Center for International Programs
Study Abroad Guidebook
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
ERLANGEN 17-18
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Cover photo Die historische Altstadt Nürnbergs (Bild: Colourbox.de)
INTRODUCTION TO THE ERLANGEN PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK

With your departure for Germany fast approaching, many of you have lately begun to wonder what it's really going to be like spending six months to one year in Erlangen. What will you experience living and studying in Erlangen, and in traveling to other parts of the country? Are you forgetting to do anything before your departure? Will your German be good enough to allow you to do well in your classes, and to meet people outside of class? And just how much should you plan to pack in your suitcases? Hopefully, this guidebook can begin to answer these and other questions.

The information that follows is a collection of advice from former participants. The Center for International Programs and the Erlangen Resident Director have added practical information as well. All information was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. We recognize that there might be some necessary changes in the program made on site. When you return, we would greatly appreciate it if you could help us update this guidebook for the next year's participants.

Expect the unexpected. Ultimately, no written materials or any other preparation is going to fully prepare you for what lies ahead. The best preparation you can do is commit yourself to keeping an open mind, remaining flexible, and being patient with yourself and others as you're adjusting to your new environment.

We would like to thank the former participants who have shared their experiences and helped with the editing process!
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BEFORE YOU GO….PREPARATION

ERLANGEN, GERMANY

Germany is located in the heart of Europe, bordering on 9 other countries, covering a total area of 137,782 square miles with 81.3 million inhabitants. Germany is a Federation that consists of 16 individual states that are united under a common constitution that was signed on May 23, 1949.

Music is one of many national passions, covering the classics to rock and pop, from opera to jazz. Annually, there are more than 100 major local or regional music festivals for visitors and German residents alike. This is not surprising, as many famous musicians, including Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Georg Friedrich Händel were born in Germany and are remembered in museums and festivals throughout the country.

Erlangen is predominately a student town of about 100,000 people located in Mittelfranken in the southernmost and largest state of Germany, Bayern, more commonly known as Bavaria. Bavaria is famous for its Alps, lakes, romantic towns and villages, fairy tale castles and some of the best beer in the world. An amazing one third of this state consists of National Parks and nature preserves. The Capital of Bavaria is München (more commonly known in the United States as Munich) where Octoberfest, the enormous beer-guzzling contest that draws millions of people is held annually.

Nürnberg, another city approximately 25 minutes south of Erlangen (via slow train) hosts the “Christ Child’s Market” at Christmas time, which is one of the most famous regional events. Nürnberg is home to a beautiful mediaeval castle that was almost totally destroyed during WWII, but has been re-built and should not be missed!

Erlangen has been named the garden city, with its beautiful parks, and quiet passages open for all to enjoy and discover. It is a metropolis of cyclists, extending the lively atmosphere of the city, particularly in the market place and “The Erlangen Mile” where people gather and are offered a mile for shopping, and a mile for drinking and eating. Culture is displayed readily, with musical groups, short plays, and dance productions on the streets, as well as in the museums and in performances offering modern art and history, folklore, and more.
PROGRAM CALENDAR

1 September 2017  Depart From the U.S.
2 September  Arrive in Erlangen
3 September – 12 October  German Language and orientation course (estimated)
Mid- October  Classes begin at the University (Winter semester)
24 December – 6 January 2018  Christmas break (tentative)
15 February 2018  Last day of program (LT program)
16 February  Departure of LT academic program
17 July 2018  Departure of ET academic program

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

It is necessary to have a passport for travel to Germany. U.S. passport holders do not need to obtain a student visa prior to departure. Rather, you will obtain your residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) once you are there (this is the document that you will need your physical results for); you'll do that through the Ausländsamts. It may be a complicated process, and like most bureaucratic procedures across the world, patience and persistence will serve you well. You will also have to register (Anmelden) with the local authorities. During the “Anmeldung” process, you will be required to complete several forms. These forms will ask for information concerning your purpose in Erlangen (to study) and your address (your new dorm address). Dr. Christina Hein, the Resident Director of the program, will assist you with this process.

You should carry a photocopy of your passport with you at all times rather than the actual document (the first page with your photo and personal information). When you change money, cash your stipend checks, or travel out of the city, carry your actual passport with you. We also suggest that you leave a copy of your passport in your dorm room and another copy with your family in the U.S. You may also receive a university I.D. that should enable you to receive discounts at museums, for bus tickets, etc., but a former participant reports that you can also use your own U.S. student I.D. card (Kalamazoo or other institutions’) with no problem.

If your passport is lost or stolen while you are abroad, you will need to reapply at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/lost-stolen-passports/

FLIGHT CONNECTIONS
Please take care not to miss connecting flights. It is your responsibility to be in the boarding area at the appropriate time. Should you miss a connection, however, please note that you must be rerouted by an airline representative at the airport. Travel Leaders and/or Kalamazoo College can do nothing to alter your airline tickets at that point. Once you have had your airline tickets altered, you should contact Frau Hein (see contact information in the MAIL section), the Resident Director for your program so that she knows of your delay and can give you new arrival instructions. If you are unable to contact Frau Hein, contact the CIP or a member of the CIP staff (contact information can be found in the EMERGENCIES section), and we will try to assist you in informing the on-site personnel of your situation.

MONEY

How much spending money should you take? You will want to budget some money for the occasional meal out, nightlife, personal travel, etc. Different people spend money differently, whether in the U.S. or in Erlangen. Former Erlangen program participants report having spent widely varying amounts of money during their six- or nine-month stay: between $1500 and $3000 (not including additional travel expenses). Some students report using the stipend to cover everyday expenses and other money they brought for travel. So, the best piece of advice is to know yourself and your spending habits. As one returning student said, "take half the stuff [packing] and twice the money" that you think you’ll need.

In general, as a result of the exchange rate, prices in Germany tend to be more expensive than in Kalamazoo. As is the case on nearly all study abroad programs, you may need to buy course materials (Xerox-ed articles or books) in Germany, and you may spend around $35 - $50 per class.

Many of the money machines in Germany and other European countries accept American ATM cards (especially those that are "Cirrus Plus"). Former participants report that there are several places in Erlangen where you can use Cirrus: Sparkasse, Kaufhof, and Commerzbank. If you utilize your ATM cards the most, make sure that there is someone who can tell you what your balance is or open an on-line account that you may monitor yourself, as you will withdraw money not knowing the exchange rates being used. You will need to make sure your ATM is withdrawing money from a checking account, rather than savings account. Also, you may want to check with your bank about any charges that they have for withdrawals abroad. All students on the program will be required to open a local bank account. Your monthly meal stipend will be deposited into this account. You will have a local ATM/debit card to withdraw funds.

Taking both a Visa and MasterCard is recommended if you’re planning on traveling in Eastern Europe, as Visa cards may not be accepted everywhere. Discover Cards are not common at all in Europe. In summary, you will want to have all the money you plan to bring with you in either cash or ATM and credit cards.
At the time of writing, the exchange rate was .88 Euro to the Dollar. You can check the most recent exchange rate on the internet or using a phone app. It’s a good idea to get some Euros here before you go (maybe $50 or so), just so you have something in the airport.

CLIMATE

You can expect a relatively mild, pleasant winter with many rainy and overcast days. You may experience snow in December and January, but the winter temperatures typically stay around 32° - 40° Fahrenheit.

PACKING AND LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

You will need to check with the airline or your travel form from Travel Leaders (800.633.6401) regarding your luggage restrictions. Airlines are becoming more restrictive regarding luggage weight, and we advise you to check with the airline’s website prior to departure. You will be allowed a small carry-on bag which has to be able to fit under the seat in front of you or in the overhead compartment and weigh less than 30 lbs. Even if you’re willing to pay overweight or excess baggage charges at the airport, we strongly encourage you to resist doing this and to pack as little as possible.

PACK LIGHT! Few things are as disheartening as dragging around excess or overloaded suitcases while traveling abroad, especially when you could have done without most of it. You may also want to save some room in your bags for things you plan to buy there. The best rule of thumb is to pack everything you think you’ll need, take out half, then half again. Don’t bring it if you can’t carry it!

A good packing tip is to carry a change of clothes and essential toiletries in your carry-on bag in case your luggage gets lost. Similarly, try to distribute the contents of the two checked pieces evenly. For example, divide your underwear in two bags so you will be prepared in case one bag is lost.

NOTE: Do not pack your passport, money, and/or valuables in your checked luggage. Keep those items in a money belt or pouch on your person, especially when traveling. Former participants have had their passports and money stolen. Keep your carry-on bag with you at all times.

In general, you should have little problem fitting into the role of a German student when it comes to clothing. Returning students report that you can pretty much wear what you would wear here, although Germans tend to wear darker colors (lots of black!). The key is layering.
Jewelry: It is a good idea to leave favorite jewelry items at home. Never pack anything valuable or sentimental. Costume jewelry is more practical than the real stuff, especially if it is lost or stolen.

Electricity: Electricity in Germany is 220 volts. If you must bring any electrical appliance with you, keep in mind that you will need both an adapter and a converter (unless the appliance contains an internal converter – some computer laptops have this feature). For small items, such as hair dryers, consider buying them in Germany.

PACKING LIST

- Sweaters (a couple should do);
- Medium-heavy winter coat (remember you can layer your sweaters), scarf, gloves, winter hat;
- One or two nice outfits (separates that will mix and match with your more casual clothes);
- Dressy shoes (to match your nice outfits);
- Raincoat and sturdy folding umbrella;
- Sturdy walking and waterproof shoes;
- T-shirts (good for layering and to reduce the amount of laundry you do when you travel);
- Any small athletic equipment for sports you would be interested in pursuing there;
- Warm pajamas and slippers;
- Backpack (If you plan to buy a backpack for traveling, buy one that has an attachable daypack. Don’t buy one that is too wide -- you have to be able to get through train doors quickly!)
- Underwear and socks (bring plenty of underwear, because in some cases, especially when traveling, laundry access may be limited);
- Gifts for German friends (see suggestions in “Gifts” section);
- Towel & washcloth (if you plan on traveling, as most hostels don’t provide one);
- Plastic baggies (larger ziplock bags are great for holding wet towels and dirty laundry);
- Money belt or neck pouch;
- Luggage locks;
- Your physical exam with lab results

Additional items to bring:

- VISA, American Express, MasterCard credit cards and/or an ATM card;
- Budget travel guide (Let’s Go, The Berkeley Guide, etc.);
- Contact solutions/glasses (It’s a good idea to bring a copy of your prescription with you in case they are lost or stolen.);
- Journal;
- Study Abroad Handbook (on-line)
- ICRP Handbook (on-line)
- Prescriptions (in original containers) and other medical supplies;
- Flashlight;
- Bathing suit; and
- German/English dictionary (however, you might want to buy a big, heavy dictionary there that will be more complete and appropriate for writing papers).

Pack for your emotional self as well: bring books, small musical instruments, music, or whatever can help pull you through difficult times.

**GIFTS**
You may wish to bring some typical American gifts to share with friends that you meet while in Germany. Some good ideas include:

- Clothing and items with university logos;
- U.S.-style items (i.e. things from Disneyworld, Warner Bros., Mt. Rushmore, World Cup, NBA, NFL, etc.);
- Any hand-made craft or jewelry (especially Native American)
- Local food (dried cherries, maple syrup)

**BILLING**
The Center for International Programs does not handle the billing for the program. The Business Office issues the bills and will send your bills for the program costs to your home address just prior to the beginning of each quarter that you are abroad, as when you are in the United States. If you have any questions about your bill, you may email Patrick Farmer in the business office at pfarmer@kzoo.edu.

**FINANCIAL AID**
Kalamazoo students on financial aid will have to take care of some items while you are in Germany. For complete instructions from the Financial Aid Office, please see the Financial Aid Office handout you received at the Region-Specific Orientation. If you have any questions about financial aid, email finaaid@kzoo.edu.

**HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES**
There are some required medical procedures to go to Germany that may or may not be checked upon arrival but are needed for the residence permit. Students should expect to present a letter from a physician or medical laboratory stating the results of three tests: HIV, Syphilis, and TB. It is better if you wait and have these tests done over the summer, within the three-month departure period for Erlangen. Please refer to the Handbook for the information on required and recommended immunizations.

Erlangen program participants may be required to purchase German medical insurance, the cost of which will be approximately $65 a month. You will be responsible for paying this fee. You will be registered with the German health insurance system if you bring proof of insurance from the
United States. Please make sure you bring a copy of your insurance card showing your name and policy number. You should note, however, that if you decide not to buy public insurance now, you may be turned down if you want to buy it in the future, let’s say if you return to Germany to continue your studies or work there. In this case, only the more costly private insurance companies may accept you. Once you are enrolled in the insurance program, you may visit the University Clinic or private Doctors. For most visits, you will need to pay up front for the appointment or treatment. You will then need to file a claim with your insurance provider.

You will find that what are considered prescription drugs in the U.S. are often sold over the counter in Germany. So if you are feeling sick, normally you may explain your ailments to the pharmacist and she or he will provide you with medication. Make sure you know the generic/scientific names of the medications you request.

Common medical complaints include sore throats and stomach aches. Bring aspirin or Tylenol, yeast infection creams, Midol, Rolaids, cold medicine, laxatives, Pepto-Bismol, vitamins, and other medications you generally use. Shampoo, soap, tampons, and sanitary napkins are sold in Germany for little more than their cost in the United States.

Frau Christina Hein will provide you with names of doctors in town, if and when you should require medical attention while there.

VEGETARIANISM
No special accommodations will be made for vegetarians during the various field trips. If you require a vegetarian diet and cannot eat what is available during such excursions, you will be responsible for paying for and providing your own meals at those times. However, students have reported that there is usually a vegetarian section on the menu of many restaurants.

YOU’VE ARRIVED!

ARRIVAL IN ERLANGEN
When you land in Europe, you’ll be required to pass through customs. Be prepared to present your passport and the boarding card that you will be given on the airplane. Once you have passed through this checkpoint, you will proceed to the flight to Nuremberg. You will not need to pick up
your luggage until your final destination. It is possible (yet somewhat unlikely) that your luggage will be searched, as immigration officials will be monitoring you as you exit the customs area. In some international airports, guards with trained drug-detecting dogs will be monitoring luggage collection. Do not be alarmed by this, just remember to keep your luggage with you at all times, and do not agree to carry anything that a stranger might try to give you.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION
Most of Erlangen, including the university, is within walking distance. The bus system is very convenient and will get you to the places you want to go very quickly. There are also taxis, but those tend to be quite expensive. For the duration of the semester, you will receive a student transportation pass that will allow you to use the public transportation at no further costs. You will receive instructions upon arrival.

Another option is renting or buying (second hand) a bike while you’re there. Erlangen is full of cyclists, and you should be able to sell a bike at the conclusion of your program. Check into special deals once you’re over there. Make sure you wear a helmet and follow bicycle safety rules!

TRAVEL/VACATIONS
When you travel in or out of the country please inform Fr. Hein of your plans, indicating where you are going and approximately when you will return. This is a policy for all study abroad programs. If you are planning on being gone for more than 48 hours, you must notify Fr. Hein. You must also leave addresses where you can be contacted at approximately 48 hour intervals. Be sure to check at the addresses you’ve given, with the Resident Director, or with someone at home during your travels. If there is an emergency at home or with you, this information will make communication possible.

TIPS ON INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
- Avoid traveling alone. This will ensure that you don’t have to deal with illness, theft, or emergencies by yourself. Do not travel alone on trains at night, especially if you plan on sleeping. If you’re traveling with other people, it’s a good idea for someone to be awake when others are sleeping in order to be able to keep an eye on everyone’s things.
Definitely take some kind of pouch for documents, money, and tickets. The best rule is never to remove it. Sleep with it and take it in the shower if you have any doubts, especially for those of you planning to stay in International Youth Hostels. Be sure to use luggage locks.

When traveling, keep documents with you, not in luggage on a train rack or in a checked bag.

Travel light!

Make sure you know where you’re going.

Returning students strongly suggest the Eurail Flexipass. If you haven’t made arrangements to purchase one before you leave, you can arrange for someone in the U.S. to purchase one and send it to you while you’re there. It’s cheaper to have someone send it, rather than buy it there. Be sure to certify or validate it before you start using it. Students also report using discount airlines (easy jet, ryan air) for travel within Europe.

Look into a "Bahn-card," which sells for $60 or so and will enable you to get a 25% discount on all train fares for travel in Germany.

Plan an itinerary and email it to the resident director. Also, make sure that someone in the U.S. has a copy.

Call home when you get a chance, especially if there is an itinerary change.

Talk to security personnel concerning where you will enter boarding areas, which plane, train, or bus is yours, etc.

Be wary of complete strangers who approach you and offer you rides. As is expected here in the U.S., never accept a ride from a stranger when you are alone.

Always carry your passport with you while traveling.

Always check and see what kind of discounts you can get with your International Student I.D. card or college I.D. Usually there are discounts for museums, bus rides, etc.

Be sure to check http://travel.state.gov/ (The U.S. Department of State website) for updates and travel alerts for U.S. Citizens in Europe. Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program https://step.state.gov/step/

SAFETY

Just as you would expect in a different city here in the U.S., you will find it necessary to become well acquainted with your new surroundings in Erlangen in order to feel safe. You will need to find out which areas of town should be avoided, which means of transportation are reliable and safe, and what time of day is safe to be walking around. Use of normal common sense and caution
will serve you and your money well in this regard: women should get used to holding on to their purses while they walk, and men should not carry their wallets in their back pockets.

Returning students report feeling pretty safe in Erlangen, but you will still need to be aware at all times. Be smart, use your common sense, and don't take any unnecessary risks. When you are walking around the city, and in other areas, be sure to walk assertively and as if you know where you're headed. A strong and confident posture will let people know that you're not a tourist. Please make sure that you read the “Responding to Physical and Sexual Assault while on Study Abroad” section in your Handbook to be prepared in case you or a friend are in such a situation. It is always best to be prepared.

It is also a good idea for safety reasons not to call attention to the fact that you are foreign (to the extent this is possible). Nevertheless, it will be obvious to many that you are not a host national, so be careful. Foreigners are easy targets for pick-pocketing and mugging. It's not a good idea to stand in the middle of a public place, loaded down with backpacks, speaking loudly in English. It will draw even more attention to you.

If you are drunk or otherwise impaired, you are much more vulnerable to potential safety hazards than when you're sober. Drinking (even 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks) impairs cognitive function and your ability to judge your surroundings. Drinking may also negatively affect your ability to make appropriate, safe decisions in response to these surroundings. As most of you will be able to legally drink alcohol for the first time, we encourage those of you who choose to drink to exercise this privilege responsibly.

**WATER AND OTHER BEVERAGES**

Tap water in Germany is safe to drink -- as is all natural spring water. There is also a wide and wonderful variety of bottled water. Some of the milk is UHT (ultra high temperature), meaning it has been heated to a high temperature and no longer needs refrigeration. This may upset a few stomachs, so try to be careful about how much you drink at first. In general, it might take a little time for your stomach to adapt.

**MAIL**

You can expect letters to and from the States to take about two weeks to arrive (but mail is slower around Christmas time). Packages can take longer. Make sure "airmail" is specified on all letters and packages -- "surface mail" (by boat) will take at least two months. If you must get a message
across speedily, you can use Express mail (DHL - 800 225-5345 or FED EX- 800-463-3339). For the first weeks, your mailing address is:

Your name
c/o Frau Christina Hein
Steinpilzweg 26
91508 Erlangen, Germany
Phone: 011 49 9131 208010 (please remember that Germany is 6 hours ahead of Michigan)
Mobile: 011 49 176 2426360

After you have settled into your student dorm, you will be able to use that address for your mail. However, someone must be present to receive a package if it is sent to your dorm building.

Mailing letters is expensive, much more so than it is in the States. You can secure an email account at the university, and you will have to purchase print credits in order to print (5 Euro = 50 pages).

EMERGENCIES

In the case of an emergency, you should first contact Christina Hein at 011 49 176 92426360. She will notify the appropriate people on site. However, something you should do when you first arrive is to find out the local numbers of the police and fire departments and the equivalent of "911" in Germany. Although emergencies rarely happen that would require you to call one of these numbers, they can and do happen, and you'll feel better if you are prepared.

In case there is an emergency that requires you to get in touch with us in the Center for International Programs, call one of the following numbers:

Center for International Programs
Voice 269.337.7133 | E-mail cip@kzoo.edu

Margaret Wiedenhoeft, Executive Director,
Erlangen Program Manager
Home 269.267.5800 | E-mail mwieden@kzoo.edu
THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

RESIDENT DIRECTOR
Frau Christina Hein is the resident director and she will act as your academic adviser and is in charge of the organization of the program. Fr. Anita Schnell supervises your Integrative Cultural Research Projects and teaches the Landeskunde course. Both may be approached about any issue related to your stay in Erlangen.

In addition, the program has tutors who are local students and are specifically responsible for working with Kalamazoo College students. They will help introduce you to student life in Erlangen and also be available to answer any questions you may have during your program.

UNIVERSITY SETTING
The University of Erlangen has approximately 35,000 students. There are many other international students in Erlangen, and they are not predominantly from the U.S. There is an office for international students on campus, the Akademisches Auslandsamt. Returning students report that many of the German students tend to be older and in some ways, more independent than the average American student. Since the university costs relatively little in Germany, many students take longer than the traditional four years to graduate because they are studying and holding jobs simultaneously.

In the past, former participants have been able to take advantage of extra-curricular activities such as sports, fencing, dance classes, organized trips, kayaking, aerobics, and more. Check out the universities website at http://www.uni-erlangen.de/studium/

CLASSES AND CREDITS
The program begins with an intensive German language course and culture course. During the University semester, students enroll in courses in the Institute for Foreign Students (Deutsche als Fremdsprache or DAF) and in some University courses. There is no “Registrar’s office” at the University of Erlangen; be prepared to visit each department and/or email the Instructor to register for each of your courses – yes, you will need to ask the instructor’s permission to take the class! You will need to discuss with each Professor the requirements for obtaining a “Schein” for a particular course. This can feel very frustrating, as many Professors will not be sitting in their offices waiting for you to appear. Make sure you allow plenty of time for this process and please feel free to ask, ask, and ask again if you have questions. The tutors, student assistants specifically assigned to Kalamazoo students, will be available to help students navigate this process.
You must have a Schein **WITH GRADE (i.e. Not pass/fail)** for each course or you will not receive credit for your work on your Kalamazoo transcript. At the end of the term, you will also need to visit each Professor to obtain your “Scheine” or grades. You will need to receive a letter grade (not just “pass/fail”) in order to receive credit for the course. Frau Hein will assist you in the registration and course grade transcript process. All Scheine must be turned into Frau Hein prior to departure from Erlangen in order to receive credit for your course work!

Past participants recommend that students visit a variety of classes during the first week of the semester to learn which courses would be the best fit for their own academic program and then make the selection of which ones they will regularly attend. The academic culture and structure of the University of Erlangen is very different from Kalamazoo College. Most classes meet weekly and you may observe German students not paying very much attention in class or simply not attending class at all. Students must be ready to adjust to uncertainty and ambiguity. The instructor or Professor will not distribute or grade assignments during the semester; rather, at the conclusion of the course students may be expected to complete one research paper or an examination. This will be the basis for your grade in the course. Be sure to communicate with your professors. Independence in learning and self-motivation are important characteristics to be successful academically in Erlangen.

Students must enroll in the equivalent of 6 K-units of credit for the long-term program and 9 K-units of credit for the extended-term program. Students may not overload or underload. For the long-term program, 1 unit of German language credit is given for the intensive language and culture course, 1 unit is earned for the ICRP, and 1 unit is earned for the Landeskunde course. In addition, students are required to enroll in a German Language/Literature course during the semester, either at DaF or the University. Kalamazoo students will also be required to enroll in at least one Pro-seminar course at the University, in the discipline of choice. The remaining units are earned for course work done at the University. Students may either enroll in one Language course or one Art course for credit. For the extended-term program, students follow the long-term program and then continue at the university, taking 3 units of credit selected at the University during the second semester. Students may enroll in courses in the University or select courses from the Deutsche als Fremdsprache (DaF) program. You must take all DaF courses for credit. You may enroll in a maximum of two courses at the DaF.

To receive Kalamazoo credit, a course must have 40-45 contact hours and receive a formal assessment (i.e. grade). Courses may not be taken “pass/fail” for credit. In cases where students must combine courses to achieve the minimum number of contact hours for a unit of credit, both courses must be from the same discipline, e.g. history with history or biology with biology. Students may combine a Pro-seminar or Seminar with a Vorlesung to achieve the minimum number of contact hours. Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo
transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

Students will be placed in classes at the DaF according to the language test administered at the beginning of the program. Past participants have expressed frustration for being placed in classes which they feel did not meet their level of preparation at Kalamazoo College. On the other hand, some students have selected to take classes in English while at Erlangen. While not necessarily a bad decision, think intentionally about what this will mean for your German language development. Be patient and persistent with your language skills, you will improve only if you allow yourself to be challenged throughout the entire program.

Please see the program description for a detailed explanation of the academic program and requirements. Look on the university's website for a list of clubs, groups, and volunteer opportunities.

**ACADEMIC CULTURE AND ADJUSTMENT**

In general, German students are more independent and expect less structure and support while at University. In fact, you may perceive German professors as being less accessible, while at the same time having high expectations for your academic performance at the end of the term. While you will be in class for fewer hours per week than at Kalamazoo (because of the semester system at Erlangen), you need to prepare and participate to the fullest while you are in class. There is a great deal of independence and maturity expected of all students at a German university. You will not necessarily receive a detailed syllabus with a reading list; rather, the professor may mention several authors during the course of a lecture. It is assumed that you will take the initiative to read these authors and understand how they relate to the course. If you are unsure about course content, which books you should be reading, or your comprehension of the lecture, you may talk to the instructor. In addition, there are international student advisors in certain departments and they may be consulted when necessary.

As Kalamazoo students, you are adjusted to a rigorous and busy academic schedule where your time is determined by coursework explicitly detailed and assignments with varying due dates throughout the quarter. It is not uncommon to “cram” at the last minute all the information for that mid-term or final grade or to stay up all night to write a paper. However, if you take this approach in Erlangen you will most likely fail. The most important skill you can develop during this time is time management. It will be very important that you develop a schedule that includes course preparation and study (1-2 hours per day per class) throughout the entire semester instead of just waiting until the last minute. While your schedule in Erlangen will seem very relaxed, do not mistake this feeling for a vacation and neglect your German language study or your university courses.
Regular tests and homework are extremely rare. You must not confuse this with an invitation not to work on a weekly basis. Rather, you will be expected to acquire a good amount of knowledge on your own. Professors may recommend further literature; have books on the seminar's topic ready in the library (Handapparat), etc. These are resources that should be used. You will need to start your papers early (by mid-semester - November), researching appropriate sources. German academic papers cannot usually be researched, argued, and written in two or three days and the complexity of thought expected even at an undergraduate level can hardly be achieved within a week. Conceiving of a good paper is part of the work DURING the semester.

**INTEGRATIVE CULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT**

For your integrative cultural research project you will choose some aspect of German culture that you wish to research in a more direct, experiential manner. Conducting such a project offers you a way to get to know the host culture using a variety of methods and in a more intimate fashion. How productive and fruitful your experience is will depend on how much time and thought you put into the planning and how much you choose to commit yourself.

**Six distinctive features characterize the ICRP projects**, regardless of where they are completed, and should guide you in the selection and implementation of your particular project—

1. **Emphasis on “hands on” human interaction**—your project should allow you to interact with local people outside of the usual academic environment in a systematic, integrated way.

2. **Choice of the Project Topic, Type, and Scope**—the project should reflect your own goals, interests, and skills. Although you will need to consult with the local project coordinator who will ultimately approve your topic, you may exercise wide latitude in selecting the sort of project you wish to pursue in the host city; however, the project should give you an opportunity to apply what you are experiencing to your academic experience and to interact with a diverse group of people within the local culture.
   a. **Service and volunteer projects**
   b. **Cultural externships or internships**—participation in some facet of the local culture
      Life histories

3. **Choice of Methodology**—in consultation with the project coordinator, you’ll have wide latitude with respect to the information-gathering method(s) you choose to employ in your project.

4. **Systematic Research** (cf: Describe, Interpret, Evaluate, Validate, Act)
   a. **Consistent journaling**
b. Painstaking interpretation

5. **Cultural Insight** (cf: DIEVA)
   a. Insight into the particular cultural activity or aspect you’ve selected
   b. Insight into the larger culture and/or social structure of the host country

6. **Advising and Mentoring**—from a local project coordinator and also a site supervisor
   a. Selection of topics and methods
   b. Introductions and first contacts
   c. Review of journal notes
   d. Interpretation

**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR ICRPS**

- What is the main activity of the placement? What was produced?
- What are the goals and mission of the organization?
- Where does this particular organization stand in relation to similar ones in the city? In the region? In the state? In the country?
- Whom does this organization serve?
- How do people view this organization and its mission?
- What problems and tasks are to be accomplished?
- How was this done?
- How successful is the organization?
- What are the basic skills and knowledge needed to work for this organization?
- What would be a typical day or week in the organization?
- What were your responsibilities?
- What contribution did you make to help the organization achieve its goals?

The project can consist of a collection of life histories, a study of some facet of the local culture, a service project, or some other form. Start thinking early in the fall about what aspect of the culture you would like to study. In discussing your plans with Frau Schnell you will receive more specific
instruction. The ICRP must be conducted in Erlangen, and you will be required to keep extensive notes of the time you spend conducting your project.

Each study abroad site has unique conditions, practices particular to the community and specific limitations. Some of the common limitations of this program are that students cannot work in medical setting, and prisons or houses for battered and abused women do not usually accept our students.

You will need to determine the focus of your project in the fall, and it will be carried out over your time in Erlangen mostly in November, December and January to be completed by the beginning of February. You will be required to keep extensive notes of your on-site time, and at the conclusion of the experience, you will then analyze in a final paper how your project findings reflect German culture as a whole. A final paper (in German) of 12-15 pages must be turned into Frau Christina Hein by February 1, 2015, or no credit will be given.

The following pages provide a sampling of recent Erlangen ICRPs, including the locations and activities that students performed and discussed in their final papers.
**Germany, Erlangen**  
**Placement Limitations:** None reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>ICRP Title</th>
<th>Abstract/Synopsis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erlangen, Germany</td>
<td><em>Amateur Football</em></td>
<td>My ICRP project is about my experience within the world of amateur football in Germany. I have been practicing twice a week with the newly promoted Spvgg Erlangen and have thus heavily interacted with the players of different levels and ambitions as well as with coaches. I also attended games played at the amateur level in Franken, and got to interview players and fans that way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waldorf Kindergarten</td>
<td><em>Through the Eyes of Children: A Waldorf Perspective</em></td>
<td>This ICRP explores my various experiences and observations that I gathered while I was working at a German school. I spent 60 hours working at a Waldorf Kindergarten in Erlangen, Germany. I assisted the teachers of a particular Kindergarten class in particular way, including cooking, cleaning and setting up of projects for the children. I also supported the class in theoretical ways, including promoting and perpetuating the Waldorf pedagogy and assisting with everyday situations teachers face. This internship not only helped me interact with young children but also advanced my German language proficiency, introduced me to Waldorf philosophy, and clarified the effects of how such an environment reflects in the children’s development and interpersonal skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backerei, Trapper</td>
<td><em>Industrialization and its Impact on German Bakeries</em></td>
<td>The purpose of my ICRP is to examine bakeries in Germany and attempt to analyze how they have been affected by industrialization. Over the course of this project, I spent 40 hours working as a baker at Backerei Trapper, a local bakery in Erlangen, as well as 20 hours examining bakeries throughout Erlangen. While working as a baker, I was involved in the baking of goods and the overall system of the bakery. While examining bakeries, I looked at general customer trends and differences at various bakeries. These experiences gave me insight into and helped me better understand various sides of modern bakeries. Using my experiences gained through my ICRP, as well as further research on the history of industrialization and bakeries, I will explore and discuss their relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert-Schweizer Gymnasium</td>
<td><em>A Brief Look into the Culture of a German Gymnasium</em></td>
<td>MY ICRP will examine the work, experiences and observations I encountered while at a Gymnasium in Erlangen. I spent the required 60 hours of our International Cultural Research Project working as a teacher’s assistant in the English classes administered Albert-Schweizer Gymnasium (ASG), a German secondary school in Erlangen. My tasks included preparing and holding classroom discussions, correcting English failures committed in class, and providing conversational help when needed. In German basic language intonation and structure is different (among other things), and that especially when speaking English as a second or third language things tend to appear harsher than they are meant to be.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIVING IN ERLANGEN

DORMS

Please familiarize yourself with the "Housing Definitions and Regulations" as stated in the Handbook.

Kalamazoo students are generally close to each other, but it also possible that students will be housed in dorms throughout the city. The proximity of many other German students will hopefully be an added incentive and opportunity for you to practice and improve your German. Be sure to be friendly; one must compensate for the fact that Germans aren't overly open or outgoing. Most dorm rooms will have a private bathroom and a kitchen area in them with the showers and toilets down the hall. You do not need to bring your own bed linens, pillow, blankets, towels etc. as you may purchase these when you arrive. Previous students do leave “boxes” with pots, pans, linens previously used. You may select to use these or purchase your own.

Most of the dorms have small kitchens as part of the apartment or on each floor (where cleanliness cannot be guaranteed and depends on the cooperative efforts of the residents, i.e., you!). Another option for eating is the student cafeteria (Mensa). At the end of the program, you will be responsible for cleaning your room prior to the “checkout period.” If, according to the University of Erlangen housing office, the room is not left in satisfactory condition your student account here at Kalamazoo College will be charged for the additional cleaning fees.

NOTE: All students will be expected to thoroughly clean their apartment, according to German “Hausmeister” standards, or they will be charged cleaning fees. In the past, a few students have had to pay between 25 and 340 USD in cleaning charges. If you decide to leave before you have your official “checkout” with the dorm supervisor, then you will be at the mercy of the judgment of that individual. Please note that cleaning standards are significantly different than when you leave the dorm at “K.” Neither the Resident Director in Erlangen nor the CIP has the ability to change or dispute any cleaning charges. Any charges assessed by the Hausmeister will be posted to your student account at Kalamazoo College.
MEALS
You will receive a monthly stipend from the resident director to cover your meals during the program. Please note you will not receive a stipend when the program is not in session. This means during the holidays and the break between semesters.

TELEPHONE USE
In the German dormitories, it is highly likely you will have a phone line in your room. If you have a phone line in your room, you will need to pay for an activation fee and all bills.

Former participants report buying “handys” or data phones upon arrival. Handy service is less expensive than in the United States and students report that the convenience makes it worth the price. Check into buying them from former participants. Most students buy prepaid cards, rather than signing up for a monthly plan. Using the phone for text messaging and calling the U.S. makes cell phone use a cheap option.

LAUNDRY
Most dorms have a couple of washing machines in the basement where washing and drying costs 2 euro each. Past participants report purchasing a drying rack because the dryers often did not work well.

LEAVING YOUR DORM AT DESIGNATED VACATION PERIODS
Since the dorms are rented for the entire length of the study abroad program, you will not need to vacate your dorm during vacation periods.

ADAPTING TO GERMAN CULTURE
HELPFUL HINTS FOR A POSITIVE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE
While common sense will get you through a lot of potentially awkward situations in an unfamiliar culture, you should be aware of a few cultural differences that exist between Germany and the U.S. You should bear in mind that Germans tend to be more formal, socially, than most Americans; but if you’re willing to adapt to your new culture by observing some of the German norms, you’ll run into fewer problems at home, in the classroom, and elsewhere:

- Be sure to cover your mouth in public and in class when you yawn or cough!
- Avoid wearing a hat inside (class).
- When eating or drinking with a group of people, especially but not only in restaurants or formal settings, wait until everyone has received their food and drink, wish them a “Guten Appetit” and only then begin eating.
When going out in public with large groups of Americans, be especially aware of your actions and behavior. Americans have the reputation of being loud and obnoxious.

Avoid smiling at people on the street, as it may be interpreted as a "come-on" rather than as a sign of general friendliness.

Don't be offended if a German doesn't smile at you. Relatively few cultures in the world smile at strangers as much as Americans do.

Pay close attention to non-verbal behavior. Communication isn't always direct and verbally expressed.

Germans are unlikely to approach you first; they'll be polite and respectful, by and large, but not as outgoing as U.S. students. Don't be afraid to approach them and be a little outgoing.

In greetings, men shake hands with other men. Women might give each other a hug or a kiss on the cheek.

Of course, there's no guarantee that if you do fail to observe some or all of these norms, you'll be openly criticized for it. However, many German people will regard a failure to acknowledge these sorts of norms as proof that you aren't particularly well mannered. As their culture is one which places great value on exhibiting proper degrees of respect and self control in socializing, they won't be as inclined to meet you or to spend time with you if you seem unwilling or unable to observe what they regard to be normal standards of conduct.

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Over the period of your stay in Germany you will probably learn the most from your daily life in a different culture. For in the day-to-day experiences -- the morning commute to the university, a trip to the market -- lie the real challenges, frustrations, and joys of living in a new cultural environment. It is an immensely rich and rewarding experience and one that you can anticipate with pleasure.

In addition to adapting to Germany as a country, you will be learning to adjust to a second culture. Learning to live in a new culture requires a great deal more than a list of do's and don'ts, or a brief description of the cultural traits of a society. For one thing, any culture is much too complex to narrow down to a definitive description. Descriptions can describe general characteristics, but they will not explain each specific encounter.

Secondly, and more importantly, adaptation has as much to do with understanding oneself and one's own culture as it does with understanding a different culture.
As individuals, we are cultural beings with ways of behaving and perceiving which we do not always identify as springing from our culture. It is when we attempt to understand, or become a part of, another culture that we come to see that many of our values, beliefs and behaviors stem from our own cultural background. Interaction in a new cultural environment can cause conflict both within oneself and between oneself and the new culture. Some of this conflict is inevitable. However, by understanding yourself as a product of your own culture and of your own personal background, you will have a much easier time observing your interactions and learning to adapt to a new set of behavioral ground rules.

The task of culture learning requires a high tolerance for ambiguity and a patient willingness to work through culture shock in a constructive manner. Students must be willing to learn from situations where they may have miscommunicated or failed at communication. They will be expected to examine how their own cultural expectations may have interfered with interpretation, to use their observation skills to pick up on other clues as to what may be happening, and to reserve judgment while remaining tolerant of ambiguity until they reach understanding.

Learning a second culture not only affords students an understanding of the new culture derived from first-hand experience but also gives them an awareness of their own culture that they never have had before. With familiar surroundings and friends taken away, students are led to examine not only their culture, but themselves as well. One student participating in an intensive study abroad program wrote, “I’m learning to enjoy being with myself, independent and alone from lifelong cultural props. It’s great!”

Such awareness of one’s own culture and self ultimately allows students to live more responsibly as members of the global community.

However, everyone has bad days once in a while, some people more than others. It is normal to feel like you just want to go home -- everyone has felt that way at some point in his or her travels. Students who have been abroad in the past offer the following advice:

- First of all, be prepared to have unhappy days and know that they will pass.
- Keep yourself open to making friends with different kinds of people, including the other students in the Kalamazoo program.
- Talk to others in your group, perhaps with someone who’s having a good day but who can relate to your feelings.
- Try doing something that will involve you in the present; simply doing something can work wonders. For example, if you have nothing to do one Saturday and are feeling homesick or miserable, give yourself a task that will help you to get to know the local culture better -- like going
to a local church, searching for a specific item in the market, going to a café in a different part of
town, etc. Immerse yourself and keep busy.

- Sometimes, though, you might find that you need to be away from people and/or the local
culture for a while, so you might choose to hole up with a book, listen to music, write letters.

- Keep a journal -- even if you never have kept one before, it's a great way to release tension and
let things spill out, and it's one of the best mementos you'll have when you return to the U.S.

- Be patient with yourself. There will be times when you feel you are the only one who is
miserable and having a bad day -- you're not!

- Lastly, just tell yourself that you can do it. You can survive in a different culture.

You'll learn that everyone has his or her own way of coping in a different culture and that what
might help some people some of the time, won't help everyone all of the time. But this learning
process, coming to really know yourself in a way you haven't before, is part of the adventure.

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH GERMANY AND THE U.S. BEFORE
YOU GO

GETTING TO KNOW GERMANY -- TALK WITH YOUR FELLOW
STUDENTS!

One of the best ways to start preparing for your experience is to do some background reading and
research on Germany. Familiarize yourself with the current political situation and educational
systems, historical background, current events, customs, and cultural norms. Go to your library or
ask to talk to a faculty or staff member who has had experience in Germany. Or arrange to talk
with one of the students who has been there in the past. You may have had the opportunity to do
this during your orientation, but often times individual conversations are extremely helpful.
Former participants and the current German students on Kalamazoo's campus will be your best
sources of information. They know what it's like to be in your shoes as you try to imagine what in
the world the next six to twelve months will hold.

KNOW WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE U.S.

Some people have had the embarrassing experience to learn that people abroad seem to know
more about U.S. history and politics than they themselves do. You can expect to be asked your
opinion about current events and U.S. politics. You can also expect to hear the opinions of others,
and not all of them will be complimentary of the U.S. Should such a situation arise, the best advice
is to remain respectful, even when disagreeing, and to resist the temptation to criticize Germany,
as you are a guest. Start keeping abreast of current events and continue to do so while you’re in Germany.

By the same token, don't feel you have to be an expert on everything about the U.S. You don't have to assume the role of the "defender" of U.S. culture. If there are things you don't know or don't feel like explaining, just say so.

SPEAKING GERMAN

Probably all of you are feeling German-language anxiety -- relax! Everyone who has been abroad where another language is spoken has lived through that experience. There are, however, some great opportunities to practice your German before you go. Some ideas for practicing German include renting German movies, listening to German music, and practicing the language with German-speaking students.

However, it you don't end up doing as much as you would have liked, don't panic. Regardless of how comfortable you feel about your German, the thing everyone has to get through is the fear of making mistakes. Remember, especially at first that the goal is to get your point across. Proficiency will come with time and practice. The goal of this program is German immersion, this means you should be speaking, “listening” and thinking in German 90% of the time. Try to avoid speaking English with the other students except at designated times when you need to “unwind.” Speak German with the staff members at all times. You must be your own immersion monitor – you must leave your room at least once per day and interact with native German speakers, even it’s just going to the store. Seek out an interest group, sports team or music/drama group that will facilitate your meeting native Germans.

There are notable differences in accents in different regions of German. You'll hear a different accent and even dialect in each town you visit. Adjust to the dialect by forcing yourself to get out and about as early and as often as possible. By the time classes begin your major adjustment period will be over, and life will be MUCH easier.

GENDER RELATIONS IN GERMANY

If you are interested in women’s issues, you may contact the local Frauenzentrum (women’s center). They usually have a café and discussion groups as well as workshops. The level of sexual harassment is considered to be low and single women in restaurants, bars, and cafes are nothing unusual. People will come and sit at your table if there is limited space, but that doesn’t mean that you are expected to make conversation with them.

Dating patterns and social norms for couples differ in Germany. To go out as a couple is a much more serious step in a relationship than it is here in the U.S. If you do get involved in a
relationship, it's a very good idea to talk to a German friend and ask what kinds of norms and behavior you should follow. It can be very confusing, especially with the language barrier.

**SEXUAL HEALTH**

Issues of sexuality can be complex in your own cultural environment, and much more so in one with which you are less familiar. While living in a culture that is not your own, it is more challenging to evaluate situations and to assess risks for emotional distress, disease, and assault as a result of intentional or non-intentional sexual contact. Sexually transmitted diseases are prevalent everywhere in the world, and the HIV virus can lead to death. We strongly recommend that students educate themselves on safe sex practices, pack condoms from the U.S. when they are traveling abroad, and be cautious about their sexual activity while abroad. For further information regarding HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, please consult with Kalamazoo College’s Health Center or your physician.

Learning about your host country’s culture with regard to acceptable and safe sexual behavior, is one of your responsibilities as you prepare for and experience study abroad. It is also very important that participants understand the local norms and cultural patterns of relationships between genders. What are the local dating patterns? Is it the custom for females to have male friends (or vice versa) or is that considered unusual? If you accept a drink or some other “gift”, are you tacitly consenting to sexual activity? If you invite a member of the opposite gender into your living space, is it culturally and/or legally acceptable for him/her to expect intimate contact? Is the legal definition of “consent” different from the definition in the U.S.?

At a minimum, you must be aware that some behaviors that may be culturally and legally acceptable, and seemingly safe, at home may not be in your host country – and vice versa. Certain behaviors will also communicate different messages in your host culture than they do in the U.S. Resident Directors and other program staff members will give you guidelines to the local cultural norms for relationships between genders and laws regarding this issue.
YOUR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

YOUR RETURN FLIGHT TO THE U.S.

You need to check your ticket and itinerary before you leave the U.S. and make sure you have the correct dates. If, while in country, you should wish to change your return date, you may do so directly with the airline or via Travel Leaders. If you have any questions about this process, please call 800.633.6401 before you go.

PREPARE FOR YOUR RETURN

As you are preparing to leave, please remember the following:

1. Do not take back items made of animal hides or any agricultural products, or you will not be able to pass through U.S. customs.
2. Don’t forget to set aside some U.S. cash for the trip home.
3. Remember: when completing customs forms, a trip to the country with your host family or friends does not constitute time spent on a farm. Answering otherwise on the customs form when re-entering the U.S. will make for a long chat with immigration officials concerned about parasites.

READJUSTMENT

Going home is usually a very exciting prospect. Most students look forward to seeing family and friends they have missed, eating food they haven’t had for so long and enjoying activities that may not have been possible during study abroad.

Remember that returning home is also a transition very similar to your arrival in Germany. Just like your arrival, you can expect to feel frustration, anxiety and confusion at home, on your campus and with your friends. Craig Storti puts it this way in The Art of Crossing Cultures:

“The problem is this word home. It suggests a place and a life all set up and waiting for us; all we have to do is “move-in.” But home isn’t a place we merely inhabit; it’s a lifestyle we construct (wherever we go), a pattern of routines, habits and behaviors associated with certain people, places and objects—all confined to a limited area or neighborhood. We can certainly construct a home back in our own culture—just as we did abroad—but there won’t be one waiting for us when we arrive...In other words, no one goes home; rather we return to our native country and in due course we create a home.”

At the foundation of this transition is the task of determining what to do with the changes that have occurred while you were away and the changes that have taken place within you as a result of your time in Germany. Life for your family, friends and teachers probably will not be the same
as when you departed, but you were not there to gradually adjust to those changes with them. And they have not been able to get used to the things that are different about you.

Hardly anyone avoids the discomfort of this period of growth, but the good news is you will eventually find a way to include your new ideas, skills and outlook in your life back in the U.S. Here are a few questions to consider before your return. Your answers may help you recognize the changes that have occurred during your sojourn.

☐ What have I learned about Germany’s culture that I did not know previously? In what ways has this changed my view of Germany?

☐ By being abroad and able to compare my culture with a different culture, what have I learned about the history, values and traditions that make up my home culture?

☐ While I was away, what significant events have occurred in my country, my family, in my hometown, among my friends and on campus?

☐ How have my personal values changed because of my study abroad experience?

☐ In what ways have my stereotypes or biases changed?

☐ What new skills have I developed (e.g. adaptation skills, second language proficiency, sensitivity, etc) and how might I maintain them?

☐ How can I express these changes to my friends, family and teachers?

☐ What might I do to continue to deepen my understanding of Germany?

RETURNING HOME

Contrary to popular belief, returning from an extended period abroad can be equally or more stressful and difficult than beginning your study abroad experience. You will find that you have changed in several ways during your experience. Coming home can be difficult, as life has continued for family and friends while you have been gone as well. Just as when you were struggling with adaptation to German culture, it is wise to give yourself some time to adjust when you return.

All of the members of the Center for International Programs staff have also experienced this challenge, and we encourage you to feel free to talk with us, or someone in the Counseling Center if you are having problems adjusting, or if you just need to talk. In addition, we provide many opportunities for students to continue their study abroad experience through activities and functions on our campus. We welcome your participation.
As when you were abroad, be patient with yourself! Continuing to write in your journal about your feelings and experiences will help you to weather this difficult time.

**ADVICE FROM PAST-PARTICIPANTS**

**RECOMMENDED THINGS TO DO**

“Go to the farmers market! It’s open every Saturday” Ariane Reister

“Buy a used bike when you get there—it’s worth the initial expense, and easy to sell at the end of the semester!”

“At some point in time you will have to pick out classes. When your RD says to you “you might want to e-mail your professors” that means you need to e-mail your professors stating “Hi my name is ______. I would like to be in your class ______. Is that ok?” This is how you officially register for classes. Our year, we were all just like, “ah we don’t want to,” then we showed up to classes and there were problems.”

“Communicate with other K-students before going about bringing a printer to print your papers – if only one person brings it then others can chip in $ for the extra luggage space and for the ink cartridges.”

“Take advantage of Nürnberg. It’s a cool place”

**LIVING IN ERLANGEN: CULTURE AND CITY LIFE**

“In Erlangen, there’s a bakery on every corner (and some in between, as well), so expect to develop a love for the little German breads (Broetchen!)”

“Students on K’s program generally get their own apartments, which are absolutely fantastic, complete with mini-kitchen and bathroom (normally)”

“Your apartments are fully furnished. Don’t bring sheets, blankets, towels, they’re already there for you.”

“In Erlangen, you get a taste of the small-town German living experience, with bustling Nuremberg only 15 minutes away to meet your larger town needs.”

**RECOMMENDED PLACES TO VISIT**

The Cafeteria at the University has a vegetarian line available

Dechsendorfer Weiher - a really cute and pretty lake 12 min away from Martin Luther Platz by bus. Your transportation pass will allow you to go there.

E-WERK is awesome. They have soccer games there sometimes, a free ceramics studio in the basement, bands, etc. It’s an awesome place.
There is a tiny fitness studio in the basement of Albrecht Magnus. It’s tiny but worth it. You’ll have to ask Herr Dinkel for a key.

TRAVEL ADVICE

“I recommend buying train tickets from the Deutsche Bahn at the counter as opposed to the internet or self-serve machines. The people are nice to you when you speak German to them and they can hook you up with sales that you wouldn’t find on the internet.”

“Buy a Bahn 50 or Bahn 25 from the DB (Deutsche Bahn) at the train station – these are train ticket discount cards. Actually, if you are staying here for a year, maybe buy both. The price you pay for the card is completely worth it - I made up the cost of my Bahn 50 in one trip, and I could have saved enough money with a Bahn 25 that it would have been worth it. Make sure to tell the DB when you leave Germany or they’ll mail you a new card the following year and bill you for it.”

“Really plan your trips – meaning look at maps, reserve hostel rooms, figure out how to get from the train station to the hostel, etc. Pick out a few places you really want to go, go to them, and spend more than a day or two there – try going outside of the cities. It’s so tempting to go everywhere but then you run out of money and get burned out. www.STA.com is really helpful and so is www.hostelworld.com. Compare train vs. plane trips – for example it was cheaper to fly to Amsterdam than take the train, however that may be different in your case.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

You will want to take a guidebook with you—perhaps one from the “Let’s Go” series, “Lonely Planet” series or a Rough Guide.

http://allabroad.us/resources.php - Contains resources to help find funding opportunities, information about making study abroad support career development, reasons to study abroad, information to support diversity in study abroad, and information about discrimination abroad.

http://www.diversityabroad.com/ - “…connects talented diverse and underrepresented students and graduates to international education and career opportunities that prepares them for leadership in an interconnected world.”

http://www.purdue.edu/cie/learning/global/toolkit/ - includes 8 modules designed to help students learn about cultural worldview frameworks, intercultural openness, intercultural empathy, and cultural self-awareness.

https://travellatina.org and @TravelLatina on Instagram


https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/lgbt.html - U.S. Government’s resource guide for travelers who identify as LGBTQ

https://baniamor.com/ - Bani Amor
Blogs, interviews, and posts that revolve around identity, place and the colonial nature of travel culture; Has a series of interviews with travelers of color and an article listing travelers of color to follow

http://matadornetwork.com/bnt/7-things-latino-travelers-understand/ - Luis Guillermo
7 Things Only Latina Travelers Understand

http://www.browngirlsfly.com/ - “A Melanin-Infused Perspective on Travel”


http://www.expatica.com/nl/moving-to/Moving-home-Reverse-culture-shock_104957.html - Article on Reverse Culture Shock

http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural_etiquette/cultural_etiquette.htm - Cultural etiquette by country

https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/6-things-wish-knew-studying-abroad-african-american - “6 Things I Wish I Knew Studying Abroad as an African American

Books


Various. *Diversity Issues in Study Abroad*, https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/special-programs/international-study/student-resources/while-abroad/diversity-while-abroad

Collection of quotes from study abroad participants from Brown University who are from historically disenfranchised communities.


**LGBTQ RESOURCES**

http://overseas.iu.edu/living/glbt.shtml - NAFSA’s Rainbow Special Interest Group’s website. Includes numerous web links and a bibliography.


https://www.outrightinternational.org/ - The Outright Action International is an association of individuals and organizations dedicated to building a free and peaceful world, respect for individual rights and liberties, and an open and competitive economic system based on voluntary exchange and free trade. They currently have members and representatives in over 100 countries.

http://studyabroad.isp.msu.edu/forms/glbt.html - Covers some of the issues a LGBTQ student may wish to research before departure.

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/index.jspa - Includes both general travel information and a special discussion section (Thorn Tree Forum) for LGBTQ travelers.