

Bates in



Fall 2015

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why should I go to Berlin?

Because it's a great place to be and it's never been easier to get there. Berlin is the third most visited European capital and, if you ask us, the coolest. It's a remarkable meeting place of history and contemporary culture and offers a wide array of educational, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The Berlin Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag (parliament building), the Museum Island, the TV Tower, the Karl Marx Boulevard -- you can not only see them all but learn about how they came to be such powerful symbols and interact with the people who call this fascinating city their home. All you have to do is apply to the program. We'll take care of the rest.

2. Why should I do an FSA?

Because it's a great way to study abroad and have a thoroughly Bates experience. An FSA counts the same way as a semester on campus, and you are still with friends (old or new) and faculty from Bates. But you are also in an immersion setting in another country, learning another language among its native speakers and another culture up close and personal. It's the best of both worlds.

3. What graduation requirements will the program count for?

The Berlin FSA is a complete GEC. It will provide a W1 or W2 (whichever you need next). It will provide a Q. If you are earning a math major or minor, it will provide one elective within that major or minor. If you are earning a German Studies major or minor, it can provide up to three courses within that major or minor. If you are earning a European Studies major, it can provide up to four courses within that major.

4. What will it cost?

Your Bates comprehensive fee covers travel to and from Berlin, housing, food, and program-related events and travel. Your only additional costs will be for personal expenses (books, shopping, entertainment) and non-program travel.

5. Where will I be staying?

Either in a dorm or with a host family. More information on living arrangements will be available soon.

6. Who is eligible to go?

Any Bates student, in any class year, is eligible to apply.

7. Do I need to speak German to go?

No! Students with no background in German are welcome and encouraged to apply. You will take German language courses appropriate for your level as part of the semester.

8. Why learn German?

German is the most widely spoken native language in the European Union and an important language for business, science, and culture worldwide. Knowledge of German enriches your perspective on history, music, math, science, philosophy, economics, psychology, literature, film, and the many other aspects of society that have been influenced by Germans and German speakers.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), continued

9. I heard German is hard. Is it?

One of the best ways to learn a language is by immersion, being immediately in that environment. Living in Berlin will provide you with this opportunity. Although German is not without its challenges, it is linguistically similar to English, so many grammatical structures and vocabulary words are immediately recognizable to English speakers.

10. I have a lot of requirements for my major/graduation, and I don't think I can study abroad. Can I?

Taking part in an FSA is a great way to study abroad and fulfill major/graduation requirements at Bates. The FSA provides you with a complete GEC, a W1 or W2, a Q, as well as courses toward three different majors: European Studies, German and Mathematics. (For a complete list, see Question 3.)

11. If I go on this program, will I be able to study abroad again in the future?

Absolutely! Bates Fall Semester Abroad (FSA) programs count as being on campus. Many students who join an FSA in their first or second years return to study abroad during their junior year.

12. Who is leading the trip?

German professors Raluca Cernahoschi and Jakub Kazecki, along with math professor Meredith Greer and her husband Brian Pfohl.

13. Who else is going?

We plan to take a group of 20-25 Batesies on the trip. Spread the word and invite your friends!

14. When will we be going?

Fall semester, 2015. End-of-August to mid-December. Exact dates TBA. See the website for details!

15. What are the courses?

You will be taking two German language courses taught by experienced instructors from Berlin, as well as the following two courses taught by Bates professors: *Mapping the City: The Urban Landscape as Text* (Jakub Kazecki and Raluca Cernahoschi, German and Russian Studies) and *Culture, Controversy, Cryptography, Calculus* (Meredith Greer, Mathematics).

16. What else is included?

The program includes numerous visits to sites in and around Berlin, guest lectures, and several trips to locations within Germany and other European countries.

17. Will I have time to travel?

Yes! A full week mid-semester and many weekends are kept free for you to explore Berlin or travel elsewhere. Berlin is a major transportation hub, so it is an easy starting point for travel throughout Europe.

18. I am intrigued! How do I learn more?

To learn more about the program, contact any of the faculty involved: Jakub Kazecki (jkazecki@bates.edu), Meredith Greer (mgreer@bates.edu), and Raluca Cernahoschi (rcernaho@bates.edu). You should also look out for our flyer, check our website, and attend our on-campus information sessions.

19. I really want to go! How do I apply?

The application, along with much more info, is on our website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/batesinberlin2015/>

