Bamberg, Germany

*University of Bamberg*

USC’s exchange program in Germany is designed to help American students enhance their German language skills and gain first hand knowledge of German culture. The program is located in Bamberg, in the center of Germany, approximately 120 miles east of Frankfurt and an equal distance north of Munich. A charming medieval town composed of winding streets and quaint architecture, Bamberg is known for its history, scenic beauty, and quaint cafés. The historic *Altstadt* (Old Town) area of Bamberg has been declared a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO.

Students will attend the University of Bamberg which was established in 1648 and is one of Bavaria’s oldest institutions. All courses are taught exclusively in German and students attend classes with German and other international students. German language classes at the advanced levels are also available to foreign students. Only USC undergraduate students are eligible to participate in this exchange program.

As a prerequisite, students generally have attained at least junior standing prior to attending the University of Bamberg. Usually students have also completed six semesters of college level German or its equivalent. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required. Preference is given to German majors and minors but students from the following colleges are also encouraged to apply: Liberal Arts, Business Administration, Education, and Journalism.

**Courses and Credits**

Students typically earn 15 credit hours per summer and 30 credit hours per academic year. Courses can be lecture or research oriented. Most classes meet once a week for two to four hours. For current course information, refer to the online [Vorlesungsverzeichnis](#). Listed below are a few examples of subjects offered:

**Sample Subject Offerings**

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<th>Education</th>
<th>European Economics</th>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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Living Arrangements
Students are housed in student apartments in the business sector of the city or in downtown. Most apartments include a shared kitchenette and bathroom and two or three single bedrooms. All students are guaranteed housing, but not necessarily their first choice. Students should expect to pay between 250€ and 300€ a month for housing. Room and board costs are paid to the host institution. More detailed information on housing in Bamberg can be found in the online Brochure – Information for Foreign Exchange Students.

Budgeting
As a smaller city in Germany, students will find that Bamberg is more affordable than Frankfurt or Munich. Including housing, students should expect to spend 700€ to 800€ a month for living expenses. Students pay in-state tuition and fees to USC. For a more detailed breakdown of living expenses, please refer to the online Brochure – Information for Foreign Exchange Students.

Master Calendar
Bamberg University has two semesters, winter and summer. The winter semester extends from October to February and the summer semester extends from April to July. Term dates can be found at http://www.uni-bamberg.de/studium/studienangelegenheiten/vorlesungszeiten/. Students that participate in the orientation (highly suggested) would arrive approximately one month prior to the start of the semester.

Insurance
The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is required for this program and will cover basic emergency insurance while traveling abroad.

Orientation
A three-week orientation program, including city and university tours, is offered to international students prior to the start of the regular semester courses. During this period, USC students take an intensive German language course (60 hours). More information on the orientation (Vorbereitungskurs) can be found on the University of Bamberg website.

Excursions
For an additional fee, the program organizes a variety of inexpensive excursions to places such as Berlin, Munich, Heidelberg, Regensburg, and Weimar as well as Salzburg, Austria. A weekend trip to the Bavarian Alps is routinely offered in January. Students also have the opportunity for individual travel.

Visa
Students that attend the University of Bamberg for a semester or for an academic year are required to obtain a German residence permit upon arrival in Germany. The University will assist students with this process. For more information on the German visa process, please visit http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/consular_services/visa/study.html

Footnotes
USC students can attend the Bamberg for the summer (approx. April 15th – July 15th) or for an academic year (approx. September 15th – July 15th) as an exchange student. Students can also opt to count the April to July term as their spring semester in place of taking classes on the USC campus during spring semester. Special arrangements must be made. Please contact the study abroad office for further details. For more detailed information on studying abroad in Bamberg, refer to the online Brochure – Information for Foreign Exchange Students. For more information on Germany, please visit the Germany official tourism web site: http://www.germany-tourism.de/