



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER
CAMPUS BOX 3130
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3130

T 919.962-7002
F 919.962-2262
studyabroad.unc.edu

August 30, 2017

Administrative Board of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues,

Exchange Program between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Albert-Ludwig-University Freiburg, Germany

The Department of German and Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Study Abroad Office are seeking your approval for a new exchange program in Freiburg, Germany to be available to UNC-Chapel Hill students commencing Fall 2018 and every semester thereafter.

Rationale

UNC Chapel Hill has been regularly sending students to the University of Freiburg through the UNC BW (Baden Württemberg State to State) exchange program. This university has been a popular destination for UNC students and UNC-Chapel Hill is a popular destination for U of Freiburg students. The exchange would be for both undergraduate and graduate (MA and PhD research) students.

We feel that having a bilateral agreement would be beneficial for the following reasons: Students would be applying directly to the University and would not have to worry about not being placed at their first choice as can happen when applying through the State to State exchange. Students would be able to select courses and arrange for housing much earlier. The Department of German and Slavic Languages is also interested in having a bilateral exchange where further cooperation at the faculty level would be possible. Finally, the University of Freiburg is interested in cooperating with us in the creation of summer programs (STEM programs as well as programs in other subjects) that would include students from both universities.

More information on the University of Freiburg is available here: <http://www.uni-freiburg.de/universitaet-en>

Description

The University is located in the city of Freiburg, in the State of Baden-Württemberg in southern

Germany. Founded in 1547 as a comprehensive university, undergraduate and graduate students take courses in the disciplines of Humanities, Natural and Engineering Sciences, Medicine, Law and Theology. U of Freiburg counts many philosophers, researchers and Nobel Laureates as alumni. The campus is comprised of 11 faculties and has over 24,000 students from 100 countries, and over 7,000 professors and lecturers. In 2007 it received the Excellence recognition for research and in 2009, the Excellence recognition for instruction. Freiburg and the area are also known for their work in Environmental Protection.

Courses and Faculty

At the University of Freiburg, almost all undergraduate courses are taught in German; there is a semester long German language course at no cost to students of exchange/Erasmus. UNC students will be encouraged to either take this course at the level required or take an intensive course during the month before the regular classes start. Students will be able to matriculate in any of the faculties and interdisciplinary study is encouraged. The International Student Welcome Guide has a complete listing of all the faculties and departments as well as the names of Academic Department contacts who welcome student questions.

Academic Requirements and Credit

UNC-Chapel Hill students participating in this program will need to have a 2.75 GPA to be eligible and at least second year status. The pre-requisite is 4 semesters of College level German.

TREQ credit will be awarded as long as the student receives a C or better in each course taken. The University of Freiburg will send an official transcript once the students have gathered all the information from their courses.

Logistics, Health and Safety

Facilities

Most of the buildings of the University are centrally located in the old part of town which gives all members of the university quick access to the activities and events in the city. Freiburg is known as a “green city” and is also pedestrian friendly. Some of the more important faculties are in the Sciences but the Faculty of Humanities is also highly recognized.

Housing and Transportation

Students are provided with a Welcome Guide (171 pages) which provides them with a lot of information related to their arrival on campus, the housing options available to them as well as access to contact information of international students offering to help answer questions before their arrival and help guide them upon arrival. The International Office has required Welcome days at the beginning of each semester.

Students have varied options for housing ranging from a room in an international student residence (with international tutors to help), to sharing apartments with other students and even the option of having free housing in a home in exchange for helping with the family’s chores.

Freiburg has a vast network of public transportation including buses, trams although biking is a favorite means of transportation. Freiburg's proximity to both France and Switzerland and its centrally located train station gives students the opportunity to travel in many different directions.

Other activities

The University of Freiburg has various student groups, many of them who reach out to international students, actively participating in the Welcome week, planning cultural and academic events throughout the year. The UNIKOS team is a group of international students who work from within the international office and provide information, advice, organize cultural events, parties and international evenings. International students can also request a "buddy" to help them navigate the first few weeks on campus. These students will help them in all areas: opening a bank account, getting registered at the city office, helping them navigate all the bureaucratic processes and also getting to know the town. Since the University is part of the town of Freiburg, students have immediate access to all the events and activities of a large city.

Health and Safety

Germany in general has excellent medical care and facilities. The University of Freiburg has a Medical Center, a teaching hospital and there are other medical facilities in Freiburg; medical doctors often speak English. Students will be covered by the GEOBlue health insurance and Germany also requires students to purchase their national insurance.

The state.gov website states:

Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. European governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations.

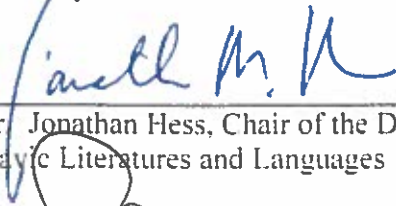
Demonstrations occur regularly in Germany. Large, public demonstrations take place for a variety of political and economic issues. Demonstrations tend to take place on politically significant holidays like German Labor Day (May 1) and during international summits hosted in Germany.

CRIME: Violent crime is rare in Germany, but can occur, especially in larger cities or high-risk areas such as on large metropolitan subway systems and in train stations, primarily during late night or early morning hours. Most incidents of street crime involve the theft of unattended items and pick-pocketing. Pay close attention to your valuables at all times.

Conclusion

We hope this proposal has given a clear representation of the exchange program with the Alfred-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg. We are happy to provide you with any additional information you might need to aid in your evaluations of this proposal.

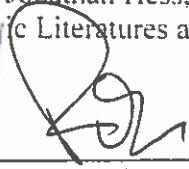
Sincerely,



8/30/17

Dr. Jonathan Hess, Chair of the Department of German and
Slavic Literatures and Languages

Date



9.22.17

Dr. Robert Miles, Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges

Date