

Deutsches Haus

Deutsches Haus at Columbia University promotes academic, cultural, and social exchange between members of the Columbia community and the public with an interest in German affairs. Frequent events throughout the fall and spring terms offer students opportunities to practice their German.

Cultural programs and social activities sponsored by Deutsches Haus include:

- ⇒ conversation hours (*Kaffeestunde*)
- ⇒ lecture and film series
- ⇒ academic conferences

For more information about events at Deutsches Haus, please go to:

<https://www.germanic.columbia.edu/deutsches-haus>

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Director of Language Program

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Please note: Barnard courses, requirements, and contacts can be found under <https://german.barnard.edu>

"The faculty challenged me to become a critical thinker and a passionate scholar – qualities crucial for success in any discipline."

"Most of all, the German Department felt like a family, with small seminars that might meet to discuss Goethe outside on a warm, sunny day and where I have kept touch with professors two decades after graduation."

Studying German at Columbia

"The best decision I made as a freshman was enrolling in a German class because not only was I immediately a member of a small and supportive community inside the Department, but the other kids in my class would go on to become some of my best friends and my teachers life-changing mentors."



Why Study German at Columbia?

- In our courses we use German actively from the beginning. Our classes are student-centered, interactive, and go beyond grammar and vocabulary. All language classes are also culture classes.
- Advanced courses combine the practice of language, writing, skills, and culture.
- Majors and concentrators acquire proficiency in literature and culture.
- Classes are small yet lively and allow for close individual mentoring of students by our faculty.



“Columbia’s German language program was the highlight of my undergraduate education! Each professor is expertly skilled at teaching, approachable and well-versed in the culture and periods that we studied. I always left class with new knowledge in addition to my language learning. [...] I only wish I started earlier so I could have majored or minored in the Department.”

“I cannot sufficiently state the impact studying abroad had on my intellectual development. At BCGS, the assignments for each class consisted almost exclusively of one large research essay on a topic of the student’s choosing. Having such academic freedom felt entirely foreign and rewarding, and my work there became the basis of grant and graduate school applications and my senior thesis. It pushed me outside of my academic comfort zone, beyond the format and academic structure I was used to.”

The German Language Program

The German Language Program offers courses for beginning, intermediate and advanced learners. To ensure optimal placement, students who have had prior German instruction are required to take our placement test (contact: Jutta Schmiers-Heller). In addition, we offer a reading knowledge course to graduate students for academic purposes.

Courses offered every semester: Beginning German I and II, Intermediate German I and II, Intermediate Conversation I and II, and a selection of Advanced Level Courses.

Courses only offered in the Fall: Advanced German I (Berlin Course), Accelerated German I and II, Elementary German Reading I.

Courses only offered in the Spring: Advanced German II (Vienna Course), Accelerated Intermediate German I and II, Elementary German Reading II.

Summer Term: We also offer a selection of courses during the summer, in session D and Q. For more information go to <http://summer.sps.columbia.edu/>.

Major and Concentration in German Literature and Cultural History

Requirements for the Major: 30 points. Required courses:

- 30 points (10 courses), including:
 - ◊ Introduction to German Literature
 - ◊ Advanced I or Advanced II
 - ◊ Two survey courses in German literature and culture
 - ◊ One course in German intellectual history
 - ◊ Senior Seminar
- Remaining courses taught in German or English can be chosen from the 3000 or 4000-level course offerings. Courses in English can be taken early on, while still working on German proficiency.
- Optional Senior Thesis.

Requirements for the Concentration: 21 points (7 courses) in German courses numbered UN3001 and above.

STEM Concentration and SEAS minor: 15 points

“It is safe to say that I never would have won my dream job of Berlin bureau chief for The New York Times if I hadn’t studied German at Columbia.”

Study Abroad Programs

Summer in Berlin

Each year, the Department provides between 12 to 16 summer language scholarships to CC, Barnard, GS, and SEAS undergraduates who have completed one full year of German language instruction in the department’s German language program by the spring semester. Students are enrolled in a four-week language course in Berlin and are eligible to receive college credits upon return to the CU program and completion of the next higher level of German.

Berlin Consortium for German Studies

The Berlin Consortium for German Studies is an academic-year or spring-semester program that allows motivated undergraduate students to immerse themselves in German academic and cultural life by undertaking university course work in Berlin. After a six-week German Language Practicum, students register for one course at the Consortium and two or more courses at the Freie Universität Berlin. The BCGS is also piloting a new Fall/Spring semester program in collaboration with FU-BEST.

Academic credit earned in Berlin becomes part of the Columbia transcript and can be counted toward a major or concentration in German.

For more information about BCGS, go to www.bcgscolumbia.edu

Internships in Germany

The Department will help you find summer internship programs in your field of study. Internships provide you with the opportunity to gain valuable international work skills, improve your German language abilities, and experience German life and culture firsthand.