NKU Academic Exchange in Munich, Germany

Spend an academic year studying at Ludwig-Maximilians-University!

A brief introduction…

Office of Education Abroad
UC 415, (859) 572-6908
NKU Academic Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Munich, Germany. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

Germany

The German people enjoy a reputation for accuracy, precision, and efficiency – although an equally enduring image is of lederhosen-clad Bavarians hoisting beer steins. Neither of these stereotypes reflects the diversity of German cities, though. From romantic Heidelberg and the lively port cities of Bremen and Hamburg to the revitalized cities of the former east and cosmopolitan Berlin, the German landscape is similarly varied. The south appears to be straight from the Brothers Grimm, boasting atmospheric castles, deep dark forests, fabled rivers, and scenic lakes. The Alps attract skiers in the winter and hiking enthusiasts during the summer, while the North Sea attracts sailing enthusiasts and those who simply want to enjoy a sunny walk along a sandy beach or through a picturesque seaside village. Germany is not prey to dramatic climatic extremes, although there are regional differences. Expect long sunny summer days and a frosty and wet winter, especially in the south, though snow rarely stays for long except in the high country.

Munich

Munich, rivaled only by Berlin as Germany's most popular destination, is a sophisticated city that enjoys contradicting itself. Don some ironic lederhosen and head down to the capital of Bavaria, where folk traditions ride alongside BMWs and hearty meals share the table with haute cuisine. With a population of 1.3 million, Munich is Germany's third largest city. Its location near the Alps, not far from the magical castle Neuschwanstein, is a real vision and lends itself to stacks of outdoor activities. Encouraged by 10 universities with over 80,000 students combined, Munich offers an array of entertainment and is a haven for all sorts of culture. The infamous Oktoberfest attracts thousands of tourists every year, but Munich features far more than just a beer-culture. With a staggering array of museums, a vibrant arts scene and a passion for soccer, there is something for everyone to fall in love with in Munich. Between May and September the weather in Munich is at its finest, though the spring and fall feature enough sunshine to go around. From November to March anticipate below-freezing temperatures and sunless skies. As a general rule, rain should be expected anytime of the year. Munich is chock-full of great events and festivals all year round, so if it's not so much fun outside, there's bound to be some visit-worthy event indoors.

Ludwig-Maximilians-University

Ludwig-Maximilians-University or LMU, was founded in 1472 and is one of the oldest universities in Germany. LMU is located near the city center of Munich, next to the English Garden, Europe's largest park. LMU has approximately 46,000 registered students, 16% of whom are international students. The university offers a wide range of study fields and subject combinations; currently,
students can study 150 different subjects. Since classes are conducted in German for the most part, proficiency in the German language is required. As an NKU exchange student you are not required to take the university admission German language examination. However, in order to make your stay in Munich as successful as possible, you should acquire good German language skills. LMU itself does not offer any German language courses for foreign students; but, prior to and accompanying your studies at LMU, you may take intensive German language classes at cooperating private language schools. The academic year in Germany is divided into two semesters: in the fall, lectures are held from October through February, and in the spring from April through July. While no lectures are held during the break between semesters, this is usually when term papers are written. Given the semester start and end dates, students who take part in the LMU exchange must do so for the whole academic year.

**Housing**

It is very difficult to find inexpensive housing in Munich. However, as part of the exchange agreement, NKU students are offered university housing. Accommodation consists mainly of single rooms and some double rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. However, studio apartments, in which a student has their own kitchen and bathroom, are also a possibility. All types of accommodation are furnished with a bed, table, chair, and bookcase. Please plan to provide your own linens and cooking utensils. The cost of the monthly rent depends on the type and size of accommodation. Rent generally costs between 230 € and 320 €, or $365 to $510 a month.

**Transportation**

Munich and its surrounding municipalities have an extensive public transportation network including subways, busses, trams, and a suburban train system. Student fares for weekly or monthly tickets are available for taking advantage of the excellent public transportation system. Most people within the city of Munich only rely on public transportation or bicycles. Munich is great for bicycles because it's flat and there are paved, protected bicycle lanes adjacent to almost all sidewalks. Bike theft is relatively low and bikes can be bought second-hand. For traveling outside of the city and country, the European train system is highly efficient and dependable and budget airlines often offer great deals.

**Visa and Health Insurance**

U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa before entering the Federal Republic of Germany. However, you must apply for Approval of Stay (Aufenthaltsbewilligung) at the Foreign Resident Authority upon your arrival in Germany.

All students in Germany are required to have adequate medical insurance and you must present proof of medical coverage in Germany when you enroll at LMU. The student insurance rate charged by the public insurance corporations in Germany is approximately $65 per month. This health insurance covers doctor visits, prescription medication, hospitalization and medical rehabilitation. You may be able to opt for a health insurance exemption if you can prove that your U.S. insurance provides coverage equivalent to the German mandatory insurance.

**Useful Links**

University of Munich: http://www.lmu.de/en/
CIA World Factbook.: http://www.cia.gov
U.S. Department of State Information: http://travel.state.gov/
General Living Expenses
Ludwig Maximilians University, Germany
Academic Year Estimated Budget

Please use the following budget only as a general guide. Also note that expenses are estimated and will fluctuate with exchange rates.

- Tuition (1 semester) $4,236 (undergraduate, in-state tuition for 12-16 hours)
- Passport $135
- Round-trip airfare $1,400
- Accommodation $1,825-$2,550 (per semester) Prices vary by accommodation type
- Food $1,400-$2,000 (per semester)
- Intensive language course Free
- Books and supplies $150 (per semester)
- Local transportation $225 (per semester)
- Health insurance $350 (50 euros per month)
- Personal spending $2,000 (per semester)

**TOTAL** $11,521-$13,046 (per semester)

*July 2014 currency rate: 1 euro = 1.36 U.S. dollars*