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Heidelberg – The City

Nestled in a beautiful green valley along the banks of the Neckar River, the city of Heidelberg sits calmly below its iconic sandstone castle. Once dubbed “the last possibility of the beautiful” by Mark Twain, Heidelberg today displays an atmosphere of both authentic German Romanticism and youthful modernity. The bustling city center, with its many shops and restaurants, is home to one of the longest pedestrian zones in Europe, while the adjoining alleys give way to the unbridled charm of the old town district and its friendly cafés.

Whether you are enjoying the liveliness of University Square or taking a quiet stroll through the lavish castle gardens, Heidelberg invites you to experience its unique and enchanting atmosphere. Gracefully avoiding the pitfalls of larger cities, it strikes a harmonious balance between the dynamic bustle of modern life and the dignified ease of a historic European city. The rich cultural offerings and convenient geographic location round off the experience to create an ideal destination for those seeking a truly memorable stay in Germany.

Discovering Germany – Exploring Europe



transportation system, as well as the short distances to major airports make it an ideal home base for travel on weekends, holidays, and during the two-month semester break.

Among the highlights of the program are the many travel opportunities, including AJY sponsored excursions. The program plans field trips to places such as the Black Forest; Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament; the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart; Germany's financial capital and Goethe's birthplace, Frankfurt am Main; The birth house of Johann Sebastian Bach in Eisenach; Classical Weimar, and others. In addition, students may use their AJY “culture coupons” to participate in excursions organized by the International Office, Universität Heidelberg. The program also provides students with a German Rail pass in order to further encourage individual travel throughout Germany. Popular destinations include Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, as well as the border towns of Salzburg, Austria and Basel, Switzerland. Heidelberg's central location within Europe, its excellent public

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

A Study Abroad Program in Germany since 1958

Home Campus
HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY
Tiffin, OH, USA



Summer Program in German & European Studies

During our six-week summer program, students enjoy homestay placements with German families and instruction by university faculty. Language courses are supplemented by seminars on Contemporary Culture, Politics and Economics in Germany and Europe. Students will earn nine credits.



Heidelberg for all Seasons

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University (AJY) was founded in 1958 by Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio in cooperation with Universität Heidelberg, Germany.

AJY Students are enrolled full-time at Universität Heidelberg for the:

- Full Year (September to July),
- Fall semester (September to December), or
- Spring semester (March to July).

Additionally, AJY offers a six-week Summer Program (late May to early July).



Student Life

Housing, Meals, and Transportation

Students occupy single rooms in one of the many dormitories located throughout Heidelberg. Kitchen and bath facilities are usually shared with German and other international students.

The five University cafeterias offer reasonably priced meals at all hours of the day. There are also a number of smaller eateries in the city center catering to students as well as weekly farmer's markets.

Heidelberg is a "green" city and has an excellent public transportation system, a pass for which is provided by the program. In addition, the nearly ubiquitous bicycle paths throughout the city provide an easy means of transportation and are very popular among students.

AJY Study Center

Located in the heart of the city on Heidelberg's famous University Square, our study center is open daily between 7 am and 11 pm.

Beyond housing classrooms and offices, the center provides various amenities to students, including a lounge with German language TV, DVDs, newspapers and magazines, a fully equipped computer lab as well as a small kitchen. Wi-Fi is available in all areas of the center.

In commitment to our high academic standards, a German-only rule is observed at the study center.

Program Staff

At AJY, we pride ourselves on the close relations we establish with students. Our program staff is committed to providing high quality and personalized

services across the full spectrum of academic and non-academic issues. Whether advising on choosing and registering for courses, organizing field trips and cultural activities, or making arrangements for extracurricular involvement, our program coordinators are always available and ready to help.

Language Partners

Students have the opportunity to be matched with peers from Universität Heidelberg for the purpose of improving their German. This language partnership enables both the American and German students to converse informally in their target language, and AJY will typically host informal events for language partners during the semester.

For interested students, the program can also arrange a short-term homestay with a German host family to allow for even greater immersion into German society.

Extracurricular Activities

Universität Heidelberg offers countless opportunities for extracurricular involvement: A sports complex, theater and music groups, as well as associations such as debate club or Model United Nations allow students to practice German while pursuing their interests and making new friends. Many students also choose to involve themselves in the local community via sports teams, volunteer work, or religious organizations.

AJY encourages its students to take advantage of these opportunities and is happy to help make arrangements.



Universität Heidelberg

Founded in 1386, Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university. Consistently ranked among the top three of German universities, it is one of the few federally recognized 'elite' schools in the country and home to a number of Nobel laureates. Furthermore, the University's excellent reputation has attracted multiple world-class institutions and firms to the city in such diverse areas as Medicine, Physics, Software, and Finance.

Approximately 30,000 students are currently enrolled at Universität Heidelberg, including 5,000 international students.

Coursework at the University

Students may choose freely among the full range of courses offered by the university once they have passed the language proficiency exam. Popular departments include, for example, Economics, History, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Transcultural Studies.

Universität Heidelberg offers language courses for international students at the intermediate and advanced levels, and many students take a major portion of their coursework in the areas of German Language, Literature, and German Studies. A sample course catalog is available on our website.

Virtually all courses at the university are taught in German. Most students earn between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester. The program staff assists students in identifying and registering for courses suitable to their German language abilities and in accordance with their home campus requirements.

Courses at the AJY Study Center

To ensure a smooth transition to Germany, AJY offers a preliminary course on aspects of contemporary German society and culture. This course takes place before the start of the semester and also serves as a language refresher.

During the semester, courses at the study center include topics such as German literature, international business, and advanced reading and composition.

Tutorials

The program arranges weekly tutorials for students enrolled in lecture courses at the university. These serve to review subject matter from the lectures, discuss readings, and assist students in preparing for their final exam or in researching their term paper.

Internships

AJY offers a number of internships through various partner institutions. These run concurrently with the semester at Universität Heidelberg. Students spend eight hours per week at their host institution and complete a term paper at the end of the internship.

Transcript

Essentially all courses are taken for academic credit, including the tutorials and internships. At the end of each semester, the student's home university receives an official transcript from the Registrar at Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio. The transcript lists all course titles in English, the number of semester hours of credit earned, as well as letter grades corresponding to the US grading system.



Eligibility and Admissions

Students must have junior status (or second-semester sophomore standing with strong SAT or ACT scores) and at least four semesters of German. While there is no minimum GPA and all applications are reviewed holistically, the average GPA among recently admitted students has been 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Above all, we are looking for students with a solid foundation in German, maturity and an earnest motivation to study abroad.

Application deadlines: April 1 (Fall semester/full academic year) and October 1 (Spring semester).

- Health, travel, liability, medical evacuation and repatriation insurance
- Public transportation pass for Heidelberg and the surrounding area
- A German Rail Pass for train travel within Germany
- All Universität Heidelberg tuition and fees
- Instruction at the study center and use of its facilities
- Placement in AJY internships (competitive)
- All study trips and excursions sponsored by the program
- Cultural events and AJY culture coupons
- Official transcript

Program Fees

For current information on program fees and policies, housing costs, and estimated expenses, please visit our website. The program fee currently includes:

- Pre-departure information
- Airport group transfer service upon arrival
- On-site orientation and academic advising
- Residence permit

Financial Aid

Students should contact the financial aid office at their home institution. For additional information on scholarships, please consult the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at www.daad.org and the Institute of International Education (www.iie.org/gilman). Each semester, AJY also offers a small number of office assistantships.

