

ACU in GERMANY

Pre-Departure Guide

www.acu.edu/studyabroad



Preparing to Travel

Be sure to have photocopies of the personal data page of your passport and credit cards packed separately from the items themselves. Also leave copies of these with someone in the U.S.

Do not forget your passport. Without it, you cannot board the plane at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Suggested Packing List

Clothing

- One or two nice outfits (for evening excursions or events)
- One or two pairs of dress pants/khakis
- Six long-sleeved shirts
- Four short-sleeved shirts
- A couple of sweaters and/or sweatshirts (you may want to buy a sweater or two while there)
- Two or three pairs of jeans
- Two pairs of appropriate shorts for warmer weather
- Shower shoes and house shoes (slippers)
- Sandals/flip-flops
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sweats (two changes: one for working out in the cold and one for warm weather)
- Winter coat (best to use layers)
- Thermal underwear
- Rain jacket with hood
- Scarf, gloves, and hat/cap
- Heavy-duty umbrella
- Washcloths (1 towel is provided)
- Two weeks of underwear, socks and anything else worn daily (When packing, consider the cost of laundry – approximately €4 for two loads of washing and drying.)

Toiletries (All of these items can be purchased in Leipzig.)

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Contact lens solution
- Razors

School Supplies

- Pens/pencils/paper
- Folder/binder
- External data storage (flash drive) for computer
- Bible
- Textbooks
- Notebooks/Notecards

Miscellaneous (Most of these items can be purchased in Leipzig.)

- Medications and prescriptions
- Batteries
- Alarm clock or travel alarm
- Flashlight
- One bed sheet (recommended when traveling/hostels)
- Pictures from home
- Journal
- Backpack for traveling
- Earplugs
- Camera

- iPod
- Cards, games, videos, books for leisure
- Adapter/converter
- Bathing suit

Most things can be purchased in Germany, but prices may be higher than the U.S. Also, a good tip for packing is to set out what you'd like to bring, then put back half of it – you need less than you think you do!

You may want to itemize the contents of your baggage for insurance purposes in the unlikely case that your bags are lost. Remember, if you buy anything there you will need room to take it home with you.

Here are some average temperatures:

| Months | °Fahrenheit |
|--------------------|-------------|
| September-December | 40-65 |
| January-March | 40-50 |
| April-June | 58-72 |
| July-September | 65-76 |

Flight Information

Carry-On Luggage and Checked Baggage

As baggage allowances change frequently, please see the website of the airline on which you will be traveling for the most up to date information.

Financial Matters

Airline Tickets

A student wishing to deviate on the return may be able to do so for a deviation fee. Students are not allowed to change the destination(s) or flight number(s) of their return flight(s), but may change the date, provided there are seats available on the desired return date and there are no restrictions on the type of ticket originally purchased. Students should make plans as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. Deviation requests should be directed to the study abroad coordinator and subsequently to the travel agent.

Bank/Debit Cards

You will be responsible for all of your personal expenses, so please plan ahead.

You will be able to access money (in euro banknotes) from your U.S. bank account via ATM machines (“Geldautomat” in German) throughout Europe, and ATMs are almost always the best way to get the most favorable foreign exchange rate. In Leipzig, there are numerous ATMs, including one in the same building as

the apartments where you will be staying. Most ATM cards used in the U.S. will work on European ATMs.

A credit card can serve as a good backup when it comes to your finances while abroad. However, while most large department stores in Germany will accept credit cards, many smaller stores, grocery stores and restaurants do not. To avoid unpleasant surprises come payment time, make sure that you check or ask before you shop or order.

While you might want to bring some U.S. dollars (in cash) with you to serve as an emergency fund, exchanging money in European cities is generally inconvenient. It's best to plan on accessing your funds via ATMs.

Meal Plan

You will be charged the equivalent of 21 meals/week for the semester you are in Germany. In five instalments throughout the semester, 100% of that meal plan money will be transferred back into your personal bank account, and you will be responsible for all of your meals, either cooking in the kitchens in your flat or eating out. Generally, students can save money by shopping at a local grocery store and limiting the number of times they eat out.

You will be required to provide a Bank Information Form with bank details and authorization to transfer the funds to your bank account. These forms will be handed out during the orientation meetings in Abilene. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the ACU Study Abroad office.

Living in Leipzig

Faculty and Program Supervisors

During your stay, you will be under the direction and care of the faculty and on-site directors. Let them know immediately if any problems arise so they can help resolve them promptly.

The high quality of the ACU Study Abroad program is partly due to the outstanding faculty who teach and lead students through this experience. In addition, those individuals responsible for maintaining the housing facility are crucial to the success of the program, and their hard work should be appreciated.

All disciplinary action will be handled by the appropriate personnel on site who will be in touch with

representatives on ACU's campus if necessary. Please refer to the form entitled "Behavior Contract" which you submitted with your application and the ACU Student Handbook for more information.

Spiritual Opportunities

While in Leipzig, you will have the opportunity to be blessed and bless others with the Christian fellowship you will share with the students, faculty and the people of Germany. You will discover many opportunities for Christian service. You also will have the opportunity to educate yourself about the beliefs of others. This is part of your study abroad experience and will help you develop your own Christian worldview. We will also worship together as an ACU community at least once a week.

English language services are available every Sunday morning and evening at the Leipzig English Church (<http://leipzig-english-church.de/>), a non-denominational Protestant church in the community. It is a great place to meet German and international college students who also speak English.

You will find numerous German language churches in Leipzig. One to consider visiting on a Sunday morning is the Nikolaikirche - St. Nicholas' Church (www.nikolaikirche-leipzig.de/), with its world famous organ. This church played a seminal role in the Peaceful Revolution and collapse of the Iron Curtain.

Getting around in Leipzig

Leipzig has an excellent tram and bus network (www.lvb.de). Almost any point in the city can be reached from any other point in less than 30 minutes. As a part of your program fee, you will be provided with a network pass for each month you are in Leipzig. Please note that if you lose your transit pass you will have to purchase another one at your own expense, as these passes will be used nearly every day for program-related excursions.

Living Arrangements

You will be staying in modern, spacious, loft conversion apartments in the Plagwitz neighborhood of Leipzig, about a 10-minute tram ride from the city center. All flats come equipped with full kitchens including a microwave, utensils, a coffee maker, etc., as well as a TV with cable access (mostly German stations, as you would expect). All flats have at least one full bathroom. Bed linens are provided. Please note that you will have 1-3 roommates, depending on the size of the flat.

For more information, please visit the website: www.apartment-leipzig.de/en/trinom/home/ and click on “Elsterlofts.”

You are responsible for your flat and room. Damage to the flat during the course of the program must be reported to the on-site director immediately. The cost of repairing any damage will be billed to the responsible student’s ACU account upon receipt of the invoice from the property management company in Leipzig. If responsibility cannot be determined, the cost will be divided equally among all occupants of the room. Failure to complete the departure checkout procedures, as specified on-site, may result in additional charges to your ACU account.

We highly recommend that you keep your flat locked when away from the building. ACU bears no responsibility for personal items left anywhere in the flats. ACU reserves the right to inspect rooms at any time to ensure the safety of the students in the program.

Admission of Non-ACU Guests

Unless approved in advance by the on-site director, non-ACU study abroad guests are not allowed in the Elsterloft apartments at any time. Should a “guest” enter a student flat, the student who admitted the “guest” into the building will be responsible for the infraction. This is a serious offense, and severe consequences may result.

Receiving Mail

If you wish to receive mail, please ask family and friends to use the following address:

Attn: Student Name
c/o Trinom Businessapartments GmbH #____
(wait until you know what Apt. # you will be in)
Nonnesstraße 21-21a
04229 Leipzig
GERMANY

Sending large packages is discouraged. And please note that if a package arrives after you have departed for home, it will not be forwarded to you.

Internet Access

There is no computer lab in Leipzig, so please bring your own laptop if you have one. If you are interested in obtaining one for the trip, the ACU Study Abroad office has a limited number of laptops available for

checkout through Team 55. There is a charge for the semester (including the cost of insurance). You must return the computer to the Abilene campus at the termination of the program.

Each apartment has one Ethernet cable connection, as well as wireless access, which will be shared with your other flat-mates. So while you will have plenty of time for essential on-line activities, your ability to surf away for hours at a time may be limited. If you need more internet time, there are several inexpensive internet cafes in the city center.

Telephone Use

There is a telephone connection in each flat. However, if you want to be able to be reached by phone at any time, it is recommended that you buy a mobile phone when you arrive in Germany. Pay-as-you-go phones can be purchased for approximately €25 at many places in Leipzig, and these places will be pointed out to you on the first day orientation in Leipzig. Another alternative would be to bring an unlocked GSM phone from the US, and then purchasing a German SIM card.

Among other things, one of the advantages of mobile phones on European networks is that all incoming calls (calls to your phone) are free to you, as long as you are on a GSM network.

If your current mobile phone will provide you with service in Europe, it is highly recommended that you check with your service provider as to costs, and what types of plan alternatives may be available to you while you are abroad.

If you have an iPhone, make sure you have downloaded the Skype application for iPhone before you leave the U.S. Test the application before you leave for Germany to make sure that it’s working.

We suggest using Skype to communicate with family and friends over the internet. Skype allows you to make video calls as well, but you should keep this to a minimum to conserve bandwidth. Be aware that you can also call a telephone number in the U.S. from your computer by purchasing Skype Credit; this is the cheapest way to make international phone calls.

Individual Travel

ACU Study Abroad provides the ideal context for experiential learning. Travel is an essential element of that kind of experience. However, due to concerns

related to individual safety while in unfamiliar settings and situations, the following guidelines must be followed during individual travel:

1. Students are encouraged to make day trips alone throughout Leipzig and the state of Saxony. There is much to see in the local area and it would be a pity to spend an entire semester in Germany and travel each weekend to faraway places while ignoring the fascinating place where they live.
2. Students who travel outside the Leipzig area are required to travel in groups of two or more – but **no male/female pairs**. Occasional exceptions may be made when students are traveling to join family members who are in Germany or Europe on vacation, etc. Students are encouraged to begin with nearby sites and places before taking longer trips.
3. When traveling outside the Leipzig area, students must sign out before departure, providing details regarding where they will stay and contact information.
4. Prior to your individual travel, all travel arrangements to and from Leipzig should be discussed with the on-site director to ensure your safety and efficient travel.
5. You will not be released from classes or course related excursions early, in order to facilitate your own personal travel plans – no exceptions.

Additional specific information will be presented during on-site orientation.

Safety

The safety of students and personnel is a primary concern of the Study Abroad programs at Abilene Christian University. Safety issues for the entire group (students, faculty, any children present, staff, etc.) are always a matter of concern for everyone involved. While on an ACU Study Abroad program, life is truly lived in community, and everyone has to be sensitive to each other and watch out for each other. Therefore, ACU Study Abroad has set a curfew of midnight on nights before class days and 2 a.m. on nights before non-class days.

Leipzig is considered a safe city with many places to shop, beautiful parks to visit and opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Students should remember when they are traveling not to invite any street crime such as petty theft, pick-pocketing, etc.

When you arrive in Leipzig, familiarize yourself with the city map, pay attention to the on-site orientation and use common sense when traveling about.

Emergency Contacts

Emergency Calls in Germany:

Police 110

Fire 112

Emergency Medical Service 112

Medical Emergency Center:

University Hospitals (Universitätsklinikum)

Liebigstraße 20 (Entrance: Paul-List-Straße)

Telephone 0341 97-17800 or 97-17801

Academic Matters

Students have full access to ACU's library online, in addition to numerous resources available in the ACU apartments.

Students should be able to register online while in Oxford for the next semester.

It is your responsibility as a student to make sure you do not have a hold on your account. You should work with your advisor before you leave for Germany as well as during the semester abroad to make registering while abroad a smooth process.

Contact Information

Please keep in mind that the information in this handout is meant to offer general guidelines only and is subject to change. Additional details will be provided during extensive on-site orientation once you arrive in Germany. If you have questions about the materials provided in this packet, please contact the ACU Study Abroad office:

Visit: Admin. Bldg. 124

Email: study_abroad@acu.edu

Call: 325.674.2754