American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

Heidelberg – The City

Nestled in a beautiful green valley along the banks of the Neckar River, the city of Heidelberg is at the foot of its iconic sandstone castle. Combining an authentic atmosphere of German Romanticism with youthful modernity, Heidelberg gracefully avoids the pitfalls of larger cities by striking a harmonious balance between the dynamic bustle of modern life and the dignified ease of a historic European city. The lively city center, with its many shops and restaurants, is home to one of the longest pedestrian zones in Europe. Heidelberg is also a bustling university town, with the Altes Gymnasium, the oldest public high school in the world, hosting the commitments of university student life. Whether you are enjoying the commotion of University Square or taking a quiet stroll through the lush castle gardens, Heidelberg’s unique and enchanting atmosphere is utterly captivating. 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

Among the highlights of the program are many travel opportunities, including excursions organized by AJY. The program plans study trips to places such as the Black Forest; Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament; the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart; or to Germany's financial capital and Goethe’s birthplace, Frankfurt am Main; 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 a German Rail Pass in order to further encourage individual travel throughout Germany. Popular destinations include Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich, as well as the border towns of Salzburg, Austria, and Basel, Switzerland.

Heidelberg’s central location within Europe, its excellent public transportation system, and the short distances to major airports make it an ideal home base for travel on weekends, holidays, and during the two-month semester break. Popular destinations include Copenhagen (10), Amsterdam (5), London (8), Paris (3), Strasbourg (1.5), Venice (10), Marseille (7), Zurich (4), Brussels (4), Munich (3), Hamburg (5), Prague (8), Warsaw (10), Berlin (5), Vienna (8), and Krakow (10).
The summer semester is in full tide, simultaneously the most frequent figure in student life. Being a student at Universität Heidelberg means being one of the many dots located throughout the city. Kitchen and bath facilities are included. The student life office provides facilities for field trips, workshops, courses at all levels, and a German/European hospitality with German families, language classes, and more. Students enjoy a German-only rule is observed at the study center.

AJY Study Center

Located in the heart of the city, the AJY Study Center is centrally located just between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. Beyond housing classrooms and offices, the study center provides various amenities to students, including a large international kitchen, separate study areas, Wi-Fi, and a reading area. AJY is committed to providing high-quality, personalized service and a comfortable environment for all students in the study center.

At the AJY Study Center, we pride ourselves on the close relations we have with the students. In addition to our academic programs, we offer various activities and events throughout the semester, including study trips, workshops, and cultural events. The study center is a key part of the AJY study abroad experience.

Housing, Meals, and Transportation

Student Life

Heidelberg for All Seasons

Heidelberg is a beautiful German university city located in the southern part of Germany, and is home to a number of international students. The student body of the university is highly diverse and includes students from a wide range of countries.

Universität Heidelberg

Founded in 1386, Universität Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest university. Currently, the university is ranked among the top 50 universities in the world and among the top three universities in Germany, and ranked in the top 100 universities internationally. It is a university of high research and to the most important centers of medical poetry written in Middle High German. The student body of the university includes about 9,500 students, including about 4,000 international students, from over 120 countries.

Coursework at the University

Online registration for programs and fees is available on our website. The programs are currently in the process of finalizing their course offerings. For additional information, please visit our website or contact the financial aid office.

Internships

The AJY program offers its full semester/academic year, spring semester, and fall semester programs in Germany. Students may choose to study at any university in Germany. Naturally, they are offered at the American Junior Year in Heidelberg University, as well as at other universities in Germany.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities and to start planning early. AJY also offers a limited number of part-time student internships, full semester internships, and full academic year internships. Students are encouraged to contact the financial aid office for more information.

Transcript

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Students must have junior status (or second-semester with the exception of certain international students) and at least two recommendations from universities or institutions of higher education.

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The program arranges weekly tutorials for students interested in obtaining a bachelor’s degree in business, and advanced reading and composition courses are offered at the German Studies. Universität Heidelberg also offers language courses for different levels, and the students have the opportunity to be matched with German families for housing and other activities. AJY students also have the opportunity to take part in a number of cultural and social events, including cultural events and AJY culture coupons.

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