

FAQ: What to consider when planning your trip?

➤ Accommodation

Where can I look for accommodation?

- www.freiburg.de
- www.wg-gesucht.de
- freiburg.jugendherberge-bw.de

The Language Teaching Centre does not assume any liability for these links.

➤ Visa (if required)

How do I get a visa?

- If you need a visa for the Federal Republic of Germany, please be sure to contact the responsible German Consulate or Embassy in your home country in advance. After successful registration and payment, you will receive an official invitation to the course from us, with which you can apply for a visa.
- In case you would like to travel to Switzerland (e.g. Basel, which is only 60 km from Freiburg), please find out if you need a visa from the responsible consulate or embassy of Switzerland in your home country prior to departure.

➤ Transport

How do I get to Freiburg?

- From Euro-Airport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (www.euroairport.com) you can easily reach Freiburg by bus. The schedule is available at www.freiburger-reisedienst.de.
- From Frankfurt am Main airport (www.frankfurt-airport.com) you can travel to Freiburg by train or bus. Tickets and schedules are available at www.bahn.com.

What means of transportation can I use in Freiburg?

- You can purchase a transport pass (RegioKarte) which enables you to use all buses and trams in Freiburg and the surrounding region for the whole month. www.vag-freiburg.de/tickets/monatskarten-abos/regiokarte-fuer-erwachsene
- For a student transport pass, you need a valid student ID for the university you are currently enrolled in. www.vag-freiburg.de/tickets/monatskarten-abos/rvf-jugendticketbw-regiokarte-schueler-und-kind
- Buses and trams do not operate the whole night. A taxi ride of 3 km costs around 15€.
- You can use a bicycle via the bicycle rental system "frelø". Renting a bike costs €1 for half an hour. www.frelø-freiburg.de

➤ Insurance

Will I have insurance during the course period?

- No.
- Please contact your insurance company in advance to find out about your coverage.
- As you are responsible for damage you may cause e.g. in your dormitory room, we also recommend a public liability insurance.

➤ Costs

How much money do I need for the duration of the course?

- Course participants bear all costs concerning daily life (like food, drinks, entrance fees etc.) by themselves. Here are some examples:
 - Lunch at the student canteen (Mensa): 2.00 € - 4.00 € (open Monday to Friday)
 - A meal at a restaurant: from 15.00 €
 - Monthly transport pass for trams and buses: from 50 € for students/ from 75 € for non-students
 - Entrance fee (e.g. museum): from 5.00 €
 - Full-day excursions: ca. 70 € for one excursion

➤ **Safety**

How safe is Germany?

- Germany belongs to Top 20 most peaceful countries in the world. Nevertheless, you should ensure your safety.
- Never leave personal things unattended.
- Don't walk alone through deserted streets or parks at night.

I am a bit worried that Germany might be very different from my home country.

- While attending language classes and free-time programme activities, it is easy to mix with other course participants and to find friends so that you do not feel lonely in the new environment.
- We are happy to help you with any question or concern: sommer.winter@slf.uni-freiburg.de, phone +49 761 203-8980.

➤ **Mail**

Is it possible to have my mail sent to the address of the Language Teaching Centre (SLI)?

- No.
- You can have your letters sent to a post office with the "poste restante" service: www.deutschepost.de.
- You can have your packages sent to DHL Packstations: www.dhl.de.

➤ **What to take**

Do I need my laptop for classes?

- We recommend bringing a laptop/tablet/iPad etc. to be able to complete homework, presentations, etc. needed for classes.
- There is Internet access as well as the wireless LAN in all university buildings.
- The electricity voltage in Germany is 230 V. For electronic devices (like laptop, hairdryer or camera) an adapter might be necessary.

➤ **Daily life in Germany**

What should I consider?

- You will find an up-to-date weather forecast at www.wetter.de.
- Tap water is one of the best controlled products in Germany and can be safely consumed.
- Normally, shops are open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 8 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. All shops are closed on Sunday. Petrol stations provide the most important goods 24/7.
- There are washing machines in most dormitories that can be used for a small fee (about 2 euros). Otherwise, there are also launderettes all over the city.
- German law says that you have to keep quiet from 10 pm till 6 am. This is called "Gesetzliche Nachtruhe".