

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 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 three major sections: Munich and Surrounding Area, Preparing for the Program and the Year in Munich itself. The first section describes the city of Munich and some of the nearby destinations; the second tells you 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 you will need 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 the Ludwigstrasse is the part of town called Schwabing. Here you will find student *Kneipen*, cafes, art galleries and restaurants. The Isar River flows through the center of Munich and residents walk and sit along its banks when the weather gets warm. 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 compared with American cities, 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, or *Länder*. Outside Munich there is rich farm land, beautiful lakes and rivers, and of course the Alps which are visible from Munich on clear days, especially during *Föhn*, the dry warm wind which is similar to the Northwest's "Chinook." Be aware that there is a Bavarian dialect, *Bayrisch*, and you will encounter it all over. It is much different from high German and takes a while to get used to.

The University of Munich, which has a student body of 60,000 students, is one of Germany's finest. 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 current European 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

You will need a valid passport, so it is important for you to apply for your passport as soon as you learn of your acceptance.

Sending Packages

If you wish to send some of your things ahead of time you may use Herr Saborrosch's address. 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. Do not send medicine, not even aspirin. 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.

Mail and Phone

You will learn your exact mailing address as soon as you arrive in Munich. Many students get their own phone line in their rooms. Some students even choose to get a mobile phone. If you wish to give friends and family an address before you leave, give them Herr Saborrosch's address, which can be found at the end of this handbook. Herr Saborrosch's 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 the first Monday in September. You may arrive as early as September 1st, but no later than that Monday. It is imperative that you let Herr Saborrosch know of your arrival day, time, flight number and carrier. Please write to him as soon as you know when you will be arriving. It should be at least a week in advance. A program assistant will pick you up when you arrive. If you plan to arrive before September 1st, whether to take a preparatory language class or to travel independently, you need to make these arrangements with Herr Saborrosch ahead of time.

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 10 Euro and it can be purchased upon arrival in Munich. We highly recommend waiting to purchase this until you arrive in Munich.

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. The Eurail Youth Pass is available for various periods of time. This pass must be purchased in the U.S. and is available through most travel agencies. 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 even bicycles with them. The airlines provide packing for such items. It is, however, possible to buy second-hand or new equipment in Munich and sell it after the program. Often, bicycles are available which have been passed on by our students from year to year, and you can always rent skis. Used portable radios and stereos are also available, or you can buy new ones and sell them when you leave. We do not recommend that you bring a lot of bulky equipment.

Clothing

As mentioned earlier, 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 will 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 fee includes:

- Advantages of a full-time Program Director
- Tuition for all courses at Lewis & Clark, the University of Munich and various other institutions during the academic year which lasts for 40 academic weeks.
- Tuition for an intensive Presemester Program which lasts four weeks. Students earn eight semester credits during this time.
- Rent for 12 months in a single room in the student dorm at Studentenstadt München-Freimann. (see Lodging pg. 6)
- All excursions offered by the program during the year: traditionally Berlin, Augsburg, Regensburg, Neuschwanstein, and Weimar.
- Health insurance for 12 months. Students receive all benefits of the German health care system, including coverage of medication, doctors, dentists, hospitals, etc. Also offered is coverage for health care in some non-EU countries. (see Health and Insurance pg. 5)
- Munich residence permit.
- Individual tutoring to support academic progress.
- Some social activities, like Thanksgiving dinner, 4th of July party, etc.

The Year in Munich staff estimates that you will need to spend between 250-500 Euro per month for living in Munich. The cost of your room is included in the program fees. Food however, is extra, as are incidental expenses such as postage, paper, books, toiletries, individual travel and so on. Some students live very cheaply by buying all their own food and cooking it in the dormitory, while others prefer to spend more on food by eating in restaurants. The student dining hall, the *Mensa*, provides a hearty meal during lunch for very little money for those who don't want to cook.

Upon arriving in Munich you will have quite a few expenses that you will not have the rest of the year and it is good to plan extra money into your budget for the first two months. There are several deposits that you will have to pay. A room deposit of 100 Euro, a drink room deposit between 25-50 Euro and sometimes even a deposit for the washing machine up to 25 Euro. All of the deposits are returned to you at the end of the year if all of your bills are in order. The first grocery bill is also usually larger than the rest, since you are having to buy everything at once.

Banking

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

German banks will not accept personal checks, so do not 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 take 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 pre-semester, which lasts four 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 8 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 *Wintersemester* begins mid-October and runs until mid-February. The *Sommersemester* starts mid-April and goes until mid-July. Spring vacation between semesters lasts from mid-February through the third week in April. Christmas break generally lasts from the last Friday before December 24 until January 6.

Courses

You will be able to take courses both through the Year of Study as well as at the University of Munich.

Courses offered by the Year of Study in Munich

The Year of Study in Munich offers at least four courses that complement offerings at the University of Munich and the language department of your home campus. Courses vary depending on what is being taught at the university:

Wintersemester

Advanced German Review I (Sprachkurs)
Culture and Civilization (Landeskunde)
Art through the Ages I (Kunstgeschichte I)
German Literature of the 90's
German Poetry

Sommersemester

Advanced German Review II (Sprachkurs)
Periods of German Literature
Art through the Ages II (Kunstgeschichte II)

Note that there are less courses offered by Lewis & Clark during the summer semester. This is to encourage students to take advantage of the wide selection of classes at the University of Munich.

The format of these classes 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 event. 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.

Courses offered at the University of Munich

These courses fall into two main categories:

Seminare and *Proseminare* are smaller classes, where students take a greater responsibility for what happens in class. In a Seminar you will write a *Referat*, a paper and/or take an exam. Participation in class discussion is expected. In contrast to a *Vorlesung*, at the end of a Seminar you will receive a *Schein*, or a certificate, stating that you have completed the requirements for the course, along with a grade.

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 long 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 first hand the issues surrounding German unification. In the past we have also taken field trips to Weimar, Dresden, Prague or Vienna in the summer semester.

ZIS-Reisen

Students may also be selected to participate in a ZIS-Reise, a UNESCO-sponsored study-travel program during which students are paid a small stipend to travel to the country of their choice and pursue a topic of interest to them. Students keep a detailed journal and write a substantial paper, both of which are submitted to the ZIS committee for evaluation. For years, the ZIS program has provided students with a stimulating experience during the semester break.

Credits

Students normally enroll for between 12 and 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. The ride from the Studentenstadt into town or to the LC-Institute takes about 20 minutes. Others prefer the *U-Bahn*, which is fast, clean and safe. If you prefer to see where you are 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 options when you arrive.

Lodging

The Studentenstadt

The Studentenstadt, which is about 10 minutes from the university by subway, 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, a 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. You will share a bath with other students on your floor and should bring your own towel. Each floor has a kitchen and an *Aufenthaltsraum*, or lounge, with a TV and a space to eat. One of the best ways for you to get to know your German floormates is to cook and eat with them. Not only will you make new acquaintances, but you will improve your German. Take advantage of it; talk to your neighbors in the kitchen and *Aufenthaltsraum*. The more people you meet and the more German you speak, the more you will get out of your experience.

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. However, there are places to buy clothes here and many of our students find winter clothes at very good prices. One dressy outfit for operas, etc. is recommended. A travel backpack is a good idea to bring for weekend trips and travels over the breaks. You don't need to bring radios or stereos. There are always radios, etc. to buy here (either from previous students or from a flea market). Some students bring their sports bikes, at a small extra fee with most airlines. 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 Euro per month. 250 Euro 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 has a website (<http://webinfo.campus.lmu.de>) where you can find out what courses are currently being offered, including course descriptions. 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) or at another University. We will help you with either option.

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: cafes, 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. There are different types of classes: *Vorlesungen* are lecture courses. *Seminare* are courses with more work, where you are expected to give an oral report or presentation. 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 optimal 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 20 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 choose to do so, remember to bring an adaptor.

V. Contact Addresses

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

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