Colgate University
Freiburg Study Group

Freiburg
Located near the borders to Switzerland and France, Freiburg is a city with a vibrant cosmopolitan air. As Europe has moved toward greater unification, Freiburg has strengthened its cultural ties to the surrounding regions across borders — Basel, to the south, Strasbourg and Alsace to the west — and has helped form the so-called “Regio,” an economic, cultural, educational union with these neighbors. This international union brings new vitality to the older charms of Freiburg — the Gothic Munster church, the towers of the old city wall, the hills of the Black Forest, and the vineyards of the Kaiserstuhl — a vitality one sees in Freiburg’s theaters, shops, museums, restaurants, institutes, pubs, and in many other facets of the city. The university — Albert-Ludwigs-Universität — was founded in 1457 and is one of Germany’s most important centers of learning. Colgate University has had a partnership with the University of Freiburg since 1988.

Studienprogramm
an der
Universität Freiburg

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg.
Photo: Mesenholl

Experiencing Switzerland during travel seminar. Photo: Baldwin
Prerequisites and Selection Criteria

Satisfactory completion of the second semester of the second year German (four semester of college German) or the permission of the director is required for participation in the Freiburg Study Group. Open to students from all academic disciplines who have sufficient German proficiency. Students will be selected based on their German language preparation and their general intellectual and personal maturity.

Academic Course and Credits

During the semester in Freiburg, students will take two courses with the Colgate director and two courses at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. The courses with the Colgate director begin with the travel period and end in mid-June. The two courses at the university in Freiburg begin in mid-April and end in mid-July. This staggered schedule allows students a full month in which they can devote their energies exclusively to the two courses they select at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität.

Students receive Colgate University credit for the courses taken in Freiburg and can then transfer these credits to their home institution.

Participating students have received credit towards many majors including Art History, Biology, Economics, German Studies, History, International Relations, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Philosophy, Music, Physics, and Political Science.

GERMAN 341: Advanced Conversation and Composition

This course addresses the needs of American students studying and living in a German environment. It focuses on the language skills needed for coping in everyday situations as well as in the unique setting of a German university. A first part is taught by the director while the group travels; a second part is taught in Freiburg by the director and tutors in accordance with the specific needs of the individual student.

GERMAN 457: German Culture and Literature

This course is designed to introduce students to the variety and complexity of German-speaking cultures.

It begins with a month-long immersive travel seminar throughout German-speaking Europe that features site-specific study and intensive advanced language learning. The travel portion of the course includes visits to cultural institutions and events, city tours, and guest lectures. It addresses historical developments and contemporary living culture from interdisciplinary German Studies perspectives to pave the way for integration into the cultural and academic life of Germany in Freiburg. As with German 341, this course has two components: the pre-semester weeks (March and April) which are devoted to travel, and the semester at Freiburg, during which regular class sessions are held.

GERMAN 400, 403 Electives Abroad

These are courses of the students’ choice at the University of Freiburg. They may be chosen from any field, the only restrictions being the prerequisites for each specific course and in some science courses, the availability of lab space.