Dresden Programs

BU Study Abroad
http://www.bu.edu/dresden/
Agenda

- Introductions and Program Statistics
- Logistics
- Academics
- Life on Site
- Health and Safety
- Finances and Budgeting
- Action Items
- Wrap up/Questions
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BU Study Abroad
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Alumni
• Lynne Cherchia, Fall ’14 (Science) & Spring ‘16 (German Studies)
• Michael Holtz, Fall ‘16 (Internship)
• 33 Total Students
  • 24 Science
  • 7 German Studies
  • 2 Internship Students

• 4 Non-BU students
  • Brandeis University
  • Colby College
  • New York University
  • Bowdoin College
Where in the World is Dresden?
History of Dresden

• 7,000 BCE: Modern Dresden settled by Neolithic tribes
• 1206: First mentions of “Altendresden”
• 1403-1806: Dresden part of Holy Roman Empire
• 1806: Holy Roman Empire Dissolved
• 1918: Saxony becomes part of Germany
• 1945: Dresden destroyed and thousands killed in firebombing. End of World War II.
• 1945-1990: Dresden a part of East Germany
• 1990- Reunification of Germany (Nov. 9th)
• 2005: Dresden’s 800th anniversary. Restoration of Frauenkirche completed
Dresden Today

- Population: 507,000
- Avg. Winter Temp: -1C/ ~30°
  Avg. Summer Temp: 18.5 C/ 65 F
- 62% Greenspace
- Major employers are the Volkswagen Transparent Factory, EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke(Elbe Aircraft Works), Siemens and Linde-KCA-Dresden.
- Sights include:
  - 48 museums
  - 80 libraries
  - 300 cultural and arts societies
  - 35 theaters and festivals
**German Studies/Internships & Science Program Tentative Calendar**

Group Flight departs Boston: Sunday, August 13, arrives in Dresden Monday, August 14

Orientation Week: Monday, August 14–Friday, August 18

Intensive German Course begins: Monday, August 21

Intensive Course on German Language and Culture ends: Friday, September 1

Science Course Starts: September 4

Intensive German Course ends: Thursday, September 28

TUD Courses start: Monday, October 9

TUD Courses & Science Courses end: Friday, December 15

Program ends: Friday, December 15

*Departure: Saturday, December 16 (You are requested to leave the dorm on this day)*

- **Vacation and Holidays:**
  - Break: Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 8
  - Break: Monday, October 30 – Sunday, November 5
  - Reunification Day: Tuesday, October 3*
  - Reformation Day: Tuesday, October 31*
  - Penance Day: Wednesday, November 22*

- *Please, note that shops, banks, offices and educational institutions will be closed on Public Holidays marked with *
German Studies Program
All students take an intensive German course
Choose 3 or more courses directly from the university
Courses may be taught in English or German

Variety of academic disciplines including:
- International Relations
- Economics/Business
- History
- Language/Linguistics
- American Studies
- German
- Computer Science

Internship Program (in addition to above)
– Work for an average of 30 hours/week
– Enroll in two or more courses at TUD
– 3-4 faculty directed academic sessions
(Internship only)

*Must tell your professors that you are an international student!!
Dresden Science Program

Part I: Aug-Oct
  • LG 113: Intensive German

Part II: Oct- Dec
Choose Three elective courses:
  • Organic Chemistry
  • Cell biology
  • Statistics
  • Sociology of Culture

Additional, 2 credit optional
“Introduction to Scientific Research” course available
As elaborated in the online module, teaching and learning styles may differ dramatically. Teaching style may be different than you’re used to in the States—lots more initiative required and less resources for extra help. May have to request meeting with the professor or office hours. Homework is generally self-directed with exams being held at the end of the semester. Germans can be much more direct and blunt than you’re used to! Don’t take it personally, generally they are trying to help.

Science students: will buy books before departure (book list will be provided by Lauren in June/July).
- Can use e-books or international versions
- Libbies: will buy books in Germany
- Advising and class registration for the next semester will take place as normal; you will receive a code and talk with your BU academic advisor to register for courses back on campus.
• All students are subject to BU’s [Academic Code of Conduct](#)

• Must take the full course load (16 credits) for a grade
  – Science students may have 18 credits

• All coursework must be completed prior to end of program (or an F may be assigned)

• If accommodations are needed, notify BU Study Abroad and BU’s Office of Disability Services

• Attendance policies
  – Personal travel must NOT conflict with academic obligations
  – Details will be given during the on-site orientation and/or in syllabi
Academic Policies for Direct Enrollment at a Foreign University

As a student enrolling in one or more classes at a foreign university, you are required to:

- Maintain full-time status (12+ BU credits)
- Verify course equivalencies with your academic advisor
- Follow host university policies for final exam registration
- Understand how grades and credits from your host university will be converted to BU grades and credits

As a student enrolling in one or more classes at a foreign university, you may not:

- Audit classes abroad
- Take pass/fail classes abroad (no credit will be granted at BU)

Withdrawals and Incompletes at Host Universities

- Withdrawals reported on your host university transcript will be reported as ‘W’ on your BU transcript
- Incompletes reported on your host university transcript will be reported as ‘F’ on your BU transcript

Please note:

All grades assigned to you by the host institution will be recorded on your BU transcript and all grades earned abroad will be factored into your GPA. Boston University cannot edit, modify or change in any way the final grades that are issued by your host institution and indicated on your host university transcript. You cannot opt to omit courses taken abroad and/or grades earned abroad from your BU transcript.

Remember to review the full set of Academic Policies on your program hub page.
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD!

- CAS IP101 will provide you with tools for identifying cultural differences, patterns and values, and will challenge you to think critically about and reflect on your study abroad experience

- Course is worth one (1) credit and is Pass/Fail

- The syllabus and more information is found on the Global Learning Experience webpage

- Please check your program Hub Page for instructions on how to enroll!

- Students enjoy the readings and a Spring 2015 participant said “[CAS IP101] forces you to really explore your environment and get out of your comfort zone. Gives you constant questions to think about while you travel.”
Life on Site: Housing

• Students live at the Max Kade Haus on the TUD campus:
  – 10-20 minute walk to classes
  – Near many shops, restaurants, cafes and grocery
  – 5-minute walk to train station & above-ground train stop
  – RAs on site
  – Internet capabilities- ethernet
  – Laundry in basement of dorm

• Rooms are:
  – Most rooms are singles with shared bathrooms and kitchens
  – Fully furnished

• You will have a chance to select roommates/type of roommate via e-mail 2-4 weeks before the program
**Excursions**

During the first six weeks you will have excursions and field trips including Berlin, Meissen and Prague.

Please, note that:

- **attendance** at all our field trips and excursions are **mandatory** as they are an integral part of the program.
- all excursions are subject to availability and the New England Aquarium. Boston University reserves the right to cancel plans for others for those listed here.

### CULTURAL EXCURSION OVERVIEW FOR THE FIRST SIX WEEKS

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**Life on Site: Excursions**
Life on Site: Dresden

Dining
Mensas – Dining Halls on campus

Student activities
Sports at TUD
Join a student club

Transportation
Once the university semester starts, students can travel by public transportation in Dresden and commuter rail throughout Saxony for free during the TUD semester with a "Semesterticket"

Gyms
There are several gyms in the area, but they are an additional fee.
• **Getting Around:**
  • Dresden, like most all of Germany, has a very good, safe and effective public transport system called the “Dresdner Verkehrsbetriebe” (DVB), where you take street cars called “Straßenbahn”
  • Many people will also walk or ride a bike
  • Taxis are generally expensive and not necessary, but can be taken from designated stops
  • Transit at night is also available, but don’t travel alone if you can help it
  • Trains vs. airlines for weekend travel- you may wish to use RyanAir or EasyJet for cheap weekend travel but the train is very easy and fast
  • Notify site if you’ll be away
• **Shopping**
  - You can buy most of the same things in Dresden that you can find here.
  - Although most stores are open throughout the day, many service shops close for lunch during the week. Most stores, including grocery stores, do not stay open past 7:00 on weekdays, past 6:00 on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays.

• **Gyms/Fitness**
  - Gym is available at the University but amenities are NOT the same as in the states. Other gyms may be VERY expensive. Many students might choose to take up running, jogging, or other outdoor activities.
  - May also join a club sport through TUD.
• **Current exchange rate:**
  $1.00\text{ USD}=0.92\text{€ EURO (05/01/17)}$

• **Students receive stipends**
  ~700 Euros in their German bank accounts, from which rent will automatically be deducted; the rest of the stipend can be used for all meals and incidentals.

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**Budgeting & Finances**

- **Program Charges** — Billed by Boston University
  - Program Tuition: $23,711
  - Housing/Student Services Fee: $7,434
  - Total Program Charges: $31,145

- **US Medical Insurance** — Optional, Billed by Boston University
  - Medical Insurance: $1,945
  - Total Program Charges With Medical Insurance: $33,090

- **Estimated Additional Expenses** — Not included in Program Charges
  - Local Transportation: $0
  - Books: $200
  - Visa/Immigration Requirements*: $200
  - Personal Spending: $3,325
  - Total Estimated Additional Expenses: $3,525

**Total Estimated Expenses**: $36,615

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**BU students**: billing is handled the same as on campus.

**Non-BU students**: contact your home study abroad office for details.

All bills will show up on your student Link account. You will receive an e-mail with instructions and a due date later in the semester.
Private Expenditures on a monthly basis

**1st two months:**

- Security deposit for dorm: 300 Euros
- Mobile phone (in case you need/wish to purchase a mobile phone in Germany), phone start from 19 Euros, pre-paid card starts from 10 Euros
- Textbooks: For German course: 25-35 Euros, housing: sheets, linens, houseware etc. 50 – 100 Euros
- Registration: Biometric Passport Photos: ca. 15 Euros

**2nd month:**

- Residence permit fee: Please, refer to: [http://www.dresden.de/media/pdf/einwohner/AufenthaltserlaubnisZuStudienzweckenEngl.pdf](http://www.dresden.de/media/pdf/einwohner/AufenthaltserlaubnisZuStudienzweckenEngl.pdf)

**Tips for low-cost dining:**

- Cook in the dorms (eat together!)
- Eat at the mensa (cafeteria)
- Tipping is not as common in Europe
- Visit Sargent Health Choice facebook page for tips on how to eat healthy on a budget

***Please note that you will have to deposit 350 Euros into your German account as proof that you can sustain your living during your time in Dresden to become eligible for a Resident Permit in Germany.
You’ll want to have access to multiple types of funds:

1. **ATM:** You will have access to your US account as well as the German bank account you will set up during orientation (at the *Sparkasse*):
   - Check with your US bank about ATM fees
   - Ask about getting a “chip” in your ATM card and make sure you have a 4 digit pin!
   - Tell your bank you’ll be traveling

2. **Credit Cards:** You may want to look into different international credit cards (fees, points, etc. may be available)

3. **Cash:** Withdraw larger amounts, but be sure to leave some in your room and carry around less. You will end up using cash much more than you do in the States.
Culture

- Language
- Communication
- Courtesies
- Rituals
- Roles
- Customs
- Relationships
- Practices
- Expected behaviors
- Values
- Thoughts
- Manners of interacting
THINGS TO

AVOID DOING IN GERMANY

10 Things NOT To Do in Germany

Destination Tips
I LOVE IT HERE! FIGHT ON!

HOLLYWOOD

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS ME. EVERYTHING IS SO DIFFERENT...

OH IT'S NOT BAD HERE AFTER ALL. I EVEN KIND OF LIKE IT!
Top 10 Tips for Coping with Culture Shock

1. Research your host country prior to departure
2. Keep an open mind
3. Search out new experiences and friends
4. Do not judge the people of a country by one person or one experience
5. Keep a sense of humor
6. Listen and observe rather than merely see or hear
7. Reflect daily to process your experiences
8. Use your host university's support system
9. Stay in touch with home
10. Remember you have traveled far to learn about and experience a new culture, and to represent your country and school; most people only DREAM about having this experience.

There is no "best way" to deal with culture shock; it always depends on the individual.
• **Staying connected with home**
  • Internet is available in the dorm, university and internet café’s, but may be slower or more spotty than you’re used to
  • Get used to using Skype, Facetime and other apps for communicating with friends and family back home.
  • Make a communication plan with your parents to let them know when you’ll be able to talk; and stick to it!

• **Mobile Phones**
  • You should have a local number for emergencies and ease of use
  • Local Pay-as-you-go plans are the easiest and most economical. You can either get a whole new cheap phone, or just a new simcard
  • Keep your current smartphone on “airplane mode” and use apps on Wi-Fi when it’s available.
  • US-based international mobile phone plans are more expensive and often don’t work. Skip them.
Follow local businesses, venues, organizations, etc. to get latest news about places of interest and keep up with different social trends

- Local streaming TV, Spotify channels, radio, etc.
- Blogs and websites
  - BBC.com
  - The Local
  - Die Welt

You have a place to track new websites, magazines, apps, etc. on the worksheet that’s attached to the online module. Use it!

Apps of interest:
- What’s App, Viber
- Local transit apps
- Timeout
- Oanda or xe: currency converter
- English- German Dictionary (one that will work off-line as well)
- Duo-Lingo
- “Keep healthy” apps
Plan ahead! Before you go,

- Visit your doctor about any health concerns
- Maintain regular dental appointments
- Make a plan to access your medications abroad
  - Talk to your doctor
  - Make a copy of your prescriptions
  - Check with the host country consulate and HTH for restrictions
  - If allowable, obtain a supply for full semester
- Do not plan to ship medicine abroad
- Understand that medical facilities will be different abroad
- Learn about local health system and cultural differences
- Contact program staff with any concerns
Life on Site: Mental Health

- Talk to your therapist/counselor about mental health while abroad and make a plan before you go.

- Even if you may be excited about new opportunities, stress or anxiety may increase abroad.

- Students with academic accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services.

- Keep Healthy:
  - University resources and BU resources
  - English speaking doctors are available, but keep in mind English may be a second language
  - Cultural norms
  - Keep up your routine (when possible)
  - Use the on-site staff and BU resources (SARP, Behavioral Medicine)
At least two weeks before the program start date, all students will be automatically enrolled in international insurance coverage and emergency travel assistance services through HTH Worldwide, including evacuation coverage.

- **Valid for the duration of the program, and extendable at the student’s expense**
  - Detailed coverage information is provided on the BU Study Abroad Health & Safety page and again by email at the time of enrollment
  - In case of need of medical treatment, mental health counseling, or travel assistance while abroad or to set up appointments in advance, contact HTH directly and identify yourself as a Boston University student:
    - +1 610-254-8771
    - globalhealth@hthworldwide.com

- **All students are required to maintain their US-based health insurance coverage while abroad**
Program Emergency Plan
• Boston University closely monitors the security situation across the world, and follows guidance from local authorities and the US State Department
• Detailed emergency plans and general safety precautions will be explained during orientation

Personal Emergency Plan
• Always have emergency contact numbers with you, both in your phone and separately
• Enroll in the State Department STEP Program to get travel alerts and warnings
• Talk with your family about communication expectations in the event of an emergency
Personal Safety

Take Responsibility for your OWN Risk Management!

- Talk to your family and friends about the location-buildings, housing, staff, insurance, resources
- Practice situational awareness: Be aware of your surroundings; be vigilant of others.
- Do not drive (road and pedestrian accidents are #1 cause of injury/death abroad)
- Do not participate in demonstrations or protests
- Drink responsibly —The majority of problems student’s face are related to alcohol. It’s not the staff’s responsibility to manage your consumption!
- Travel with others and look out for each other.
- Pay attention to the news (before and during the program)
- Practice safe sex and report any sexual assault to staff abroad.
Personal Safety

Keep your belongings safe

- Do not bring valuables or sentimental items abroad
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Monitor your wallet/purse closely. Keep money hidden, or “consider” a money belt
- Limit smartphone usage in public
- Carry only necessities out at night – make sure you have emergency numbers with you
- Make copies of passport/credit cards to keep at home/scan
Our Expectations of you:

We expect that you will...

- Share responsibility for your safety and that of others in the program
- You will be reachable by local phone at all times. Keep your phone charged and topped-up with minutes.
- You will reach out to program staff and your family if you experience, witness or become aware of a serious incident of any kind.
- You will report issues of any sort in a timely manner to the on-site staff (or directly to Boston if necessary) so that we can help you.
• BU provides a variety of educational programs designed to promote awareness and prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence.

• **Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training**
  The Boston University Police Department offers RAD training several times during the year, and can schedule additional sessions on request.

• **Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center**
  In cooperation with BU’s **Student Health Services**, SARP provides a variety of services, including:
  – Step Up. Step In. (bystander training)
  – health services
  – mental health counseling
  – violence prevention workshops during the academic year and upon request

• **Be Safe@BU**
  The Dean of Students provides programming at student orientation and beyond to educate the BU community on a variety of safety measures, including assault prevention.

• **Wellness & Prevention Services:** [http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/](http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/)
  Non-BU students, please also research your university’s services
Boston University is committed to fostering a safe learning environment for all members of the University community and preventing sexual misconduct.

- **All forms of sexual misconduct, including rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment are violations of Boston University’s policies, whether they happen on campus or off campus.**

- Reporting: On-site staff should be first resource. If unavailable or uncomfortable reporting, contact Title IX Deputy Coordinator Debbie Miller at millerd@bu.edu.

- BU staff/site staff are obligated to report any incident of sexual misconduct

- On-site staff will go over this in orientation
Optional group flight itinerary included in program fee!

• Even though the flight is included, you MUST sign up to reserve your spot via [this link](http://advantagetravelcny.com/) or from your e-mail.

• Independent travelers must send their itineraries to the program manager/site staff and will be responsible for their transportation to the residence. You must arrive **before** or at the same time as the group.

• You MUST forward your itinerary to me to be eligible for a credit (equal to amount of the group flight fare: $1139). You will receive the credit in the form of a deduction from the total cost of the program, which will be reflected on your BU student account.

• If travelers arrive at the same time or earlier at the airport in the morning, may travel on the group bus to the residence.

Contact Advantage Travel:
Phone: 315-471-2222
Toll Free: 800-788-1980
Don’t forget to book your seat with Advantage Travel!

LOGISTICS
• Arrive at the airport no later than two hours prior to your departure
• Wear heavier clothes on the flight to be able to have room in your suitcase— you may not have tons of storage space and will probably buy things in Europe
• Confirm your departure time and flight

CARRY ON
• Passport with visa (if applicable)
• Liquids 3oz or less in plastic bags (check www.tsa.gov for up to date requirements)
• Essentials to last you a few days in your carry-on in case your luggage gets lost (toothpaste, deodorant, underwear, medicine, change of clothes)

HEALTH WHILE TRAVELING
• Drink lots of water and stay hydrated; limit alcohol intake
• Be sure to time your medications while traveling
• Get lots of sleep after you arrive: jetlag can take up to a week to go away!
Packing List

• **Luggage:**
  – Use bags that are light and sturdy – one large, one carry on, one shoulder bag or backpack
  – Pack only what you can carry *yourself*
  – Check airline restrictions on weight and number of bags you can take aboard. Overage fees may apply.
  – Do not plan on shipping items abroad; will be more expensive than overage fees

• **All students should bring:**
  – Passport with visa (if applicable)
  – Full roundtrip flight itinerary
  – Medication you will need for the duration of your program (if applicable; please check country specific laws)
  – Site contact details and directions to your program site
• **Program Specific Items:**
  – Towels/linens – you will also be able to buy these in Germany
  – Outlet adapter
  – Specific clothing for the site climate and culture- LAYERS! Umbrella, jacket, pants, boots, warm socks.
  – External hard drive or USB drive for backing up academic work
  – Over the counter toiletries such as contact solution (will be available, but much more expensive)
  – Ethernet cord

• **What NOT to bring:**
  – US-based international cell phone plan
  – Conspicuous clothing or electronics
  – Sentimental items you couldn’t do without
  – Personal appliances (hairdryers, straighteners, shavers)
- Some communication you can expect to receive over the next few months:

  - Housing preference forms
  - BU Login (for non-BU students)
  - Arrival information
  - Getting Ready to Go e-mail (important reminders sent a few weeks before departure)
  - HTH Worldwide e-mail
  - Billing information
Complete general Pre-departure documents to get registered for your program. Review the hub pages for more details.

Science students submit Course Selection Form

Join Facebook page

Watch the online roadmap (again!)

Sign up for Group Flight

Send your flight itinerary if not traveling with the group

Check in with (as necessary):

- Student Accounting
- Financial Assistance
- Advisor

**International Students:** Check in with ISSO and be sure you take appropriate steps to remain in status while away! Also, you may need to obtain a visa by June!
Resources

LGBTQ Resources
• US State Department Advice for LGBT Travelers
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Sexual Orientation Abroad

Disability resources
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Student with Disabilities Abroad
• Abroad with Disabilities Facebook Community

Women’s issues by site
• US State Department Advice for Women Travelers
• Diversity and Inclusion Abroad: Women Abroad
• BU: http://www.bu.edu/shs/resources/

Many additional resources can be found online
Viel Glück
Internship Expectations

What an academic internship is **NOT**:

- *Not* your dream job!
- *Not* the key to an automatic job offer
- *Not* specialized job training
- *Not* exciting and engaging 100% of the time
- *Not* necessarily a globally recognized company
- *Not* the same experience as your friends
- *Not* optional – must complete full internship time; participation is mandatory
- *Not* all about you! Consider the needs of your company and think of it as a way to gain new skills or work habits
What CAN an academic internship offer?

Can provide professional experience and practice
Can offer exposure to different management styles and organizational structures
Can help build your professional network
Can enhance cultural awareness and language skills
Can help you hone problem-solving skills
Can make you become more adaptable as an employee
Can help identify your skills, interests, and values to discover career paths that are (or are not) a good match
Can integrate your practical learning with your academic work and field of study
Internship culture/culture in general is more FORMAL than in the states. Address e-mails with “Dear Mr./Dear Mrs.” as opposed to “hi” or “hey”. You NEVER know where someone else is coming from.

Dress for the job you want! A suit may not be necessary, but it’s better to dress up more on the first day and see what others are wearing. Better to be dressed up than down in case you are called on to do something at any time.

You may get LESS supervision than you are used to. Ask questions if you don’t know something, but try to find a solution first. Be pro-active and useful, to your organization.

Have your CV polished and perfected! Your CV is getting read by actual potential supervisors.

Do some reflection about what you hope to gain from the experience and what you are able to give the internship. Take initiative on the job; if you can’t do the “boring” stuff right, why would your boss ask you to do more “interesting” projects?

All experience is valuable and many skills are transferrable, even if the skills you learn are perseverance (doing something you don’t love) and grit!