



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**WHU - OTTO BEISHEIM
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
2010-2011
Program Guide**

WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management
www.whu.edu

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 at: <http://www.mondotimes.com/1/world/de/91/3549>
- 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/320786/Koblenz> and <http://www.ask.com/bar?q=germany+culture&page=1&qsrc=121&ab=0&title=German%20Culture&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.germanculture.com.ua%2F>
- 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

- Ms. Christina Meiners, Exchange Coordinator
WHU- Otto Beisheim School of Management
Burgplatz 256179 Vallendar, Germany
Phone: 011 49 261 6509 160
e-mail: christina.meiners@whu.edu

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.
- To be admitted to Germany, you will need a valid passport (valid beyond the date of your stay in Germany). 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 at the Vallendar Town Hall shortly after your arrival. Then you will need to apply for a residence permit

at the local immigration office. To get a residence permit, you must present the following documents: a valid passport; two passport-sized photos; proof of health insurance; proof of sufficient funds (a bank statement); proof of enrollment at WHU (the International Office staff will assist you with this process); registration card (from Vallendar Town Hall); 50 euros.

- 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.
- The easiest way to get to Vallendar is to fly into Frankfurt/Main Airport and take the train to Koblenz. You can buy your train ticket at the “Reisezentrum DB” in the airport; it will cost about 25 euros. Direct trains to Koblenz leave every hour and take about 90 minutes. When you arrive at the Koblenz station, follow the signs to the exit towards the City, where you will find taxis in front of the station (cost is about 15 euros). There are buses that go to Vallendar, but when you arrive with luggage you will find it easier to go by taxi.

Academics

- Each semester is divided into two modules. Courses will be offered in either Module I or Module II, or throughout both modules. You may select your classes from those offered in the Bachelor of Science program. In addition to registering for your classes, you will register on-line for your exams. This process will be explained to you at the orientation. Keep in mind that you must take a total of 30 ECTS credits (usually 7 or 8 classes), including the required German language course. In addition, you may do a credit-bearing internship after the semester; the WHU placement office will help you make the arrangements.

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that WHU sends you for the dates of the orientation. Plan to stay until the last exam date; you must remain for all of your exams. As of now, the semester dates (including exams) are:

Fall Semester 2010

8/30-31 Orientation

9/1 Semester begins

12/23 End of Fall semester

Spring Semester 2011

1/3 Orientation

1/3 Teaching begins

4/30 End of Spring semester

- You will have an official orientation program upon your arrival. The orientation will introduce you to your host institution, and inform you about other practical matters. It is important that you arrive on time for the orientation program and attend all sessions. At the Welcome Reception, you will have an opportunity to meet other visiting students, faculty, staff members, and WHU students.
- Course selection information at WHU is available at:
<http://www.whu.edu/cms/index.php?id=4047&L=1>
- 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 Vallendar, students are generally housed in private apartments, in a nearby guest house, in the WHU exchange student dormitory, or on the Krautkramer Campus only a few minutes away. You should submit the housing form provided with your application form and rank your options in order of preference. Fax your form to Philomena Richartz, Housing Coordinator at +49 261 6509 529 as soon as possible. Housing applications will be dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis. For fall semester, you should submit your housing application not later than the beginning of July; for spring semester your application should be submitted by mid-November. Please note that you are responsible for paying your own housing fees. Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you are 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
- There are no meal plans as there are at U.S. universities; however, WHU has a student cafeteria where you can get breakfast and lunch on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- Information about local transportation may be found at: <http://www.europeanrailguide.com/destinationguides/koblenz/transportation.html> There is bus service between Vallendar and Koblenz. You will probably want to purchase a monthly card, and if you use your student card you may be eligible for a fare reduction. Cards can be purchased at the bus company office in Koblenz.
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Koblenz. 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 oipexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Esther Messing at e-mail address: messines@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:
General information about Germany: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html>
Local information about Koblenz:
http://www.koblenz.de/stadtleben_kultur/koblenz_allgemeine_infos_e.html
Travel guides: www.lets-go.com/
www.roughguides.com/
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>