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Resident Director Application, Berlin, Germany | Summer 2022 | Experiential Learning and Student Mentoring

Dear Berlin Summer 2022 Study Abroad students,

As Resident Director in Berlin, Germany, Summer 2022, I will be your point-of-contact and representative of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. My role as Resident Director includes monitoring your academic progress as well your participation in FUBiS and UH activities, assisting in any academic issues that arise, and making sure that credits and grades transfer back to the University of Hawai‘i in an accurate and timely way. I have experience as a previous Resident Director in the Semester Program in London, England (2019), and I know that my role also includes counseling, mentoring, and general life assistance as you adjust to life in a new and different cultural environment. We will have regular weekly check-ins and I am at your disposal for individual meetings and help as needed.

We will arrange regular group get-togethers once we have a handle on everyone’s schedules. These meetings aim to help you take the greatest advantage of your time living in Berlin and address any issues that come up before they become anything like problems.

Together we will undertake some experiential learning beyond your FUBiS classes to ensure that your experience of studying in Berlin meets the following student learning outcomes (SLOs) developed by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Study Abroad Center. These relate to awareness of our own cultural values and how they may contrast/compliment our experience in Berlin, expanding our knowledge of diversity and history, and our capacity to analyze issues and communicate appropriately and effectively.

You will partly address the Study Abroad Center’s target outcomes by conducting three experiential learning assignments. The goal is make them fun, stimulating, and intellectually satisfying. Berlin is a vibrant world city with numerous monuments, neighborhoods and communities that carry marks of its history and its current power in Europe. It is a place where migrants from different parts of the world are settling, and the political directions of Europe are being set. These three assignments are:

1. Keep a weekly journal. The format is up to you, but keeping a record of your time in Germany will allow you to self-assess your thoughts, musings, and development over the course of your summer. This can include, e.g., text, drawings, clippings, poetry, video. This can document your observations during walks in different neighborhoods, landmarks, museums, and experiences in everyday life from campus to shopping for food. You will share the entries with the Resident Director during the summer, but this will be confidential between Resident and Student. Entries will be the equivalent of 500-1000 words per week. The final entry/entries should be a reflection

on your time in Berlin/FUBiS; how your perspective may have changed, what have you gained personally, what surprised you, and what would you do differently if did it all over again?

2. Two photo essays. We'll conduct two photographic explorations of the city; one will focus on history and the other will focus on food. The assignment is to thoughtfully capture an image that represents an aspect of these topics that you personally connect with and would like to explore a bit more deeply. Both are very rich topics in cosmopolitan Berlin. We will have a talk story session for each assignment where we will share with each other our photos and a narrative about the why, what, and where of the photo. It can be question-based: pose a 'research' question and explore it with your photo.

3. Road trip with the Director. We will take a train trip as a group to Potsdam (about a half hour away by train) for a day of exploring the history of the city and the region. Human history is rich and deep here from stone age artifacts, to Roman infrastructure, to the rise and fall of Prussia. A short 'trip report' will be prepared that explores a topic of the student's interest in the context of the trip. This will be approx. 1000-1500 words in length and due the week after the trip.

Assessment will be based on attendance and participation in the weekly sessions and road trip, your journal and your photo essay. Experiential learning grades may be used to adjust the grades you earn from FUBiS as we transfer to University of Hawai'i credits.

Learning outcome	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary
Developed awareness of own cultural values/biases and impact on work with others	Failed to participate in discussions/meetings	Can demonstrate with concrete examples	Journal, essay, report and discussions show personal insights and meaningful cultural learning
Demonstrated knowledge of diversity	Unable to report on field observations	Journal and reports reflect understanding of local culture and environment	Clear understanding of diversity and dynamics
Communicated appropriately and effectively	Poor attendance and participation in FUBiS programs	Regular FUBiS attendance and participation	Applies lessons from classroom to everyday experience and excursions
Demonstrated an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints	Fails to participate in group discussions and trip	Participates in group discussion and have constructive dialog with others	Initiates discussions, offers original observations and critiques

I greatly look forward to this experience as your Director and co-explorer in Berlin. Many opportunities for growth await all of us; what an amazing place to rise to these challenges.