



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
EICHSTÄT-INGOLSTADT
2011-2012
Program Guide**

Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KUE)
<http://www.ku-eichstatt.de/en>

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, and culture. You may want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper: <http://www.mondotimes.com/1/world/de/82/3437>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You will find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you should visit the following website: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/56538/Bavaria>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

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Travel Information

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. In the past BC students have often used student travel agencies such as STA Travel at www.statravel.com. These agencies generally offer competitive rates and open-ended tickets allowing you to leave Germany whenever you want (as long as your visa does not expire).
To be admitted to Germany, you will need a passport. Passport applications are available at any U.S. post office. United States citizens do not need a visa to study in Germany; however, you must register with the municipal authorities shortly after your arrival in Eichstätt to receive a residence

permit. To get a residence permit, you must present the following documents: US passport; one biometric passport photo; copy of health insurance; financial statement as proof of sufficient financial resources; copy of rent agreement (provided in Eichstätt); confirmation of enrollment at KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (provided in Eichstätt); confirmation that you receive a tuition waiver (provided in Eichstätt); confirmation that you have registered at the Residents Office (provided in Eichstätt). You must prove that you have financial resources of approximately €4,000.00 per term. KUE highly recommends using the financial statement form which you can download from the website:

<http://www.ku-eichstaett.de/Internationales/incoming/leben-in-ei-in/anmeldung-stadt.en>. The form must be signed and stamped by the respective bank.

- Vaccinations are not required for U.S. citizens; however, you are required to purchase a health insurance plan with a German provider (usually AOK) shortly after your arrival. The cost currently is about 58 euros per month and includes free medical treatment.
- Plan to fly into Munich and take the train to Eichstätt. KUE's International Office provides a transfer service from the train station to your accommodations. Once you know your arrival details you should e-mail them to: esn-kue@gmx.de to arrange for the transfer service.

Academics

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that KUE sends you for the dates of the orientation. Plan to stay until the last exam date; you must remain for all of your exams. Be aware that you will be required to register on-line at KUE for your exams. As of now, the semester dates are:

Fall Semester 2011*

17 October 2011 - 11 February 2012

Spring Semester 2011**

16 April 2012 - 21 July 2012

TBD: Exams

*Please note that students can only study at KUE for the full year or spring semester. Fall semester only is not an option due to the German academic calendar.

** Spring students will begin their semester with a two month language program in Munich the course begins in February and goes through mid/late March

- Upon arrival, you will participate in a comprehensive orientation program aimed at introducing you to the university system, its students and facilities. During the orientation you will be advised about course selection.
- Course selection information at KUE is available at: <https://campus.ku-eichstaett.de/studienangebot/>. Spring semester courses are available beginning in mid-January and KUE will send you information via e-mail about how to register on-line.
- BC Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

- In Eichstätt, you will be housed in a student dormitory or in a flat. Housing placements are made by the international office at KUE prior to arrival. You should fill in the room reservation form as early as possible. If you have not received information about your housing placement by one month prior to your arrival in Eichstätt, contact Jessica Hofmacher-Matschulla. Please note that you are responsible for paying your own housing fees; housing costs are not included. Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf
- KUE has a student cafeteria, or Mensa, and you dine on a pay-as-you-go basis. There are no meal plans as there are at U.S. universities.
- Information about local transportation may be found at: http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Europe/Germany/Bavaria/Munich-36623/Transportation-Munich-Public_Transportation-BR-1.html
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Eichstätt. During the university's orientation you will receive information about buying a cell phone.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- You are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad: http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- BC emergency contact information:
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship_Opportunities.html
- The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers competitive scholarships for study abroad in Germany. For more information visit: www.germany.daad.org

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Larry Pickener at e-mail address: pickener@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- Suggested readings:
Nees, Greg. Germany:Unraveling an Enigma. Boston, MA: Intercultural Press, 1999.
Anything (or everything) by Goethe or Schiller.
Mann, Thomas. Buddenbrooks: The Decline of a Family. New York, NY: Vintage Press, 1994.
Hesse, Hermann. Steppenwolfe: A Novel. New York, NY: Picador USA, 2002.
Grass, Gunter. The Tin Drum. New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1990.
Somers, Steven. Those Crazy Germans! A Lighthearted Guide to Germany. Bloomington, IN: Xlibris Corporation, 2008.
- Useful websites:
Local information about Eichstätt: www.eichstaett.de
Train information: www.bahn.de
Practical information for students: www.daad.de
Travel information: <http://www.planetware.com/germany/eichstatt-d-ba-eic.htm>
<http://www.muenchen.de/home/60093/Homepage.html>
Travel guides for Germany: www.lets-go.com/
www.roughguides.com/
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

PREPARED BY Larry Pickener: October 2011