



Christmas Market in Charlottenburg, Berlin. Photo: Stéphanie Kilgast (flickr.com/photos/24257141@N05/5278015101/).

## Housing

During their stay in Berlin, students will live either in student dormitories or in private residences.

## Travel

Extensive travel within and outside Germany is an integral part of the program. Course-related travels to Bavaria, the Baltic Sea coast and Poland are planned during the semester. Students will also have time for their own travel to sites in Germany and Europe.

## Fees and Credits

This program is part of the Bates curriculum. The Fall Semester in Berlin provides students with four Bates credits and a complete GEC. The course *Mapping the City: The Urban Landscape as Text* satisfies the W1 or W2 writing requirement. The *Culture, Controversy, Cryptography, Calculus* course satisfies the Quantitative (Q) requirement. All expenses, including travel to and from Berlin and program-related field trips, as well as food and cultural expenses, are covered by the regular Bates Single Fee. Students need bring funds only for personal entertainment and independent travel.



The East Side Gallery, the largest open-air gallery in the world: "The Mortal Kiss" of Erich Honecker and Leonid Brezhnev (graffiti by Dimitrij Vrabel), and the Trabi (Trabant) knocking down the Wall (by Birgit Kinder). Photo: Vlasta Juricek (flickr.com/photos/46026252@N00/3606231774/).

## Applications and More Information

Information about the application process is available on the program webpage: [sites.google.com/site/batesinberlin2015/](http://sites.google.com/site/batesinberlin2015/). Completed applications from enrolled students should be submitted by December 12, 2014 (for early decision) or by February 6, 2015 (final deadline). Students in the class of 2019 should contact one of the organizers as early as possible and submit a completed application by May 11, 2015.

### Administrative questions:

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### Curricular questions:

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Program Website: [sites.google.com/site/batesinberlin2015/](http://sites.google.com/site/batesinberlin2015/)  
Follow us on Twitter: [@German\\_at\\_Bates](https://twitter.com/German_at_Bates)

Information on safety, security and crime in Germany is available on the U.S. Department of State website: [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Information on health issues and recommended immunizations is available on the Centers for Disease Control website: [cdc.gov/travel](http://cdc.gov/travel). Students and families are urged to review the information on both sites.

Front cover image: Ready, go! The iconic Ampelmännchen (little traffic light man) in Berlin. Photo: Lisa Ampelfrau (flickr.com/photos/69606618@N08/6322215543/).

## Bates

Bates values the diversity of persons, perspectives and convictions. Critical thinking, rigorous analysis and open discussion of a full range of ideas lie at the heart of the college's mission as an institution of higher learning. The college seeks to encourage inquiry and reasoned dialogue in a climate of mutual respect. Bates does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, marital or parental status, age, or disability, in the recruitment and admission of its students, in the administration of its educational policies and programs, or in the recruitment and employment of its faculty and staff.

# BATES

Semester in Berlin  
Fall 2015





The Alexanderplatz with the TV Tower (in the background), the tallest structure in Germany, and the World Time Clock, a popular meeting point in Berlin. Photo: Mathias Apitz (flickr.com/photos/abzisse/6749109209).

## The Program

The third-most-visited European capital, Berlin has a unique power to captivate. A meeting point of past and present, it offers a large number of sites that played an important role in world history, as well as a vibrant and diverse contemporary culture. Germany's imperial aspirations are still visible in the city's architecture and reflect the rise of one of the most important political and intellectual powers in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Discoveries and innovations made in Berlin, the home of two world-class universities and many research institutes, profoundly affected mathematics and science and changed culture and politics well beyond German borders. Berlin is also a perfect illustration of the tragic course of the 20th century: the rise of totalitarian regimes, two world wars and the post-World War II division not only of the city, but also of the country and the continent.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and German re-unification, Berlin's rapid development made it again a symbol for the changes that ushered in a New Europe. Today, the capital of Europe's largest economy reinvents itself as the young, energetic and cosmopolitan center of Europe. Yet Berlin's location in the eastern part of Germany, in close proximity to the Polish border, also creates the opportunity to explore the multicultural landscape of the region, trace Germany's changing borders over time, and observe the systemic and social transition of the former communist countries, such as the German Democratic Republic and Poland, after 1989.

The Fall Semester in Berlin program offers students the opportunity to live in and enjoy this exceptional city. Through this experience and program courses, students will deepen their understanding of European history, immerse themselves in German culture, including

Germany's contributions to mathematics and science, and enhance their proficiency in the German language. The program is open to all Bates students, including entering students and sophomores. No prior study or knowledge of German is necessary for participation.

Students who complete this program earn a complete General Education Concentration (GEC). They also earn a Q and either a W1 or W2, whichever they need next. Students can earn one course toward the Mathematics major or minor, up to three courses toward the German major or minor, and up to four courses toward the European Studies major.

## The Courses

The program starts in late August and concludes in mid-December. The program begins with a four-week intensive German course taught by an experienced Berlin-based instructor. Students will be placed according to their abilities, from beginner to advanced. After this intensive course, participants continue their study of German. Throughout the semester, students also take the following two courses with Bates faculty.

*Mapping the City: The Urban Landscape as Text*

**Professors Jakub Kazecki and Raluca Cernahoschi**

Reading a text or watching a film about a city is a process of imagining its space. We are not only creating a mental map of buildings, stores, squares and parks, but also tracking the walks of fictional characters on the streets, getting a sense of the city's dimensions in space and taking in its architectural and human character. The physical city and its narratives overlap and comment on one another – but sometimes also contradict each other. By exploring narratives about Berlin in Berlin, we draw our own maps of the city and compare them with the existing urban landscape. We follow the traces of the Berlin Wall in the streets, place destroyed buildings back on the skyline of the German capital, discover its empty spaces, hear the voices of its missing inhabitants, and see bridges between its cultures and languages. We engage with contemporary Berlin as a multilayered area in which people experience and interact with the past through language, architecture, literature and the visual arts. This course is taught in English.

*Culture, Controversy, Cryptography, Calculus*

**Professor Meredith L. Greer**

German history is filled with groundbreaking discoveries that have changed art and science worldwide. Modern-day Berlin is both a hub for ongoing invention and a home for museums that showcase ancient and modern innovations. This course highlights many of these German contributions – to art, architecture, music, military strategy



Take a bite out of Berlin: the Brandenburg Gate as seen through a cheese pretzel. Photo: Doug (flickr.com/photos/87857621@N00/5968008520/).

and more – from the perspective of mathematics. Topics will include code making and breaking in World War II; trailblazing connections between fractals and infinity that were at first harshly rejected; the hundreds-year-old controversy over who invented calculus; and types of symmetry employed by Babylonians, Greeks and Romans in ancient buildings on display in Berlin. Students in this course will each select a relevant topic, according to their interests, for in-depth study. No background in German or college mathematics is required for this course.

## The Faculty

**Jakub Kazecki**, Assistant Professor of German, specializes in 20th-century German literature (especially literature about the First World War), images of German-Polish relationships in literature, film and visual arts, and laughter and comedy in different media. In 2013, he co-taught a Short Term course with Bates students in Berlin and Weimar.

**Meredith L. Greer**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, conducts research in math biology focusing on mathematical epidemiology and mathematical ecology. Her interests extend to many other applications of mathematics; projects have included zombies, roller coasters, satellite collision avoidance, softball and the game of RISK. She has led three Short Terms that included a week-long trip on which students rode and analyzed roller coasters.

**Raluca Cernahoschi**, Assistant Professor of German, specializes in 19th through 21st-century German and East-Central European literatures and cultures. Her interests also include poetry, drama, and film adaptation, and translation as intercultural communication. She has previously led students abroad in Short Term courses to Transylvania and Weimar and Berlin.