

THE YEAR OF STUDY IN MUNICH

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This handbook is designed to be printed out as a resource for students who are in the decision-making process. Discuss some of the issues with your family and contact us if there are specific questions. The purpose of this material is also to provide you with information regarding the program in order to make your arrival and stay in Munich easier and more enjoyable.

The information is divided into four major sections: Munich and Surroundings, Preparing for the Program, the Year in Munich itself and Frequently Asked Questions. The first section describes the city of Munich and the surrounding area; the second explains what to expect and what to bring. The third section describes the academic program, dormitory living, logistical concerns such as transportation and money, and academic programs available during the semester break. If you have been to Germany for a considerable length of time before, some of this, such as the section on passports, may not be new. However, it is important to read it all carefully, since it contains information that is needed in order to take full advantage of everything the program has to offer.

I. Munich and Surrounding Area

Acceptance to the Year of Study in Munich means you will be going to one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Germany! Munich boasts an exceptionally fine opera house and is famous for its theater, art and musical offerings. You can also dine well in Munich, whether you want a *Würstchen* or an elegant meal. Situated in Southern Germany, Munich has a sunnier climate than Northern Germany. Summers are warm, but not what Americans would call hot, and winters are snowy and cold.

Like all big cities, Munich has many different parts. The downtown area is made up almost entirely of *Fußgängerzonen*, or pedestrian areas from which all traffic is barred. The well-known neo-Gothic *Rathaus* is located there and many cafes pour out into the wide sidewalks for people to sit during the summer. Around the university and along Ludwigstrasse is the part of town called Schwabing. Here you will find student *Kneipen*, cafes, art galleries and restaurants. When the weather gets warm, residents walk and sit along the banks of the Isar River, which flows through the center of Munich. All of these areas are connected by streetcar, or *Strassenbahn*, and by the *U-Bahn*, Munich's clean and efficient subway, which was built for the 1972 Olympics. Despite its large size, Munich has an extremely low crime rate and it is safe to walk at night through the streets. You will find that Germans walk much more than Americans and that they also take advantage of the superb public transportation system.

Munich is the capital of Bavaria, or *Bayern*, which is the southern-most of the German states. Outside Munich there is rich farm land, beautiful lakes and rivers, and of course the Alps. On a clear day the mountains are visible from Munich, especially during *Föhn*, the dry warm wind which is similar to the Northwest's "Chinook."

The University of Munich, which has a student body of 60,000 students, is one of Germany's finest universities. Although the large number of students sounds intimidating, they are spread out across the city. German universities do not have campuses, as do American colleges, and the Germanistik Institut may be located several blocks away from the Amerikanistik Institut. Each Institut, or department, has its own library and you will become familiar with the location of the departments where your classes are held.

II. Preparation for the Program

Preparing Yourself

There are some things you can do to prepare yourself for the program. The more you know about

Germany and the better you know German, the more you will get out of your time there. Take as many German courses as you possibly can before departure and try to read German during the summer so that you do not forget what you learned during the school year. In addition, read about German culture, history and politics. It will also be to your benefit to know as much as you can about American culture, history and politics. Germans are extremely well-informed about European current events and know a great deal more about the U.S. than Americans generally know about Germany. Germans like to discuss contemporary issues and are likely to ask you your opinion of NATO, environmental policy or racism in the U.S.

Preparing to Leave

Passports and Visas

It is important that you have a valid passport when you enter Germany. You do not need to apply for a visa since you will be allowed to enter Germany with just your American passport. After your arrival, the program staff in Munich will process your visa application. If you are not an American citizen and do not belong to a Schengen Country (European Union), you will need to apply for your visa well ahead of time. Contact the local German consulate and submit your passport along with your acceptance to the University of Munich and the "Bestätigung" form, which is available at the Overseas Programs office. You will need to get a "Nationalvisum" not a "Schengenvisum".

Sending Packages

If you wish to send some of your things ahead of time you may use the address of the Institute. Allow six to eight weeks for surface mail. Unless you are willing to pay heavy customs, do not specify the contents or exact value of the contents. Instead write "Used Clothing" or "Candy," etc. No medicine, not even aspirin, should be specified. The same procedure applies for Christmas or birthday packages sent by your family. The custom formalities at UPS are somewhat complicated, thus regular mail is preferable. Unless the content of the package is extremely valuable, do not insure it. It is very difficult to pick up insured packages and impossible for anyone but yourself to do so.

Mail and Phone

You will learn your exact address as soon as you arrive in Munich. Most students choose to purchase a mobile phone once in Munich. If you wish to give friends and family an address before you leave, give them the address of the institute, which can be found at the end of this handbook. This address can be used as a mailing address for packages throughout the entire year. Expect airmail to take up to two weeks.

Travel Arrangements

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Munich. The program in Munich begins on September 3, 2013. You may arrive between August 31-September 2. The program director will send you an email in May 2013 to ask for your arrival itinerary. A program assistant will pick you up when you arrive. If you plan to arrive before September 3, you will need to make your own arrangements.

International Student ID

The International Student ID is extremely useful. It gives you discounts on travel, museums, cultural events such as theater tickets, and historical sites. You will find it easily pays for itself during the program. The cost is \$20 and it can be purchased through the Overseas & Off-Campus Programs Office at Lewis and Clark College or through a travel agent.

Eurail Youth Pass

If you plan to travel in Europe before or after the program, you may wish to consider the Eurail pass for train travel. You can purchase a Eurail Youth Pass for varying lengths of travel. This pass must be

purchased in the U.S. and is available through most travel agencies. Another option within Germany is the BAHN CARD. For €60 you receive a 25% discount on all German trains for one year. There are German rail passes similar to the American Eurail passes that allow you to travel throughout Europe. The railway system in Europe is a clean and efficient way to get around!

Packing

You will be expected to carry your own luggage, sometimes for considerable distances along train platforms, so it is important that you choose lightweight yet sturdy luggage. You may not take more than two pieces of luggage on the airplane. A sleeping bag is not necessary for the program. A day pack or travel backpack will definitely come in handy for weekend excursions or personal travel.

Some students have brought skis, guitars and bicycles with them. The airlines provide packing for such items, however, it is possible to buy second-hand or new equipment in Munich and sell it after the program. Students often purchase new or used bicycles in specialized stores or flea markets, and you can always rent skis. It is not recommended that you bring a lot of bulky equipment.

Clothing

The weather in Munich in the winter is cold. It is sometimes sunny, but winter temperatures are often in the 20s and 30s, so warm clothing is necessary. Germans wear lined boots and heavy coats in winter, items that you might want to purchase after you have arrived. You can find everything you need in Munich if you should forget or run out of something.

A reminder: Do not bring bedding, lamps, or stereos. Travel lightly by packing only what you absolutely need. If you find you can't get along without another sweater, you can buy one in Munich. You do not need to bring a year's supply of medication. Your insurance in Germany covers most medical costs including prescriptions.

Money Matters

Tuition and Costs

The program costs include:

- Tuition for the five-week intensive Presemester Program, including an excursion to Berlin. Students earn four semester credit hours during this time.
- Tuition for all courses at the Lewis & Clark Institute
- Admission and all fees for the University of Munich.
- Rent for 11 months in a single room in the student dorm in the Studentenstadt. This includes the two-month semester break.
- All excursions offered by the program, such as Berlin, Augsburg, Neuschwanstein, Murnau or Vienna.
- Health insurance for 12 months. Students receive all benefits of the German health care system, including coverage for doctors, dentists, hospitals, and prescriptions. Also offered is coverage for health care in non-EU countries.
- Residence permit
- Lewis & Clark transcripts
- Individual tutoring to support academic progress in all courses at Lewis & Clark and the University of Munich
- A full-time Program Director and staff

Not included in the tuition are costs for food and incidental expenses, such as postage, paper, books, toiletries, individual travel and so on. Some students live very cheaply by buying their own food and cooking in the dorm, while others prefer to spend more on food by eating in restaurants. The student dining hall, the *Mensa*, provides an inexpensive lunch to those who do not want to cook.

The Year of Munich staff estimates that students need \$300-600 per month for living in Munich.

Upon arriving in Munich, students will need €100 to cover their room deposit. The deposit will be returned at the end of the year if the room has been left in good order.

Banking

The most effective way to transfer funds during your time abroad is through a debit card because you can withdraw funds using ATMs located throughout the world. Funds are issued in local currency, thus avoiding fees for conversion, and can also be withdrawn in appropriate amounts, which eliminates the need to carry large sums of money.

German banks will not accept personal checks, so don't ask your parents to send you money that way. Since you will be in Munich for a year, we recommend opening a personal bank account at the Deutsche Bank 24. There you can have money sent to you in the form of an international bank draft drawable on any German bank and deposit it in your account. Credit cards are also accepted in Europe, but not as widely as in the U.S. For example, grocery stores and smaller stores (such as bookstores) do not accept credit cards.

Health and Insurance

No immunizations are required for travel in Europe. However, get a tetanus shot if you have not had one in the last 10 years. It is also a good idea to bring a small medicine kit with you. Some suggestions for items are: band-aids, aspirin, vitamins, and any prescription medication. If you wear glasses or contacts, take a back-up pair and a copy of your lens prescription.

Complete health insurance is provided through the program, starting immediately upon arrival in Germany. Insurance covers all necessary medication, hospitalization and treatment. It is, however, recommended that you see your dentist before you leave.

III. Your Year in Munich

Academic Program

Calendar

All students participate in the *Vorsemester*, or presemester, which lasts five weeks through the month of September. During this time you will be placed in an intensive language class which will prepare you for university level work, and for which you will be granted four semester hours of credit. In addition to language classes, this time will be devoted to general orientation to Munich and its cultural and historical background.

The school year in Germany is divided into two semesters. The Fall Semester (*Wintersemester*) begins mid-October and runs until mid-February. The Spring Semester (*Sommersemester*) starts mid-April and goes until mid-July. Spring vacation (Semesterferien) between semesters lasts from mid-February through mid-April. Christmas break generally lasts from the last Friday before December 24 until January 6.

Courses

You will be able to take courses through the Year of Study in Munich, the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, the Technische Universität München and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.

Courses offered by the Year of Study in Munich

The format of the classes offered by the Year of Study in Munich is very much like the format of classes at your home institution: lecture/discussion, readings, quizzes, papers, oral reports and a final exam. There are also excursions outside the classroom which accompany the coursework, such as visiting museums, theaters, and other cultural events. All courses are graded and conducted in German.

Year of Study classes are held in a classroom located near the university. The institute is easily accessible from the Studentenstadt by U-Bahn or bike.

Courses offered Vmthe University of Munich

Students can attend *Seminare* and *Proseminare*, for which they will give a presentation (Referat), write a paper and/or take an exam. Participation in class discussions is expected. At the end of the Seminar, you will receive a certificate stating that you have completed the requirements for the course, along with a grade. In order to learn more about the vast course offerings at the University of Munich, please see the [Vorlesungsverzeichnis](#).

Field Trips

During the orientation period, excursions to Neuschwanstein, Augsburg and Regensburg are offered to acquaint students with the history and culture of the state of Bavaria. A one-week trip takes students to Berlin. Here students learn the differences between the historical developments in Prussia and Bavaria, and compare political and social developments in the DDR and BRD. They also observe firsthand the issues surrounding German unification. In the past we have also taken field trips to Weimar, Dresden, Prague and Vienna during the summer semester.

Internships and *Deutschland 2014*

During the semester break (February/March) we encourage students to participate in an internship. Students may also participate in *Deutschland 2014*: Each year they have the opportunity to apply for travel grants in order to work on a topic related to German culture, economy or politics. During the semester break they travel through Germany, meet with representatives from German institutions, and write a report on what they have learned. They select a topic of interest which is approved by the director. *Deutschland 2014* offers a challenge for those students who are interested in discovering Germany on their own.

Credits

Students must enroll for 16 hours per semester. Year of Study courses are 4 semester hours. Exams and/or term papers are required in all courses taken for credit. Letter grades are given at the end of each semester.

At the end of the program, the director evaluates all course work and forwards this information to the Registrar at Lewis and Clark College. This information is then forwarded to your home institution. You should receive an official transcript directly from your registrar.

Transportation in Munich

Some students travel around Munich by bicycle and others prefer the U-Bahn which is fast, clean and safe. The ride from the Studentenstadt into town or to the L&C-Institute takes about 15 minutes. If you prefer to see where you're going, make use of the excellent *Straßenbahn* system. You can purchase a *Monatskarte* at a substantially reduced rate as a student. You will be informed in detail about transportation when you arrive.

Lodging

The Studentenstadt

About 10 minutes from the university by subway and located on the edge of the English Garden, the Studentenstadt is home to all students on the program. The "student city" consists of dorms of various sizes, from "bungalows" (2-story buildings), to *Hochhäuser* (8-story buildings). Within the Studentenstadt there is a bakery, gym, tennis courts, a library and several *Kneipen* where students can get something to eat or drink. It is possible to work in one of these *Kneipen* to earn extra money. There are two discos, "Mad Max" and "Underground." Intramural sports are also offered. Washing facilities are located in each dorm.

Rooms and Dorm Layout

Each student has his or her own spacious room complete with bed and bedding, sink, closet, bookshelves, desk and a chair. Students share a bathroom with other students on the floor. Each floor has a kitchen and an *Aufenthaltsraum* (lounge) with a TV and a space to eat. One of the best ways to get to know your floormates is to cook and eat with them. Not only do students make new acquaintances, but they also improve their German!

IV. Ten frequently asked questions before leaving the U.S.:

1. What should I bring?

You are having to pack for a year-long trip. Munich has a climate similar to that of Portland (mild and rainy), but it can be very cold in winter. There are enough places to buy clothes and many of our students find winter clothes at good prices. One dressy outfit for operas, etc. is recommended. A travel backpack is a good idea to bring for weekend trips and travel during the breaks. There are always radios, etc. to buy here (either from previous students or from a flea market). Some students bring their sports bikes for a small extra fee with most airlines. Medication is free, so you don't need to bring a year's supply unless you feel more comfortable that way. Bring your Germany dictionary.

2. Will I have enough money?

Your room and your health insurance are paid for. Depending on your lifestyle, you should calculate between €250 and €500 per month. €250 is the minimum you will need; this does not include: theater tickets, overseas phone calls, etc. Also consider budgeting for weekend trips or travels during the breaks.

About one-third of the students have a job (cleaning, babysitting, tutoring, etc). This can supplement your allowance.

3. Will I get credit at my home institution?

It is important to contact your advisor prior to your departure. The L&C classes are outlined in this handbook. The University of Munich publishes current course offerings and course descriptions in the [Vorlesungsverzeichnis](#). There are standard courses (i.e. Organic Chemistry or Microeconomics), but about half of the courses change from semester to semester (i.e. The Automobile in the American Society).

4. Is my German good enough?

Two years of college German are usually sufficient. Speaking only German once you are here and participating actively in our German courses will ensure maximum progress. You also have the option of taking a two-month preparatory language course at the University of Munich (July /August)..

5. Do I have time for activities?

We encourage our students to participate in the rich cultural life that Munich has to offer, both inside and outside academics, such as university choir, *Hochschulsport*, concerts, plays or just meeting German people. The academic workload is designed to allow you sufficient free time to take part in these activities.

6. How hard is it to meet German people?

Sometimes Germans seem to be more reserved than Americans. The Studentenstadt is an optimal place for meeting Germans. There are several places to do this within and around the Studentenstadt such as: cafés, discos, the *Turnhalle*, etc. Joining a sports club, going to festivals and participating in community activities are great ways to meet Germans outside of the Studentenstadt.

7. Can I find a job?

Many of our students work throughout the year. Jobs range from working in a bagel shop to translating papers for companies or even tutoring English. Some students prefer to have more flexibility and do odd jobs such as babysitting, cleaning, or doing one day jobs through the *Arbeitsamt* (moving, painting etc.). Working, however, takes time away from your studies and your extracurricular activities, which are both very important in order to be successful here and to get the most out of your stay.

8. Are university courses very different?

There are 60,000 students at the University of Munich and class sizes are therefore usually large. Students can take "Seminare," for which they are expected to give a presentation, write a paper and/or take an exam. At the end of the Seminar, you will receive a certificate stating that you have completed the requirements for the course, along with a grade. You may take courses your first semester at the university, and are expected to do so the second semester.

9. How do I get around in Munich?

The public transportation system in Munich is not only extensive (Bus, Tram, U- & S-Bahn), but easy to use. Munich is also a flat city, which makes it ideal for bike riding. There are more bike paths in Munich than in any other city in the world. Many of our students choose to ride their bikes in and around town. It is a 15 minute bike ride to the University from the Studentenstadt.

10. Should I bring my laptop?

There are computers available at the University of Munich, however not as many as you are used to. Often students have to wait to use a computer. We also have a computer in our classroom that may be used all the time. There is nothing wrong with bringing your own laptop, and if you chose to do so, just remember to bring an adaptor, since Germany has a different power system.

V. Contact Addresses

You or your family can dial Herr Saborrosch directly at any time.

Ralf Saborrosch, Program Director

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