

UHM Study Abroad in Berlin, Germany
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1. Student Monitoring and Experiential Learning Plan

[message to student participants]

The Study Abroad Program offers a holistic experience that allows you to learn from both classroom instruction and your lived experience in a different country. As the Resident Director, I will be your direct contact with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My role as Resident Director includes monitoring your academic progress as well as your level of participation, mediating in any academic issue that arises in your study, and insuring your final grades are properly transmitted and recorded as UHM credits. As an experienced Resident Director, I can provide counseling and assistance as you adjust to life in a new and different cultural environment, and will be available for individual meetings.

We will arrange regular group get-togethers once the program schedule is set. These meetings aim to help you take the greatest advantage of your time living in Berlin. We start each meeting with a "check-in" from everyone and a brief sharing of any thoughts you may have entered in your journals that you are willing to share.

You will undertake experiential learning beyond your formal 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.

1. Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how they impact your ability to work with others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program.
3. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.
4. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

We will address these outcomes by keeping a journal of your intercultural experiences while in Germany. Berlin is a vibrant world city with numerous scenes, monuments, neighborhood and communities that carry marks of history. It is a place where migrants from different parts of the world are settling. These new residents bring their own traditions that over time meld with the local practices to create new hybrid versions of food, culture, and ways of life.

To fulfill your experiential learning in Berlin, you are required to complete three assignments.

- 1) You are required to **keep a journal** to help you express your thoughts, feelings, emotions, questions, and other musings that arise during your stay. Your journal can include text, photos, drawings, clippings from local newspapers or magazines, poetry. Use your journal to document things you observe on walks in different neighborhoods or visit historical landmarks. You can share this journal with other participants, or you may keep it personal and share it only with me. Each entry should be the equivalent of 500-1000 words per week, posted on the class website.
- 2) Turning our attention to a familial item such as food gives abundant opportunities to appreciate a place. As an exercise that helps focus your observations, I will guide you while **visiting a food market** (*wochenmarkt*). The steps in this inquiry might include:
 - a) Start by walking around the market. Note the diversity of products. Keep a tally whether they are fresh, processed, ready to eat, and packaged.
 - b) Is there any clustering based on the commodities in the market? Do vendors specialize? Other than food, what else are sold?
 - c) Pick a comfortable place near/at the market for you to do people watch. Who are the patrons? What is the gender/age distributions? Can you spot non-local (tourist) shoppers?
 - d) Who are the vendors? What is the gender/age distributions? Are there any distribution of labor on what they do? Go ahead and converse if you are comfortable doing so, but be sensitive that they might be busy.
 - e) Write a note and describe the scene. Is it festive? Frenetic? How is the weather like? What do you feel? What incidents, sights, smells, sounds trigger that feeling?
 - f) Draw comparison with food markets you are familiar with in the US. When you visit the place where you shop for food (e.g. a supermarket, a farmers' market). What do you appreciate in each? What do you least enjoy?
 - g) Take pictures (make sure you ask for permission first) to illustrate your report
 - h) Bring thoughts that emerge from this observation to the weekly meeting to discuss.
 - i) Finalize your report and share it on the class website
- 3) As you approach the end of your stay in Berlin, write a **reflection of your experience**. Some of the specific topics you might want to include:
 - a) What do you want to get out of the program?
 - b) What do you find interesting, exciting, confusing, perplexing, disturbing, awesome or otherwise notable?
 - c) What are you learning by living in Germany?
 - d) How is your educational experience at FUBiS similar or different compared to that at the UH? What do you like or dislike and why?
 - e) What kinds of cultural gaps or communication barriers have you experienced? How have you dealt with them? What lessons can you glean from these encounters or experiences?

- f) What are you learning about yourself? Talents, shortcomings, survival skills, coping ability, tolerance for differences, aspirations, character, likes, dislikes, propensities, realizations, etc.
- g) Is this experience changing you or shaping your ideas in new directions? If so, in what ways?
- h) How do you feel about your time in Berlin and at FUBiS? What were the main things you gained? Is there anything you would do differently if you had to do it over again?

Grading will be done based on your attendance and participation in the weekly sessions, your journal and report on the food market, and your final reflection. I will use your experiential learning grade to adjust the grades you earn from FUBiS, and have them recorded as UHM credits.

Learning outcome	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent
Develop awareness of own cultural values and biases and how they impact your ability to work with others	Fail to participate in discussions on inter-cultural interactions	Can demonstrate with concrete examples	Journal entries and discussions show personal insights that display meaningful cultural learning
Demonstrate knowledge of diversity	Unable to report on field observations.	journal entries / reports reflect uniqueness of local culture and environment	Reports show a clear understanding of food diversity and dynamics across scale
Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups	Poor attendance and participation in FUBiS programs	Regular attendance and participation in FUBiS programs	Applies lessons from classroom / excursion to everyday experience
Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints	Fails to participate in group discussions	Participates in group discussion and have constructive dialog with others	Regularly initiates discussions, offers original observations and critical analysis

I look forward to sharing this journey to Germany with you as we explore Berlin and immerse ourselves in the local culture through experiential learning.