



Paxabroad

Germany



Duration: 10 months (school year) or 5 months (semester)

Start dates: August 2011 and January 2012 (spring semester)

Age level: 15 to 18 years old

Terms of participation: GPA of C+ or better and three years of German

Cost: \$ 8,500 (school year); \$ 7,000 (semester)

An exchange program to Germany is an opportunity to immerse yourself in a strong culture that has been around for centuries and is the biggest contributor to high school exchange.

SPORTS With a population of around 82 million, Germany has produced some of the world's most prominent athletes such as Boris Becker, Steffi Graf, Michael Schumacher and Dirk Nowitzki. Soccer is the national sport and the players, like Michael Ballack, are looked upon as heroes.

ARTS + CULTURE Germany has a large arts following. From Nobel author Günter Grass, to director Wolfgang Petersen, actress Franka Potente and Australian/German photographer, Helmut Newton, Germany's range of internationally recognized artists is huge.

MUSIC Many of the world's leading composers and musicians were born in Germany including Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Wagner, Bruckner and Schonberg. English language music is very popular, but the new music market belongs to German speaking artists like Kraftwerk, Rammstein, Tokio Hotel, Die Toten Hosen and pop/rock bands Juli and Silbermond.

FASHION Germany is not all about Lederhosen! Some of the most influential fashion designers and models are from Germany. Karl Lagerfeld, Wolfgang and Jette Joop, Claudia Schiffer and Heidi Klum are just a few.

EDUCATION The school year consists of two semesters. Depending on the "Bundesland" (German state), school starts in either July, August or September and runs until late January. The second semester starts at the end of January/beginning of February and runs until summer. There are school holidays in October (1-2 weeks), December (2-3 weeks), February (1 week), and April (2-3 weeks), as well as a few days in May for religious holidays.

The school day runs from 8 am to approximately 1 pm. In addition to five mandatory courses, German schools usually offer a wide range of elective courses. Though uniforms are not required, the relationship between the teacher and the students is more formal than in the US and students are expected to address the teachers with "Sie". There is an emphasis on student participation and classroom discussions. The early end of the school day allows students time for sports and other activities. Just like in the US, German students participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, that include soccer, handball, volleyball, band, choir, science and language clubs.

POLITICS Since the unification of the East and West German states in 1989, when the Berlin Wall was brought down, Germany has become a harmonious multicultural country and has encouraged the growth of the Green Movement. In 2005, Germany elected its first female Chancellor.

“ I am staying in a beautiful area of Germany and I am very lucky to have such a great family. School is going great too. I have great teachers and have made a lot of friends in my class. I am very lucky and grateful. ”

Jessie Ryan



What's Included ?

- ▶ Guaranteed country of choice
- ▶ Selection and preparation of a host family
- ▶ Coordinator assistance and progress reports
- ▶ 24-hour emergency support overseas and in the US
- ▶ Selection interview — in your home, where possible
- ▶ Full and comprehensive insurance
- ▶ Supporting documents for visa application
- ▶ Material to prepare you for your exchange
- ▶ Pre-departure orientation

What's Not Included ?

- ▶ International and local airfares
- ▶ Visa application fees
- ▶ School fees (text books, lunch, etc.)
- ▶ Personal expenses, souvenirs, incidentals
- ▶ Transportation to and from school
- ▶ Phone cards, cell phones

How Does It Work ?

- ▶ First, review the program materials on our website (www.pax.org/paxabroad.html)
- ▶ Choose your desired country and confirm that you meet any pre-requisites.
- ▶ Complete the full application for PAX and your country of choice, and ask your school and doctor to complete their sections. Attach color photographs of you and your family, as well as 8 passport photos. Ensure that all sections of application are signed and dated.
- ▶ Read and sign the "Terms of Participation" form
- ▶ Send the completed application with your application fee to the PAX office for review.

Then What ?

- ▶ Once your application packet has been reviewed, a home interview will be arranged.
- ▶ Your application packet will then be sent overseas for final acceptance by the receiving organization.
- ▶ You will be matched with a family and school.
- ▶ You will receive information on your country of choice to assist you in your preparation and PAX will guide you through the visa process.
- ▶ You will receive information on your host family, school and community and begin correspondence with your new family.
- ▶ You will attend a pre-departure orientation session.
- ▶ You will fly out of the US to begin your adventure.

Application Deadlines

- ▶ April 1 - Fall Semester or Academic Year
- ▶ September 15 - Spring Semester

Deposits, Cancellations & Refunds

- ▶ \$500 deposit - with completed application
- ▶ Full program fee balance due upon notice of acceptance. Payment by check or wire transfer only.
Note: If the full program fee is not received within one week of acceptance, PAX reserves the right to cancel your program.
- ▶ If you cancel prior to May 15th (or October 15th for spring semester), but before being placed with a host family - full refund, minus the \$500.00 application fee.
- ▶ If you cancel after host family placement is confirmed, but more than two weeks prior to departure, program fee refunded, minus \$1,000.00 cancellation fee.
- ▶ If you cancel within two weeks of departure, program fee refunded, minus \$2,000.00 cancellation fee.

FAQ

Q. CAN I CHOOSE A LOCATION WITHIN MY COUNTRY OF CHOICE?

A. In some countries it is possible to select a geographic area, but this will not be guaranteed. Your flexibility and sense of humor, along with a supportive host family, contribute most significantly to making your exchange a success.

Q. WHAT IF I ALREADY KNOW A FAMILY I WANT TO LIVE WITH?

A. It may be possible to live with a family that you already know. However, the family will have to be approved, prepared and supported by our partner organization in the same manner as any host family, and school enrollment must be available. Relatives, however, cannot host you.

Q. CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR MY STUDIES ABROAD?

A. You will be enrolled in a high school. Documentation of work done overseas will be provided. You are responsible for coordinating any transfer of credits from your high school abroad to your high school in the US. Please note that we cannot guarantee that your American school will accept your foreign studies for credit. Once you decide to participate in PAX Abroad, see your guidance counselor to determine what you may need to take outside of your foreign studies, to make sure that you can graduate on time.

Q. WHAT IF I HAVE GRADUATED?

A. Depending on your age, some destinations are still available. Contact us for more info.

Q. WILL MY FAMILY HAVE TO HOST IN THE US?

A. No, your family will not be required to host an exchange student in return. However, hosting an exchange student while you are overseas allows your family to have a better understanding of what you will go through. PAX host families are eligible for a 10% discount on PAX Abroad academic program fees.

Q. WILL I NEED A STUDENT VISA AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

A. A student visa is required. Participants must be prepared to go to an embassy or consulate for their jurisdiction in person. Up to date information about obtaining a visa can be found at: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>. Upon acceptance to the program, PAX will provide all program related documentation necessary for obtaining a visa. However, it is the responsibility of the participant to obtain the visa and of course, a passport.

Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do... Explore! Dream! Discover!

Mark Twain