

March 26, 2018

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 University of Mannheim, Germany**

The College of Arts and Sciences and the Study Abroad Office are seeking your approval for a new exchange program in Mannheim, Germany to be available to UNC-Chapel Hill students commencing Fall 2019 and every semester thereafter.

*Rationale*

UNC Chapel Hill has been regularly sending students to the University of Mannheim through the UNC BW (Baden Württemberg State to State) exchange program. The University of Mannheim and the Kenan Flagler Business School already have an agreement in place and so this university has been a popular destination for UNC students and UNC-Chapel Hill is a popular destination for U of Mannheim students. The exchange would be for both undergraduate and graduate (MA and PhD research) students although the University of Mannheim is very interested in sending graduate level students from their School of Social Sciences.

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 University of Mannheim is the only German public university which has adjusted to the international academic calendar and this makes it possible for students to study either semester without worrying about missing out on final exams.

More information on the University of Mannheim is available here: <https://www.uni-mannheim.de/en/>, [http://home.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/english\\_new/](http://home.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/english_new/)

*Description*

The University is located in the city of Mannheim, in the State of Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany. The latest **QS World University Ranking by Subject 2017** ranked the University of Mannheim number one in Germany and number 65 worldwide for Social Sciences, including Business and Economics. There are 12,000 students in 5 schools and over 2,000 international students from 100 different countries. Mannheim itself is located about 40 miles south of Frankfurt with quick access to the international airport.

## *Courses and Faculty*

At the University of Mannheim, although a number of undergraduate courses are taught in German, there is a large selection of courses in many fields taught in English. Students may also further their major in German Studies. For those students who wish to take courses in German, there is an intensive language course during the month before the regular classes start, and a semester long German language course at no cost to students of exchange/Erasmus. 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. There is no language pre-requisite since students may take a number of courses in English while still taking some courses in German.

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

## *Logistics, Health and Safety*

### Facilities

The University of Mannheim is located inside a Schloss, a large baroque palace right in the city center. Most lecture halls are inside the Schloss.

### Housing and Transportation

Students are able to access a link on the University of Mannheim website just for exchange students that 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 offers a mandatory Welcome week at the beginning of each semester with various orientations sessions and plans a number of activities, including cultural trips, during the semester.

Students have varied options for housing ranging from a room in a student residence to sharing apartments with other students. Mannheim's city center is easily navigated on foot and there is a network of public transportation including buses, trams although biking is a favorite means of transportation. Mannheim has a centrally located train station and its close proximity to many beautiful cities along the Rhine and France, gives students the opportunity to travel in many different directions.

### Other activities

The University of Mannheim has over 40 different 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 VISUM team is a group of German and 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 Mannheim, 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 and quite often medical doctors speak English. Students will be covered by the GEOBlue health insurance and Germany also requires students to purchase their national insurance.

Staff in the Study Abroad Office have reviewed the current U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for Germany, which is currently listed at a Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution. Staff will continue to monitor events in Germany and the U.S. State Department Travel Advisories in accordance with the UNC Policy Concerning Global Study, Travel, and Research.

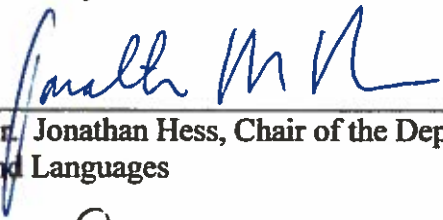
Travel Advisory information can be found online:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Germany.html>.

### *Conclusion*

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

Sincerely,



3/28/18

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

Date



3/29/18

Jason Kinnear, Interim Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges

Date