One of the biggest advantages of this dormitory was its convenient location for everyday necessities. Supermarkets, hospitals, pharmacies, dm, and laundromats were all located nearby. At the same time, the dormitory was far enough from the city center to be very quiet and peaceful. There were also Schlachtensee and Wannsee river nearby. The area around the lakes was a great place to take a walk

or have a picnic, and I especially enjoyed spending time there.

The main disadvantage was its distance from the city center and the university. It usually took more than an hour to reach most destinations. Some of the furniture in the rooms was also relatively old.

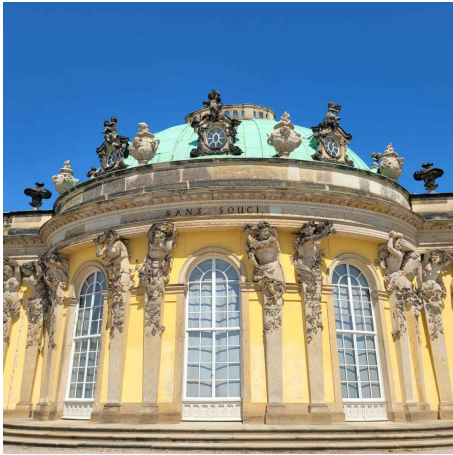


IV Transportation and Travel

I used the 'Deutschlandticket', which cost €63 per month. This ticket could be used on almost all forms of public transportation in Germany except for high-speed and long-distance trains such as ICE, IC, and EC. Its biggest advantage was that it could be used throughout Germany. However, one disadvantage was that the ticket was valid by calendar month, beginning on the first day of each month. Since my program lasted across July and August, I had to purchase the ticket for both months. In addition, the subscription had to be cancelled before the 10th of the month to prevent the charge for the following month. Since I planned to travel to other cities on days without classes, I found the Deutschlandticket to be a useful option. However, if a student plans to travel mainly within Berlin, the 'Umweltkarte' recommended by the university may be a more economical choice.

On days without classes, I often explored the Mitte area of Berlin, where many shops, cafés, and restaurants are concentrated. Berlin also has many Korean restaurants and Asian supermarkets, so it was easy to find Korean food whenever I missed it. I also enjoyed visiting Hackescher Markt and Mauerpark, where I could find a variety of street food, souvenirs, and vintage clothing. In addition to Berlin, I traveled to Potsdam, Hamburg, Schwerin, Leipzig, and Frankfurt. Each German city had its own distinctive atmosphere, so traveling between them sometimes felt

like visiting completely different countries.



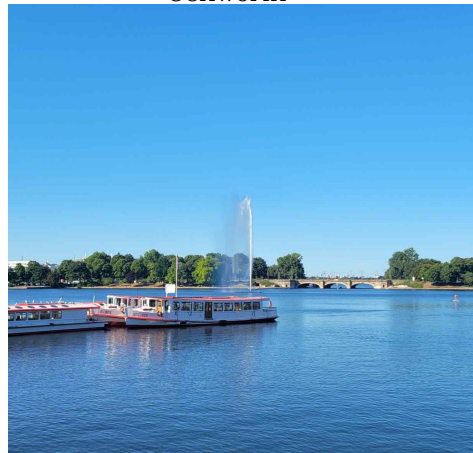
Potsdam



Schwerin



Leipzig



Hamburg

V Overall Impression

Overall, I was very satisfied with the short-term exchange program. Through this program, I met many wonderful people and had the opportunity to experience a different educational environment. Before participating in the program, I was quite nervous about speaking English. However, meeting and communicating with students from different countries helped me become more comfortable speaking English and gave me more confidence.

I would especially recommend this program to students who would like to experience living abroad but find a full-semester exchange program difficult due to time or financial constraints. Although the program was relatively short, it gave me valuable academic, cultural, and personal experiences that I will remember for a long time.