Information for German Studies Majors
and Junior Year Abroad
in Göttingen

Amherst College Department of German
2014-15
I. INFORMATION FOR GERMAN STUDIES MAJORS

Dear German Major:

This booklet is designed to help you understand the particular departmental offerings and requirements for students who have declared a major in German.

Please feel free to discuss details of the German major with your academic advisor or the Chair of the Department of German. We also suggest that you consult the Amherst College Catalog for departmental descriptions, course offerings, honors work, study abroad, and post-graduate opportunities for fellowships in the United States and Germany.

We hope you will make use of the many opportunities to practice your German in Porter House, in the Department, at our Kaffeeklatsch get-together, and at the weekly German Table. Check out https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/german for useful information about our Department and links to interesting German Studies resources both here and abroad. And don’t forget to attend our departmental film series – you’ll be surprised by the variety and scope of German feature films, many of recent vintage.

We look forward to working with you.

The Department of German Faculty

Ute Brandes
Heidi Gilpin, Chair
Christian Rogowski
Sigrit Schütz
German Studies Major

Majoring in German can lead to a variety of careers in education, government, business, international affairs, and the arts. The German Studies Major is broadly humanistic and cross-cultural. It develops language and cultural literacy skills and provides a critical understanding of the cultural and literary traditions of the German-speaking countries: The Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The Department offers effective preparation for graduate study in German literature and language while also opening up a broad range of interdisciplinary perspectives.

Requirements

The major requires German 210 (or its equivalent), German 315 and 316 (German Cultural History), and a minimum of five further German courses. Three of these must be courses in German culture and literature, conducted in German. Majors are advised to broaden their knowledge of other European languages and cultures and to supplement their German program with courses in European history, politics, economics, and the arts.

Students who major in German Studies are expected to enroll in at least one German course per semester. The Department faculty will help majors develop individual reading lists as they prepare for a Comprehensive Examination administered during each student’s final semester.

Study Abroad

German majors are strongly encouraged to spend a summer, semester, or year of study abroad as a vital part of their undergraduate experience. The Department maintains a regular student exchange program with Göttingen University in Germany. Each year we send students to that university in exchange for two German students who serve as Language Assistants at Amherst College. Faculty can also advise you on a variety of other options for study in a German-speaking country. Please also check out the ‘Study & Work Abroad’ links on the German Department website for further program information.
Departmental Honors Program

In addition to the courses required for a *rite* degree in the major, candidates for Honors must complete German 498 and present a thesis on a topic chosen in consultation with an advisor in the Department. The aim of Honors work in German is (1) to consolidate general knowledge of the history and development of German language, culture, and history; (2) to explore a chosen subject through a more intensive program of readings and research than is possible in course work; and (3) to present material along historical or analytical lines, in the form of a scholarly thesis.

Honors students who major with a concentration in German Studies are encouraged to consult early with their faculty advisor about a possible thesis topic. Depending on the topic chosen, their thesis committee will be comprised of Amherst College German Studies faculty who may or may not invite faculty from other departments, or from the Five Colleges to participate as readers. The thesis committee will be chaired by the student’s Department of German thesis advisor.

The quality of the Honors thesis, the result of the Comprehensive Examination, together with the overall college grade average, will determine the level of Honors recommended by the Department.

Activities

The Department of German supports a variety of activities that help to increase familiarity with German culture, such as the film series, guest speakers and concerts, the German residential section in Porter House, *Kaffeeklatsch*, and a weekly German-language lunch table. Please check out our departmental website for current events.

Awards

The Department awards two prizes annually. The Consulate General Prize for Academic Achievement is given for the best paper written as part of the work in any German Department course that year. The Consulate General Prize in German Studies is awarded to a junior or senior for superior contributions to any aspect of German Studies that year.
II. STUDY ABROAD: COURSE SELECTION AND COURSE LOAD

1. General Information on Non-Amherst Study Abroad Programs

Students returning from abroad programs with other American universities will receive transfer credit directly from that institution. It is of utmost importance that students adhere to all requirements of that particular institution. Costs and conditions for other Study Abroad programs vary. We recommend consulting informational material available from the Director of International Experience and/or the other programs’ respective web sites.

2. Amherst College Student Exchange Program in Göttingen

Our Amherst-Göttingen exchange program offers direct immersion into Göttingen University courses, with local academic, administrative and social advisors ready to introduce and help students at every juncture.

The courses you consider taking at Göttingen must be selected in consultation with your German Department advisor at Amherst. Courses you consider taking for any other major credit at Amherst must be discussed in advance with your other major advisor at Amherst. You should stay in regular email contact with your major advisors. All courses will have to be documented both by an official ECTS [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System] transcript from Göttingen and by a signed and stamped document (“Schein”) issued by the respective instructor and/or department at Göttingen.

You must register officially for all courses through the University of Göttingen in order to receive the official ECTS Göttingen transcript – in a manner analogous to that used for European students who enroll at Göttingen under the “Erasmus” exchange program.

Be sure to attend the mandatory “Introduction Day” (see below, under “THINGS TO DO UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN GÖTTINGEN”). The ECTS transcript is normally obtained by talking to the “Erasmus Coordinator” within the respective discipline or department in which you are taking courses.

Each semester, you must take a minimum total of 24 ECTS credits in order to receive the equivalent of regular Amherst College credits for the semester. At least two courses per semester must receive 6 ECTS credits each. The rest can be made up of other courses, but we urge you to aim for more than 24 ECTS credits, to be on the safe side: professors in Germany may be difficult to track down after the semester ends, and it is the student’s responsibility to collect the proper documentation concerning the credit points.

As classes begin at Göttingen, in each semester, you should sample a variety of possible options. You can mix and match different categories of courses, such as Vorlesung, Übung or Proseminar, as well as Seminar or Hauptseminar. Be sure to discuss with your professors at Göttingen at the beginning of the semester what you need to do to receive a signed and stamped “Schein” to take back with you to your home institution (in addition to the ECTS transcript).
Graded work is acceptable for Amherst College credit transfer only if it has earned a grade of at least C (a grade of C- will not suffice). “Scheine” are issued on the basis of in-class tests (“Klausuren”), oral exams (“mündliche Prüfungen”), or independent research papers (“Hausarbeiten”).

Departmental Major Credit: To fulfill part of the major requirements for the Amherst College Department of German, courses taken in Göttingen must be related to the field of German Studies (i.e. German major credit may be awarded for a broad range of topics taught in German, including German literature, politics, history, film studies, or the arts.)

Up to two courses of 6 ECTS credits per semester, or three courses of 6 ECTS credits per year, may be approved for major credit. Students must stay in touch while abroad and consult with their Amherst College advisor via email about the course selection for German credit.

Students with double majors should check with their second major department about course selection and possible major credit.

College Credit: Even if not related to the German major, any successfully completed academic course in the liberal arts (grade of C or above) will be recommended for Amherst College credit.

Upon their return from Göttingen, all students, regardless of major, must submit their official ECTS Göttingen transcript, along with all of their original “Scheine,” to the Chair of the Amherst College Department of German. The Department of German faculty will then recommend to the Registrar the number of credits to be granted, normally the equivalent of eight full courses for an academic year, four per semester.

All courses taken in Göttingen will be granted “block credit” without grades attached, i.e. they will not figure into a student's grade point average listed on the Amherst College transcript.

Costs: Our arrangement with Göttingen University is generous: for the duration of their stay at that university, students are charged only half of the tuition rate for Amherst College. In 2014-15 this came to $23,860 for two semesters. Students pay for their own transportation to and from Göttingen, but they receive a modest monthly living allowance in Göttingen which covers part of their living expenses (such as fees, health insurance costs, accommodation, and food). In 2014-15 the stipend came to € 400.- a month, of which approximately € 231.- is charged for room rent. When figuring their expenses, students should add to their budget about $2,100 per semester. Normally, Amherst students on financial aid are eligible to have their financial aid package applied toward the Göttingen program. Financial aid does not cover the cost of the optional intensive German language course offered at the University. Please consult the Dean of Financial Aid and Dean of Students offices for details. Non-Amherst students must check with their home institution’s financial aid office.
III. THE AMHERST COLLEGE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM:  
GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT IN GÖTTINGEN

Amherst’s administrative advisor in Göttingen is Ms. Christiane Seack at the Foyer International. You should contact her as soon as you arrive in Göttingen. Former Amherst College TAs are available to help you get settled in. Addresses and phone numbers are listed at the end of this document.

After the Amherst College Department of German has accepted you as a participant of the program, you are assured acceptance at Göttingen University, provided you submit all the required paperwork on time.

THINGS TO DO PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

1) Schedule a consultation
   All Amherst and non-Amherst students must schedule a consultation with the Chair of the Amherst College Department of German to talk about administrative details. They will be assigned an Amherst College academic advisor for their time at the University of Göttingen. While away, they are urged to stay in close email contact with their Amherst advisor, consulting about the choice of courses and any other academic matters. In addition, non-Amherst students need to consult their home institution’s study abroad office for procedures and deadlines for study abroad.

2) Submit Declaration of Intent to Study Abroad
   Ms. Janna Behrens is the Director of International Experience at Amherst College. Amherst students must formally declare their plans to study abroad. Non-Amherst students must adhere to their college deadlines and requirements. It is very important to meet all deadlines (usually mid-March if you plan to study abroad in Fall Semester and mid-April if you plan to study abroad in Spring Semester). For Amherst College deadlines and to submit your Declaration of Intent to Study Abroad go to:
   https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/study_abroad/deadlines.
   Remember, you must declare at least one major before submitting this form - if you fail to do so, the Career Center cannot process your form. Meet with your Academic Advisor to discuss your specific plans, especially as they relate to receiving credit in your academic major(s).

3) Online registration to study at Göttingen University
   After the Amherst College Department of German has accepted you as a participant of the program, you must fill out an online registration form under the following Internet address, which is due in December if you plan to go for the second semester:
   https://immatrikulation.zvw.uni-goettingen.de/partnerships.html.
   This site is called “Online Registration for Students from Partner Institutions.”
   You will find all necessary steps for the registration procedure on this page.
In part 4 of this online registration (intensive German language class) you can indicate whether or not you want to take part in the German language course offered at the University. The fee is currently about € 500.-. (Taking this course is highly recommended but not required.) Information about the language course can be found at http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/19224.html. Please note that this page is usually updated in the fall for the following year.

After you have completed your data entry, click the “submit” button and you will receive a personal registration number on a completed printout. Print out a copy for yourself, fill in the missing information, if any (see Appendix 1), sign the document, and attach two photos. Amherst students, please bring your registration documents to the German Department office. Non-Amherst students please mail to:

Chair, Department of German
Amherst College
AC#2255, PO Box 5000
Amherst, MA 01002-5000

We will submit your registration to Christiane Seack at the International Student Services, University of Göttingen. Should you need further help with this process, please contact our department coordinator, JoAnn Lawrence, at 413-542-2312 or jlawrence@amherst.edu

4) Accommodation:
You do not need to submit a separate form for your dormitory room. The lease for your room runs from September 1 – August 31 if you stay the full academic year, or September 1 to February 28 for the first (winter) semester, and March 1 to August 31 for the second (summer) semester. This applies even if you arrive later and/or leave earlier. If you wish to reduce expenses, it is recommended that you arrange to sublet your room after the end of the second semester (in German: summer semester) – traditionally an easy option, since demand for affordable housing is high in this popular university town. Get in touch with the student housing office (Studentenwerk Göttingen) to ask for particulars about subletting your room.

5) Liability and Health Insurance
All students are insured via the University plan in Göttingen, although this does not cover any emergency return for medical treatment in the U.S. during your time abroad. If so desired, you may make arrangements for your own insurance through a U.S. provider before leaving for Germany. Be certain that your U.S. insurance company has the dates of your time abroad and that you have all of the details of coverage, before you leave the U.S. Please be prepared to provide Christiane Seack and the German authorities proof of your American health insurance coverage and its validity abroad. They may be able to have the German health insurance plan fees waived. Amherst College students may purchase the Amherst health insurance, Gallagher Koster, for their time abroad, if they are not on another plan.
6) **Talk to our current and recent TAs and previous program participants**

They will give you more information about studying and living in Göttingen. You can also check the **Study Abroad Evaluation Forms** filled out by previous program participants. Evaluations of study abroad programs are available to Amherst students online at: https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/study_abroad/evaluations

(You need to be logged in to access this information.) Non-Amherst students, please email Janna Behrens at jbehrens@amherst.edu to request this information.

7) **Passport and Visa**

Make sure your passport is valid for the entire length of your stay overseas.

**American citizens** do not have to apply ahead of time for a student visa for Germany. When in Göttingen, you apply for an *Aufenthaltsgenehmigung* (residence permit), see page 9: THINGS TO DO UPON ARRIVAL IN GÖTTINGEN. In your meeting to get your visa, you must bring a copy of your American bank account statement as well to prove you have the funds to stay in the city.

**Non-American citizens** should consult with the German Consulate in Boston, Three Copley Place, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02116, phone (617) 369 4900. Non-Amherst students should consult with the appropriate German Consulate in their college location. To process your visa you will most likely need a *Zulassungsbescheid* (confirmation of enrollment) from Göttingen University which Christiane Seack will send to you after she has received your online application (see point 1).

**Citizens of a European Union country** do not need visas.

8) **Bring 3 Passport Photos**

Before your departure to Germany, be sure to make new passport photos (at least 3 copies). You may need these for the student dormitory, and for the student ID card. It is also a good idea to scan all your important documents (such as your passport) and keep a paper and/or electronic copy.

9) **Further useful information for your arrival is available on the university website:**

http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/sh/21342.html
http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/sh/20875.html
http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/48649.html
THINGS TO DO UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN GÖTTINGEN

1) **Money for Initial Expenses**
   It is important that you bring along, or have access to, enough money to cover living expenses and other costs (such as any upfront fees, the costs for the optional language refresher course, or the room rent) for the period from your arrival in Göttingen to when you receive your first local stipend. We estimate that, depending on when you arrive and on whether you decide to enroll in a language course, this can be upwards of €1000.-. If you are on financial aid, the College may be able to help you cover these initial costs (because you can carry some, perhaps even all, of your financial aid package to Germany). Also, the College may be able to help with travel costs to Göttingen, depending on your specific financial aid arrangements.

2) **Exchange Buddy System**
   Once your online registration has been processed, the university will inform you about the Exchange Buddy System: [http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/49307.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/49307.html).
   Please use this system to arrange for a buddy to pick you up upon arrival. You will be considered an Erasmus student.

3) **Introduction Day**
   You should also time your arrival in such way that you are able to participate in one of the Introduction Days organized by Göttingen University. **It is imperative that you participate in this mandatory orientation session.** Once you have registered, the university will communicate dates and more details to you. **Participating in one of these Introduction Day sessions will allow you to complete most necessary formalities in one day.** Please note that this orientation session involves fees, which you should be prepared to pay.

   a. Bring your passport and passport photos as well as scanned or xeroxed copies. Also, be sure to bring enough money to pay the various fees listed below.

   b. You will receive your official statement that you are an exchange student (*Bescheinigung*). The orientation fee (currently about €180.-) is for your student I.D., which doubles as a rail pass for the free (!) use of local trains throughout the state of Lower Saxony.

   c. The Göttingen University International Office will collect and process your registration (*Anmeldung*) for the Town Hall (*Rathaus*) and return the document to you a couple of days later.
d. The Deutsche Bank will have a representative at the Introduction Day so that you can open a bank account right there. Note that this bank does not charge transaction fees provided you have a Bank of America account.

e. The German health insurance company will also be present so that you can get your proof of health insurance. Be prepared to show evidence of your American health insurance coverage if you wish to have the German health insurance requirement waived.

4) **Electronic Residence Permit**
Students who are not European Union citizens must get an electronic Residence Permit (*Aufenthaltserslaubnis*) from the Office of Foreign Affairs. The International Office works closely with the city of Göttingen’s Office of Foreign Affairs and will set up an individual appointment for you so that you don’t need to wait in line. There is currently a registration fee of around €100.-. Please refer to Appendix 3 for more information.

5) **Stipend**
You should have received information about your stipend from the university’s International Office prior to your arrival. Once you have your bank account number, please go and see Christiane Seack at the International Office so that your stipend is implemented. It is common in Germany to have your rent automatically withdrawn from your bank account on a regular basis. You may wish to make such an arrangement, keeping in mind that this will reduce your “cash resources.”

6) **Course Enrollment (Einschreibungsverfahren)**
Check the university’s online course catalogue. It is really important to register early and send your professors emails, showing your interest in taking a class with them. Also, visit the individual departments, because classes tend to fill up quickly. Go to: http://univz.uni-gottingen.de/qisserver/rds?state=wtree&search=1&category=veranstaltung.browse&topitem=lectures&subitem=lectureindex&breadcrumb=lectureindex for a list of all fields of study (*Studienfächer*). Our former Amherst TAs who are still in Göttingen will be able to help you if needed.
SETTLING IN – USEFUL INFORMATION:

1) Getting a mobile phone
Oftentimes you can keep your American smart phone, turn off the data plan and use the wifi feature with applications like “Skype” or “What’s App”. **If you have an iPhone, be sure to remove the sim-lock on your phone, or you will end up with a prepaid plan.** Alternately, you can buy a pre-paid phone & card package. “T-Mobile” and “O2” have stores in town (Weender Straße) and on campus (Zentralmensa). This should not cost more than € 30.00.

2) Internet access
Ask if internet access is included in the rent or ask around the dorm and find out who the internet tutor is, he or she will establish the Internet connection for you. There may be a small charge for this.

3) Getting a bike
Consider getting a bike, even though Göttingen is a very walkable city. Ask the TAs. Keep your eyes open for flyers and postings. There are cheap bike sales near the train station, in Humboldtallee and the city center. You can get a decent used bike rental and repair plan through the Bike Tutor at the Max Kade Haus. Once the plan term is over, you simply return the bike to the Bike Tutor, and get the added benefit of free repairs throughout the year.

4) Groceries
The closest grocery store to your dorm is on Annastraße, the shop is called “Rewe.” It is one block away from Kreuzbergring and Weender Landstraße. Another supermarket, “Lidl”, is further down the street from Rewe.

5) Sports
Sports in Germany are organized by clubs, not by universities. You can join a club; they will probably be more than willing to have you train and compete with them. You can also take courses with the Hochschulsportteams; they may charge a small fee per semester. Check the university sport website at http://www.sport.uni-goettingen.de.

6) Sprachpartner
There is a bulletin board located in the Sprachlehrzentrum in Goßlerstraße 10, advertising German conversation partners. It is a good idea to find one, for it can also help you meet more friends and get a better insight into German university life.

7) “O-Phase”
This is the university’s orientation week for first-year students, it typically takes place during the last week before the beginning of the winter semester. It is a good way to get to know the city, learn about local restaurants and pubs and meet new friends, as well as familiarize yourself with your academic environment. It is not obligatory, but it is a good way to get in touch with people.
LEAVING GÖTTINGEN:

1) Ask Christiane Seack about all procedures to be followed before you leave town.

2) Make sure you have your Scheine in hand and/or find out when you will receive them.

INFORMATION ABOUT GÖTTINGEN:

You can learn more about Göttingen and its university on the following websites:

http://www.uni-goettingen.de
http://www.goettingen.de/
https://www.facebook.com/georgiaaugusta

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COST OF LIVING IN GERMANY:


USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Christiane Seack – Advisor for Administrative Matters
Göttingen International
Team Studium International / Team International Student Services
Wilhelmsplatz 4
37073 Göttingen
Phone: 0551-39-12410 (within Germany)
Phone: 011-49-551-39-12410 (from USA)
Email: christiane.seack@zvw.uni-goettingen.de
Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Social Advisors and Helpers: Current and Former Teaching Assistants

Current Amherst College TAs

Roman Seebeck, TA 2014-15 Roman.Seebeck@web.de
Nadine Walter, TA 2014-15 nadine_walter@gmx.de

Former Amherst College TAs

Sabrina Hass, TA 2013-14 sabrinahass@aol.com
Lars Röwer, TA 2013-14 lroewer@gmx.de

Maren Molde, TA 2012-13 marenmolde@web.de
Nina Waschkowitz, TA 2012-13 nina.waschkowitz@gmx.de

Our TAs are familiar with all matters concerning Göttingen University and they will be glad to introduce you to their friends. Please feel free to contact them.
APPENDIX 1:
SAMPLE FORMS
Registration for students from partner institutions

Last name, first name

Registration No.: 

1. Exchange Program:

( ) Socrates/Erasmus
( ) EAP (University of California)
(X) Partner Institution
   ___Amherst Goettingen Exchange___
( ) Combra Group Student Exchange Network (Coimbra Group SEN)

2. Biographical Information

Family Name: Smith
First Name: Jane
Sex: weiblich
Titel: 
Addendum to Name: 
Date of Birth: 22.12.1986
Place of Birth: Amherst
Birth Name: 
Citizenship: USA

Home Address
Street and Number: 123 Apple Street
Extra Information (c/o, Room #, App # etc): 
Zip Code and City: 01002 Amherst, MA
Country: USA

Semester Address
Street and Number: Keefe Campus Center
Extra Information (c/o, Room #, App # etc): AC#2255
Zip Code and City: 01002 Amherst, MA
Country: USA

Communication
Telephone Home: +1 (413) 123-4567
Telephone Semester: +1 (413) 542-2312
Fax Home: n/a
Fax Semester: n/a
Cell Phone: + 1 (413) 123-4566
E-mail Address: jsmith@amherst.edu
Date of High School Leaving Exam: 01.05.2004
Country in which High School Leaving Exam was earned: USA

Subject Studied (Major): Deutsche Philologie

3. Period of Study

(X) Winter Semester 2012/13
( ) Summer Semester 2013
( ) Other Times: from ____________ to ____________.

4. Intensive German Language Class (not applicable for EAP students)

Before the semester starts several German intensive language courses are offered at different dates under the title “Getting started at university – made easy: everyday communication, academic jargon and cultural and regional studies. You will detailed information under http://www.uni-goettingen.de/studium/sommerkurs

I register for the following German intensive language course:

(X) 17. 9.2012 – 12.10.2012
( ) 11.3 2013 – 29.3.2013

Level of German: (X) medium ( ) medium to good ( ) good to very good

I will pay the fee in advance.

In order to participate in one of the intensive courses you have to additionally fill in the registration form via our course homepage http://www.uni-goettingen.de/studium/sommerkurs. Only when having filled in this second registration form as well, we can guarantee you a place in the language course.

5. Apartments

For which period will you need a room?
Please make a cross at the corresponding period:

(X) 01.09.2012 – 28.02.2013
( ) 01.09.2012 – 31.03.2013
( ) 01.09.2012 – 31.07.2013
( ) 01.09.2012 – 31.08.2013
( ) 01.09.2012 – 30.09.2013
( ) 01.10.2012 – 28.02.2013
( ) 01.10.2012 – 31.03.2013
( ) 01.10.2012 – 31.07.2013
( ) 01.10.2012 – 31.08.2013
( ) 01.10.2012 – 30.09.2013

6. Personal Statement

I herewith reconfirm that the information given is correct and complete.

X
Exchange Student’s Signature / Date
7. Nomination

This is to confirm that the applicant is nominated for the student exchange between our universities.

Exchange Coordinator’s signature: ____________________ Date: ____________________

Name/Sending university: ____________________

Phone: _____________ Fax: _______________ E-Mail: ___________________________

Raum für interne Bearbeitungsvermerke:

Programmbeauftragter der Universität:

( ) Gretel Service IO

( ) Zimmervermittlung IO
APPENDIX 3