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GERMANY | FALL 2006 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION

FIRST: Ben
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CLASS: 2008
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MAJOR1: Political Science
MAJOR2: German
ABROAD: Fall 2006

PROGRAM: Georg-August Universitaet, Goettingen Germany

COURSES: U courses

COURSE_EVAL: The course work was difficult because it was in German, but I took introductory level courses so it was manageable. I only need grades for 2 out of 4 classes. Those grades are determined based on a final paper in one case. In the other case, it's based on a collection of work throughout the semester, and a final test. The Academic calendar goes from the middle of October to the Beginning of February, so that's a little inconvenient to get the Fall semester, but all of my professors have been very accommodating.

CLASS_COMP: My classes were primarily with natives. There were some Erasmus (Intra-European exchange) students, and some foreign students who were full time at Goettingen, but mostly native students.

TEACHING_EVAL: The Faculty seem very qualified and smart. On the whole they are less accessible. I've been taking mostly lecture classes, and those are similar to Amherst lecture classes. The German classes usually have one big assignment at the end of the year, so that's different.

ACADEMIC_PREP: I think that the student should have at least gotten through German 12/14. That's what I did and I am doing ok, but I still don't understand some of the lectures.

HOUSING_MEALS: I was provided with a room, and there are dining halls available for lunch where you can purchase subsidized meals and there is a kitchen in the dormitory.

HOUSE_HELP: Yes, the arrangements were provided for me by David Starr, who is the head of the program.

LIVING_COSTS: 215 Euro/month for rent 200-300 Euro for food. so around 500 Euro a month

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MEDICAL: Yes

PROG_SERVICES:

LEARN_HOST_COUNTRY: Participate in clubs or other activities. YYou don't really meet people in classes.

DISCRIMINATION: No

TRAVEL: Yeah, I got here a month before classes started, so I was able to travel then, and then also over the Christmas break

RECOMMENDATION: Yes I would. It's comparatively cheap and you get a stipend while you're here. The classes are solid, if not quite as deep as Amherst classes. And the city is solidly located.

SUMMARY: I'm not sure how it will affect my education. I think it was a unique opportunity to live here and improve my language. But I quite honestly can't tell you that it's impacted my career goals or what I want to study that much. It was great.

