

Tips, Information & Suggestions for Students Studying in Freiburg, Germany Summer 2008

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Resident Director, Freiburg, 2008**



The information is provided to assist students in making their plans for attending and participating in the study abroad program in Germany in Summer 2008. Stetson University College of Law is not responsible for changes in rates, schedules, dates or other facts contained herein or on the websites listed.

GETTING TO FREIBURG FROM FRANKFURT AIRPORT

Step by step from Frankfurt:

Frankfurt to Freiburg – Depending upon the terminal in which you land your directions will be a little different. However, in general you need to go to baggage claim and then exit through customs. Then the fun begins ... Most signs for the train station are in English and German; look for either Train Travel Center, Bahnhof or a red DB (the symbol for Deutsche Bahn). One will have to go downstairs to the travel office and buy a ticket to Freiburg Hauptbahnhof (there is also a money exchange office right next to the travel office). The ticket you should ask for is on an ICE train and should cost approximately 50 euros. Once the ticket is bought, you must find the track, or *gleis*, from which it departs; normally Gleis 5. Ask what direction, or *richtung*, your train will be going in; normally the end stop in this direction is Basel. Also, there is no direct train to Freiburg; you will have to change trains in Mannheim, the first stop once you depart Frankfurt.

Arrival in Freiburg Breisgau's Hauptbahnhof will be on Gleis 3 from Frankfurt. Go downstairs and towards the front door of the train station. Once at the front door, walk out to your left and the taxi stand will be there with taxis waiting to take you to your final destination. If you do not want to take a taxi, which costs approximately 12 euros, and you think you are able to juggle all your luggage, you may also take a tram to the hotel. Instead of going downstairs upon disembarking the train, walk to the right and go up the stairs or escalator to the street tram. You will take the #1 Tram going in the left direction, i.e. to Littenweiler which will be printed on the front of the tram, over the top of the driver. Gasthaus Schuetzen's stop will be Mariahilfskirche. After leaving the tram, you must cross the road as the hotel will be on the right hand side of the road, across from the Shell gas station.



Right: The sign one sees arriving at Freiburg Hbf.



Left: looking at Freiburg Hbf.

Traveling in Freiburg:

The trams are the most convenient way to travel in Freiburg. To ride the trams, travelers purchase a ticket from the ticket machine on the tram, costing approximately 2 euros per trip. To save money, participants will probably want to buy a month long Strassenbahn card. It is good for all the trams, buses and local trains. More information about transportation can be found on page 5. Below is the link for the map to the strassenbahn (sbahn): <http://www.vag-freiburg.de/fahrplanservice/downloads/liniennetz.pdf>.



STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Student Accommodations are provided at:

Hotel Gasthaus Schutzen

Schutzenallee 12
79102 Freiburg, Germany
Tel:011+(49)(705) 705990
Fax: 011+(49)(705) 705991
<http://www.schuetzen-freiburg.de/>

Check-in: Sunday July 6, 2008

Check-out by: Saturday, August 2, 2008

(Unless you have made other arrangements with the hotel.)

Directions

1. Taxi from Hauptbahnhof to Gasthaus Schuetzen approximately 12 Euro. This would probably be ideal after a long trip and with lots of luggage.
2. Take the number one tram in the direction of Littenweiler to Mariahilfskirche. There is a Shell gas station across the street.

Internet

There is wireless internet in the Schutzen.

Phone

Each hotel room will have a phone; students will be responsible for any phone charges charged to their room. Students can buy an international phone card, which are available to purchase in cell phone shops in the Old City.

If you bring your own laptop, the best suggestion is to create a Skype account and have a head set for use with your laptop. A Skype account is very inexpensive and can be used from the hotel rooms. Students can also buy a SIM card to use in their cell phones; if you prefer this option, you are responsible for making sure your cell phone works on the European cell network; pay-as-you-go cell phones do not work on the European network. More information can be found on page 6, below.

Food

A typical German breakfast (i.e. cereal, cold cuts, rolls, and fruit) will be provided at the Schutzen. For lunch, students will be able to purchase a Mensa card and put money on the card to pay for food bought in the school cafeteria. Dinner is the sole responsibility of the students; the Schutzen has a restaurant and bar on the ground floor and provides a discount on food only for the summer abroad participants staying at the Schutzen.

FOOD AND SHOPPING

The Schutzen does not provide a kitchen or refrigerator for student to prepare or keep meals. So grocery shopping will be mainly for drinks, snacks, non-perishable food items, or pre-made meals.

Grocery shopping (Einkaufen):

One tram stop away from the Schutzen (traveling in the direction of Littenweiler), and within easy walking distance, is a shopping mall that hosts two grocery stores. There is also an organic grocery store in downtown Freiburg. Edeka and Mini-Mal are small grocery stores that have several locations. In addition, there are Aldi's, Treff Discount and Penny Markt that are cheaper, however, with a more limited selection. There are also daily markets around the Munster Platz (the Cathedral) in the city center that generally run from 8am to 1pm and are best on Saturdays.

When grocery shopping, bring a backpack or a 1 € coin to buy a bag for groceries; the stores do not provide bags but rather sell them. To get a cart (Einkaufswagen) one must insert a 1 € coin that is returned when the cart is returned. In some stores, when one buys fruits and vegetables, they must be weighed and the sticker stuck on the bag before going to the check-out counter. Otherwise, the clerk will not know how much to charge you (and will be rather sour) and you will have to go back and weigh your produce.

German grocery stores close at 8pm Monday-Friday, at 6pm on Saturday and are closed all day Sunday. In the event that you get caught with nothing to eat on Sunday, you need to go out for dinner or make a trek to the tunnel under the train station where there is an expensive grocery store open on Sundays and Holidays. This also goes for other cities in Europe; there is normally always a grocery store open in the main train station.

Shopping for other things:

Shopping in Freiburg has many possibilities. The first major shopping area in the city is the Altstadt (Old City). These shops are centered around Kaiser Joseph Str. but stretch onto many other streets as well. The major department stores are Kaufhof and Karstadt.

The Mensa: (university cafeteria)

The University offers lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday at the Mensa (dining hall). For Lunch, this is one of your cheapest alternatives during the week. Generally, students put money on their student ID and use that to pay. As a guest, you will be able to purchase a guest Mensa card for 7 euros, put money on it, and then return it for the 7 euros before you leave. The mensa card can be bought at the "Service Point" office on the second floor of the Mensa building.

As a student, a bowl of soup costs 1.50 euros while a full meal costs between 5 and 7 euros. There is also a salad bar which costs about .60 € per 100 grams of salad and a Bistro where different items are cooked to serve (this meal is also weighed to establish the price).

Inexpensive Restaurants:

There are many inexpensive restaurants in and around the city. Some do special deals in different months. The best bet is to look at the menu card posted outside the restaurant to decide if it is within your budget or not. There are also Turkish Donar Kebab's located around the city which are quite cheap and offer items similar to Gyro's. Generally, Italian restaurants offer inexpensive pizza as well. Finally, if one is craving "American" food, there is a McDonalds, Burger King, and Subway in the Old City.

Healthcare:

The healthcare system in Germany will probably be quite different than what you are used to. Remember to bring extra prescribed medications! All medications besides vitamins, can only be purchased at an *Apotheke* (pharmacy), and not a Drogerie. Only one Apotheke is open in Freiburg on nights and weekends, while they are all open on weekdays during normal business hours. To figure out which Apotheke to go to after hours you can either look on the front window of any Apotheke or go to www.apotheke.de and click on Apotheken-Notdienst, you can search by post code.

In case of medical emergency, you can dial 110 from any telephone to reach the police (*polizei*) or (0761)19222 to call an ambulance (Rettungswagen). Dial 112 for the fire department (*Feuerwehr*). Also, there is an urgent care center (Notfallpraxis # 8099800) on Robert-Koch Str. 1 which is very close to the University hospital or "Klinikum" (tram # 4 to Friedrich-Ebert Platz). If you are sick on the weekend or on holidays and do not want to go to the emergency room, you can go there. The doctors are there every evening from 8 pm to 8 am and on weekend and holidays when doctors practices are closed. To find out which dentist is on night duty call DRK (German Red Cross) 0761-885-0831 and ask for Zahnarztlicher Notdienst.

TRANSPORTATION

There are a couple different options for transport. I believe the best to be a Regio-Karte which will allow the user to go anywhere in the region for a month. The card costs 39.50 or 44 € (depending on one's age). There are also a couple other options that can be looked at on <http://www.vag-freiburg.de/tickets.html>, but the monthly card is recommended.

Public Transportation (VAG office: Salzstrasse, at Bertoldsbrunnen) (prices in Euros)

One-way Ticket for adult	2.00
2x4 ticket (8 one way trips)	15.00
Regiocard 24hr region card	5.00
Regiokarte	39.50 or 44.00 is over 26 years of age

Some prices may be a little higher in some circumstances as the pricing structure has recently changed.

Interrail or Eurorail Tickets

Eurorail passes may be bought at <http://www.eurail.com/>. People under the age of 26 may get a discounted price. Usually the flexible passes (i.e. multi-day and multi-country passes) are the best as you will only be traveling on your free weekends. Please keep in mind that the train ticket from Frankfurt to Freiburg will cost over 50 both ways. Thus, one might choose to buy a Eurorail pass instead and put that approximately 100 towards the price of the pass. Then one would not have to buy a train ticket on arrival as the pass could be used instead.

Trains:

When more than one person travels together on the train, they can buy the ticket together and get a discount. There is also a ticket called a Baden-Wurtemberg (Bundesland of Freiburg) Ticket that costs 21€ on which up to 5 people can travel anywhere in the entire transport system of Baden-Wurtemberg

Bicycles:

Bicycles can be rented or bought. There is a bike rental place cattycorner from the end streetcar stop by the PH. They charge approximately 5 Euros per day.

MISCELLANEOUS

Culture Shock:

While you are no doubt prepared for Germany to be different from the U.S., you may not be aware that Americans do often suffer what is called "culture shock" on arrival. Germany differs greatly from the U.S. in such areas as class structure, attitudes to service, and standard of living. Therefore, the quality of accommodation(s), gender attitudes, etc. is quite different than in the U.S., so it is essential that you prepare yourself mentally for the fact that you are going to a foreign country, and not just a smaller version of the U.S. The way to deal with these differences is to be prepared for them, learn about them, and to try to be as open minded as possible about everything you encounter. It will help you to read about Freiburg before you leave. Familiarize yourself with the geography and the population statistics.

Conversations:

Conversations in Germany can be more or less formal than in the States. When referring to Professors or shopkeepers or anyone generally of an older generation than you one should use the formal "Sie" instead of "du". Only, if the older person says to you that you should refer to them as "du" should you use this form.

Entertainment:

There are a number of theaters in Freiburg, some of which show movies in the English-language. Most theaters are easy to find. The largest, and at the same time most mainstream, is on Bertoldstr,

(Cinemaxx), in between the Uni and the Hauptbahnhof. There are also a couple of smaller cinemas in Freiburg which show the mainstream stuff and some alternative movies. One is on Kaiser-Josef-Str. (Friedrichsbau) just past the Martinstor and one on Grunwalderstr (Harmonie) right off Kaiser-Joseph-Str.

Nightlife:

Freiburg has a huge nightlife thanks to the University crowd. The StuSie Bar is in a large student complex that has parties regularly. To get there, you must take the # 1 in the direction of Lasswasser and exit at am Bischofscreuz. Waldsee is a place with alternative music that is not too far away from the Pädagogische Hochschule (PH) [where classes will be held] and is located behind the Stadthalle.

There are also a number of good bars in the city and Irish pubs where normally everyone can speak English. Over the city on Schlossberg is a beer garden where one can drink a beer and look out on the city landscape.

Sports:

Freiburg has a soccer team that plays in the Bundesliga and tickets are not that hard to come by. The Stadium is on the Dreisam River in the direction of the PH. There is also a sport-uni complex where people can join in a variety of different pick up games (i.e. basketball, soccer...).

Internet:

You will be given a user name and pin number after arrival in order to use the PH computers. There is a computer lab located in the Mensa building called "3W Café." Printing at the PH's computers labs cost ½ Euro (€) cent per page (which is approximately just under one U.S. cent).

If you prefer to use your own laptop at the PH, you must also download provided software in order to connect to the PH's wireless internet. There are no internet cable hook-ups in the classrooms, but wireless is provided.

Phones:

The best bet is to buy a phone card. One example is a "GO Bananas" phone card. One can use this phone card from a regular house phone or pay phone to call the US; however, it is considerably more expensive to use a pay phone.

Cell phones: If you want a German number, you must buy a SIM card from a cell phone provider. They are about 20 euros and come with a 10 euro credit. Cards for recharging the credit can be bought at most tobacco stores.

Home Bank & Credit Cards:

If you plan on using your ATM/debit card abroad, you need to inform your bank of the dates and countries you will be traveling to. Likewise, if you plan on using your credit card(s), you also need to notify you're your credit card companies of the same. Otherwise, you may not be able to withdraw money or charge items while you are traveling.

Classrooms:

The classrooms are located in the PH. There will be plenty of seating provided, but there are limited plugs for personal laptop's power supplies. Also remember that an adapter is needed to be able to plug your American plug into the German outlets. Here is a link to the PH map:

<http://www.ph-freiburg.de/zentral/hochschule/campus/anschrift.htm>

WHAT TO PACK

Try not to over pack. Check with your airline for your luggage weight limit, as it is expensive to pay for excess baggage. There are laundry services available and inexpensive laundromats.

All your medications. Carry all medication in your carry on luggage.

Basic classroom supplies (legal pads, pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.)

Battery-operated alarm clock to get you up for class!

Business attire. You will visit courtrooms and meet local attorneys.

Casual clothes to wear in the classroom.

Comfortable walking shoes. You will be doing much more walking in Freiburg than you do at home.
Waterproof or leather shoes.

Copies of your passport and plane ticket and kept separately in a safe place.

Electric adapter, transformer, converter, and/or batteries to use your electric appliances in Freiburg.

Glasses and/or contacts and a spare pair and/or your prescription in case you need to replace them.

International Student ID Card (ISIC) card and Emergency Contact card.

Light jacket/raincoat, or ideally a raincoat with a zip out lining.

Light sweater. The weather can get chilly (50 – 60F daily highs) in Freiburg.

Money belt or waist bag for your money and valuables.

Pack a change of clothes in carry on luggage in case of luggage delay.

Phone card. Make sure it is an international phone card, that can be used abroad to call back to the United States.

Pocket calculator for quick currency conversions.

Toiletries (travel kit). Important: If you pack your toiletries in your carry-on baggage, the airport requires that you pack them in no larger than 3 oz. plastic containers. You can buy more toiletries in Freiburg.

Umbrella – small travel size (or wait and buy one when you get there).

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

Office of Graduate & Int'l Programs
Associate Dean John Cooper

Address: 1401 61st Street South
Gulfport, FL 33707

Phone: (727) 562-7849 or (727) 562-7857
Fax: (727) 231-0723

E-mail: cooper@law.stetson.edu
international@law.stetson.edu

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN FRANKFURT

Address: Gießener Str. 30
60435 Frankfurt am Main
Federal Republic of Germany

Phone: (069) 7535-2102 or For After-hours emergencies, call: (069) 7535-0
Fax: (069) 7535-2277

To get to the Consulate:

Public Transport: From the main train station (Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof) take the U5 going to Preungesheim, exit stop Gießener Str.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Passport Unit
7:30 am to 11:30 am, Monday through Friday.

Phone: (069) 7535-2280 for general information (tape) or (069) 7535-2100 between 2 and 4 pm.
Fax: (069) 7535-2252

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

General information about traveling to Germany:

- Eurail (information, tickets, prices, etc.): <http://www.eurail.com/>
- U.S. Department of Education *Traveling Abroad*:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/international/edlite-going-abroad.html>
- U.S. Department of State *Germany*:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1123.html

Germany facts:

- Facts About Germany: <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/754.0.html>
- German Embassy: <http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/index.html>
- Germany. The Travel Destination: <http://www.visits-to-germany.com/>

Specific information about Freiburg:

- About Germany *Freiburg im Breisgau*: <http://www.about-germany.org/capitals/freiburg.php>
- German American Institute in Freiburg: <http://www.carl-schurz-haus.de/> (in German)
- Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freiburg>

Classrooms/Campus map:

- University of Freiburg – Homepage: http://www.uni-freiburg.de/index_en.php
- PH Freiburg: <http://www.ph-freiburg.de/> (in German)

Student Accommodations:

- Hotel Gasthaus Schutzen <http://www.schuetzen-freiburg.de/> (in German)