

# Summer and Winter University: participant's guide

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## What do I need to do before the course?

- An online language assessment, to ensure that you will be learning in the class group matching your language level.

## What kind of assessment is it and how can I do it?

- This is an online language placement test developed by Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e. V. You will find more information about the test here: <https://www.onset.de/ueber-onset>.
- We will send you a link for the test by e-mail before courses begin.

## What do I need to know before the course?

### ➤ Before the trip

## How do I get to Freiburg?

- From Euro-Airport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg ([www.euroairport.com](http://www.euroairport.com)) you can easily reach Freiburg by bus. The schedule is available at [www.freiburger-reisedienst.de](http://www.freiburger-reisedienst.de). From Frankfurt am Main airport ([www.frankfurt-airport.de](http://www.frankfurt-airport.de)) you can travel to Freiburg by train or bus. Tickets and schedules are available at [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) and [www.goeuro.de](http://www.goeuro.de). Due to its excellent connection to the highway, Freiburg is also easy to reach by car.

## What is the weather like in Freiburg?

- You will find an up-to-date weather forecast at [www.wetter.de](http://www.wetter.de)

## Will I have insurance during the course period?

- No. As a course participant of the Summer and Winter University you are not automatically insured against illness and accidents. 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.

## How much money will I need for the duration of the course?

- The participants will have to bear all costs concerning daily life (like food, drinks, entrance fees etc.). Here are some examples:  
Lunch or dinner at the student canteen (Mensa): 1.50 € - 3.50 € (open Monday to Friday)  
A meal at a restaurant: 10.00 € - 20.00 €  
Cinema ticket: 7.00 € - 13.00 €  
Monthly transport pass for trams and buses: 42,50 € for students/ 57 € for non-students

**Will I have access to the Internet?**

- Yes. There is Internet access as well as the wireless LAN in all university buildings.
- It is prohibited by German law to download music or movie files from sources other than official, fee-based online stores (e.g. Amazon or iTunes). Violating this law can result in prosecution and heavy fines.

**I am aged 18 years or over, what does this mean in Germany?**

- In Germany the legal age is attained with the age of 18. This leads to the full responsibility, rights, and duties of an adult. You are responsible for your own actions.

**How safe is Germany?**

- Germany belongs to Top 20 most peaceful countries in the world. You can increase your own safety if you follow some general safety rules. For example, never leave personal things unattended; when leaving the room, always close windows and doors, etc.

**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. In case of questions or concerns you can always contact us at the course office to get support and guidance.

**Can I get to know other course participants before courses begin?**

- You can find us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (SLI Sprachlehrinstitut der Universität Freiburg). There you will find the groups of the Summer and Winter University. In these groups you can see who else takes part in the courses even before classes start, share experiences and pictures during the course and keep in touch afterwards.

**What else is important?**

- The electricity voltage in Germany is 230 V. For electronic devices (like laptop, hairdryer or camera) an adapter might be necessary.
- Tap water is one of the best controlled products in Germany and can be safely consumed.
- Normally, shops are open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 8 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Petrol stations provide the most important foods 24/7.

**➤ Arrival****I have arrived in Freiburg. Where do I have to go next?**

- First please come and see us at our course office. There you will receive your class schedule and further information. If you have registered for the course with room, you will receive your room key and a detailed description of how to get to the accommodation. You can then go to your room by bus or tram.

**What means of transportation can be used 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. More information on prices, network of routes and timetables can be found at [www.vag-freiburg.de](http://www.vag-freiburg.de). For a student transport pass, you need a valid student ID for the university you are currently enrolled in!
- Buses and trams do not operate the whole night. A taxi ride of 3 km costs around 15€.

**➤ During the course****What is the schedule during the Summer and Winter University?**

09:15 – 10:45	Language course in the morning: German or English	obligatory
10:45 – 11:15	Break	
11:15 – 12:45	Language course in the morning: German or English	obligatory
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch break	
14:15 – 15:45	Exercise courses and seminars in the afternoon	optional
16:00 – 17:30	Exercise courses and seminars in the afternoon	optional

### **What is offered in the afternoon programme?**

- Depending on your language level, you are welcome to attend exercise courses (beginners, A1, A2 and B1) or seminars (from language level B2). The exercise courses offer the opportunity to practise and enhance your language skills in phonetics, grammar and vocabulary. The seminars examine different current issues in the areas of cultural and social sciences such as history, literature, film, environment, politics and interculturality.

### **Will I receive a certificate at the end of the course?**

- Yes, a graded certificate will be issued to all participants at the end of the course. It will include your individual language level following the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as well as your ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- The maximum number of ECTS credits to be achieved during the course is 7:  
Language course in the morning: 4 ECTS credits for regular attendance and proof of performance  
1 exercise course or seminar: 1 ECTS credit for participation in all sessions  
Language laboratory: 1 ECTS credit for 30 hours of work
- You can be absent from the language course in the morning for maximum 3 days in order to receive a certificate with 4 ECTS credits. If you miss 4 days of class, you can only receive 3 ECTS credits. If you miss 5 and more days of class, you will not receive a certificate, but a confirmation of participation.

### **How can I spend my leisure time in Freiburg?**

- Our student tutors organise city tours, pub crawls, game and cooking nights, museums visits, as well as day trips (excursions) to places of interest in the region. On weekends we offer excursions to different destinations such as the Black Forest, the Lake of Constance, Heidelberg, France and Switzerland. Excursion fees are between 30 and 40 €.

### **Can I bring friends or relatives?**

- We are planning and organising the course activities (language course, free time activities, excursions) exclusively for the registered participants. Friends and relatives cannot attend the course activities.

## **➤ 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. Attached to this e-mail you will find an official invitation for your visa request. You will also receive the original invitation letter by post.
- 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.

## **➤ Withdrawal**

### **I have registered for the course but cannot participate. What can I do?**

- The registration is binding. In case of withdrawal from the programme up to 20 days before courses begin, 50% of the course fee and 50% of the accommodation fee can be refunded. Unfortunately, if the withdrawal is done less than 20 days before courses begin, no refund is possible. This also applies in the case of a visa refusal.