

**Visit Us:**

College Hall, First Floor  
Amherst College  
Amherst MA 01002  
www.amherst.edu/~careers

**Contact Us:**

Tel: 413-542-2265  
Fax: 413-542-5790  
Box 5000 / AC# 2210  
careers@amherst.edu

---

**GERMANY | FALL 2007 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION**

FIRST: Laureen  
LAST: Wilson  
CLASS: 2009  
ACBOX#: 1876  
EMAIL: lwilson09@amherst.edu  
TEL: 4136952272  
MAJOR1: European Studies  
ABROAD\_DURING: Fall 2007

PROGRAM: Georg-August Universität Göttingen

COURSE\_#1: Introduction to Modern Linguistics  
COURSE\_#2: British Children's Classics  
COURSE\_#3: Grundzüge der englischen Sprachgeschichte (History of the English Language)  
COURSE\_#4: American Cultural Studies I  
COURSE\_#5: Einführung in die Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft [audit]  
COURSE\_#6: Zeitalter der Reformation (Germany during the Reformation) [audit]

TYPES\_OF\_COURSES: Regular university courses

EXPLANATION\_OF\_COURSES:

COMMENTS\_ON\_COURSE\_WORK: Fall/Winter semester goes from mid Oct to early Feb (ends after start of Amherst Spring semester) Classes are generally less rigorous and time-demanding than those at Amherst, although the language does add its own level of difficulty. Most classes meet only once a week. Class size varies, naturally; however, classes are on average larger than those at Amherst.

STUDENT\_BODY\_COMPOSITION: All of the classes were composed of Native students, except from British Children's Classics, which contained one other American student and two other exchange students.

COMMENTS\_ON\_TEACHING: Professors are less likely to seek you out, rather, you go to them during office hours or send emails if you have questions or problems. Professors were in general willing to listen and help their students. Classes tend to be less discussion, more lecture. Once a week meetings tend to limit the depth of discussions that do occur, as time is limited and a new topic will be covered the next week.

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE\_PREPARATION\_NEEDED: I found my German proficiency on arrival was insufficient. I had taken the equivalent of four semester of German at Amherst (01, 02, 05, 10). I would strongly recommend at least one or two more semesters of German before

**GERMANY | FALL 2007 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION**

studying abroad, as well as arriving in Göttingen early enough to take the German course available to exchange students.

DESCRIPTION\_OF\_HOUSING\_&\_MEALS: I lived in a university dorm. The room was single-occupancy efficiency: decent sized, with its own sink, toilet and shower. A bed, mattress, desk, chair, wardrobe, and bookshelf are provided. The university cafeterias are open Mon - Fri for lunch; the main cafeteria is also open for lunch on Sat. The cafeteria food is generally decent, but somewhat expensive compared to buying your own groceries. Food can be stored and prepared in the communal kitchen.

WHO\_MADE\_HOUSE/MEAL\_ARRANGEMENTS: David Starr will most likely be the one to help organize living arrangements.

LIVING\_COSTS: 400 Euros/month. (Rent is about 200)

MEDICAL\_FACILITIES\_AVAILABLE?: Yes, but I never needed medical care during my stay.

WHAT\_PROGRAM\_SERVICES\_WERE\_AVAILABLE?:

HOW\_DID\_YOU\_MEET\_LOCALS?: Interaction with fellow students, travel not only to large cities/common destinations but also to smaller/less known places in the area around Göttingen itself.

DID\_YOU\_EXPERIENCE\_DISCRIMINATION?: No.

DID\_YOU\_TRAVEL?: I had time to take several trips on my own. Excursions are not part of our exchange program, however, the Internationales Büro does offer one or two short trips during the semester.

WOULD\_YOU\_RECOMMEND\_THIS\_PROGRAM/UNIVERSITY?: I would recommend this program to students with higher level German proficiency who desire the variety and freedom that a large university can offer. Self-discipline and independence will be necessary for academic success.

SUMMARY: I had not planned to study abroad prior to being informed of the possibility in my junior years, therefore my academic and career plans are not significantly affected. However, studying abroad has caused me to rethink some of my academic priorities.

