International Undergraduate Study Program (IUSP)

Studying in Germany

Marburg
**The University**

The Philipps-Universität Marburg (founded in 1527) is the oldest Protestant university in the world. Marburg has approximately 86,000 residents. With 25,000 students and 4,500 people working for the university, the slogan of Marburg is: “Other cities may have a university, Marburg is a university.” The majority of students in Marburg come from all parts of Germany. There are also over 30 international partnerships and exchange programs that tie the University of Marburg to colleges worldwide. 2,000 scientists and scholars teach and research at Marburg.

Its broad range of arts and humanities, and its experimentally challenging scientific work, constitute an ideal platform for interdisciplinary cooperation. The university relies on innovative teaching methods and networked research, and offers students from all over the world a broad variety of courses.

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**The City of Marburg**

Marburg is famous for its medieval churches, especially the Elisabethkirche, one of the first purely Gothic churches, as well as for the castle.

There is an elevator to the old city (“Oberstadt”, upper city) which is a labyrinth of narrow, cobblestone streets lined with pictorial, well-preserved examples of 17th and 18th century frame houses. Walking through this part of Marburg is a trip down the memory lane.

The city is stimulated by an endless and spirited source of creativity and ideas – from classical music to off-theatre, from museums and archives to open-air festivals, from literary circles and socio-cultural centres to the multiple prize-winning cinema program.

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**Visa**

As a citizen of the US, Canada, Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand students can enter Germany as a tourist, i.e. with just their passport. This tourist visa is valid for 90 days. After arrival in Marburg this will be changed into a student visa. Applicants with other countries of citizenship should check with the German embassy or consulate in their country.
Have you already heard that …

... Marburg has more stairs in its alleys than in its houses?
... Marburg does not have a university; Marburg is a university?
... the most beautiful illustrations of the Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm were done in Marburg?
... an elevator will take you in Marburg from “Modern Day” to “History”?
... some of Marburg’s houses can be reached only through a skylight?

Get to know Marburg with us …

Testimonials

“Everything has been amazing and I can not put a value on all that I have seen and done with the program.”

“I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to experience the IUSP program.”

“The time goes so fast! It might not seem like it at the time, but somehow the days slip away and soon you’ll find you have to go home. Explore Marburg. There are beautiful spots all over the city – from the Oberstadt to trails in the woods. Talk to as many people as you can. Make friends with all the other IUSP’ers – they’ll become like family.”

“Great time, probably the best of my life. The trips were fun and the people were awesome.”

“Enjoy your time abroad! There is no time to miss home, because who knows when you’ll have the chance to study abroad again.”

“Try to make friends with your neighbours and practice German conversation as much as possible. Make friends with Germans.”

“It was a challenge adjusting to the culture but I learned a lot about people and myself.”

“Enjoy the time you have here, because it is gone before you know it. Get involved! Explore as much as you can! You will not regret it!”

“Get involved! You may have to step outside your comfort zone but it will be the best decision you’ve ever made.”

“I loved all the group activities this semester like movie nights, birthdays. I thought that was cool. Thanks for including us in the little things – they almost always mean the most and are mostly going to be remembered the longest.”

“I am looking forward to my second semester here with the IUSP.”

“Definitely take the weekend trips, they were some of the greatest trips I took in my time here.”

“Get a tandem partner! It is a great way to meet people and practice German! Go out and be involved. It will be an amazing semester!”

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What is the IUSP?

Although German as a foreign language has become less commonly spoken among students around the world, students’ interest in getting to know Germany and Europe during their studies has not diminished. Only a small number of German universities offer courses in English that would meet this interest while at the same time ensuring an academic level fully recognized by universities abroad. IUSP has been designed to fill this gap.

An intensive German language course with a total of 120 hours is an essential part of the program. Participants are encouraged to attend regular university lectures in German in order to become acquainted with their structure, strengthen personal German comprehension, and to get to know German students!

Target Audience

Undergraduate students from all over the world who are interested in German and European economics, politics, culture, psychology etc., and who want to get to know Germany and the German language within the context of an academic semester abroad, without missing out on lectures (and credits) at their home university.

Academic Curriculum

**German language courses:**
- offered at 3 levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced)

**Introductory Course:**
- on German History, Politics, Society and Economy

**Seminars from a variety of subject areas:**
- American Studies
- Anthropology/Religious Studies
- Business Administration and Economics
- English Studies
- German Studies
- History
- Linguistics and Language Technologies
- Media Studies
- Near and Middle Eastern Studies
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Sociology
Contact Hours / Credits

- 120 hours German Language course
- 56 hours Course on History, Politics etc.
- 48 hours seminar (lecture plus tutorial)
- 36 hours conversation course (optional)

A standard IUSP course load consists of the intensive German course plus the German history and politics course, and two seminars.

Credits will be issued in European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points, which can be easily converted into other credit systems.

Cultural Program

In addition to the regular study program, the IUSP program fee also covers an interesting cultural program with three weekend excursions to important historical and cultural sites, e.g. Frankfurt, Berlin, Weimar, Eisenach, Dresden, Nürnberg, Köln, Heidelberg, München, Hamburg.

Beginning and Duration of Program

The academic calendar has been adapted to international standards. IUSP participants will be able to return to their home campus and continue their studies without missing the semester following the IUSP semester in Germany.

Spring Term: Mid-February until June
Fall Term: End of August until December

IUSP participants can enroll for one or two semesters.

Registration Deadline

December 15 for the Spring Term of the following year
June 15 for the Fall Term

Expenses

Program fee includes

- the German language course,
- the German history and politics course,
- a conversation course (optional),
- two seminars, as well as
- the cultural program,
- accommodations (single room in student dorm),
- a meal subsidy,
- a ticket for free public transport within Hessen,
- the semester administration fee.

There are special conditions for students from Partner Institutions. Please contact us.
International Undergraduate Study Program (IUSP)

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