



American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

Pre-Departure Handbook
Academic Year 2017-18


Sponsored by
 Heidelberg University
Tiffin, OH, U.S.A.
www.heidelberg.edu/ajy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION	2
PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST	3
AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR (AJY)	4
Program Staff	4
AJY Study Center	4
Auf Deutsch, bitte!	5
PREPARING FOR YOUR STAY	6
Travel Documents	6
Traveling to Heidelberg ... and back home	7
What to pack – what not to pack	7
Arrival and Departure Dates, Semester Schedule	8
PREPARING FOR YOUR STUDIES AT UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG	9
Preliminary Course	9
University Language Proficiency Exam	9
Academic Planning for the semester	9
Grades and Transcripts	10
MONEY MATTERS	10
ATM Debit Cards, Credit Cards	10
Work Opportunities	11
MEDICAL ISSUES	11
Insurance Coverage	11
HOUSING	12
Housing Policies	12
Room assignments	12
What does your room look like?	13
DAILY LIVING	13
Meals, Shopping	13
Clothing	14
Mobile Phones	14
LAN / WIFI	14
Mail	14
Bicycles and Public Transportation	15
Behavior and Responsibility	15
Places of Worship / Spiritual Life	15
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	16
Service Learning	16
Cultural Opportunities and Sports	16
Staying with a German Family	17
Vacation and Travel	17

CONTACT INFORMATION

American Office:

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University
Heidelberg University
310 E. Market Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Tel.: (419) 448-2062
Fax: (419) 448-2217
Email: ajy@heidelberg.edu

German Office:

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University
Hauptstrasse 133
69117 Heidelberg
Germany
Tel. 011-49-6221-23874
Fax: 011-49-6221-167574
Email: ajy@uni-heidelberg.de

Should problems or concerns related to the program occur during your stay in Heidelberg, you may directly contact our home campus in Tiffin.

Address your concerns to:

Julie Arnold
Director of International Affairs and Studies
International Affairs and Studies Office, Student Affairs Office
Tel. (419) 448-2953
jarnold3@heidelberg.edu

➔ Please share this information with you parents.

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Once you have applied to the AJY program and received your acceptance, there are a number of steps you must take in preparation for your semester or year in Heidelberg:

- Return your confirmation form and deposit to the AJY office in Tiffin, Ohio by the deadline stated on your acceptance letter.
- Make sure you have a valid U.S. passport. U.S. citizens do not need a visa. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the German consulate to find out their visa requirements. To find the consulate nearest to you, go to: [German Missions in the US](#)
- Book a flight to Frankfurt Airport (FRA) and a return flight home.

By June 1st (December 1st for spring semester students), print, sign and mail the following forms to the AJY office in Tiffin, Ohio at the above address:

- Transcript with current semester grades
- Transfer Credit Approval Form (filled out by your study abroad advisor)
- Disciplinary Clearance Form (filled out by your home campus judicial affairs office)
- Universität Heidelberg Application and Immatriculation Form
- 1 recent passport-like photo
- Medical History Form
- Health Clearance Form
- Liability Release Form

By June 1st (December 1st for spring semester students), complete and submit the following forms online on the AJY website: [Admitted Students](#)

- AJY Housing Form
- AJY Travel Plans Form
- AJY Emergency Contact Form

AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY (AJY)

On-Site Program Staff

The Program staff consists of the Resident Director, a part-time technical support person, and two Student Assistants. As Resident Director, Hanne Heckmann coordinates the academic program and acts as liaison with the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and taught at a number of U.S. universities before coming to the American Junior Year program. She provides academic advising and assists students in making course selections. She initiates and interprets program policies and procedures, and functions in general as adviser and counselor. Adam Lengiewicz is a Universität Heidelberg alumnus and is currently working on his Ph.D. thesis in German Studies. He provides administrative and technical support to the AJY office and Study Center on a part-time basis. The Student Assistants Helen Landsberger and Carina Steenfatt, both students at Universität Heidelberg in German Studies/English and Geography/English respectively, help with office-related work, plan AJY events and support students with everyday matters.

Resident Director:	Hanne Heckmann, Ph.D. h.heckmann@uni-heidelberg.de
Admin./Tech. Coordinator:	Adam Lengiewicz, M.A. lengiewicz@uni-heidelberg.de
Student Assistants:	Franziska Wagner, franziska.wagner@stud.uni-heidelberg.de Carina Steenfatt, steenfatt@stud.uni-heidelberg.de

AJY Study Center

The Program maintains a Study Center in Heidelberg as a place for instruction and study. It is conveniently located on University Square in the city center's main pedestrian zone. The building in which the Study Center is housed was built as a private residence in the year 1703.

The Study Center contains the AJY offices, four classrooms, a fully equipped computer room, a student lounge/ kitchen, and bathrooms. The Preliminary Course is taught at the Study Center during the month preceding each semester; also the AJY classes are taught here. In the lounge, students can watch TV or films, and read magazines or newspapers. The lounge is also available for beverages and snacks.

Students may use the Study Center for relaxation and to study between classes. It can be a place for reading or mingling, and is used for AJY social events. It serves several practical functions as well. Each student has a mailbox here. Packages, and luggage can be sent to the Center in advance of your stay. In the Center, AJY staff is available to meet with students during regular office hours or by appointment.

AUF DEUTSCH, BITTE!

One of the main goals students have for coming to Heidelberg is to improve their command of German. The Program's philosophy is that you will learn German best by consistently speaking, reading, and listening to German.

Consequently, German, not English, is the language used in the Study Center and for general communication and program activities.

The Study Center is open daily between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. to students willing to communicate in German. Others will be asked to leave the Center in order to maintain a German-speaking learning environment.

PREPARING FOR YOUR STAY

Travel Documents

Obtain or renew your passport. Please begin passport application procedures early. Students who are U.S. Citizens only need a valid passport to enter Germany. If your passport will expire during the time you are in Heidelberg, apply for a new one now — prior to your departure. Passport applications and instructions can be downloaded from the State Department website: travel.state.gov. First-time applications must be presented in person at a passport agency; the State Department website allows you to search by zip code for a list of locations nearest you where you can submit your application. Don't sign the form in advance because you need to do this in front of the agency official. Asked for an address in Europe, use the AJY office address given below:

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

Hauptstrasse 133

69117 Heidelberg, Germany

- We recommend that you make a copy of the first page of your passport and leave it at home with a parent or friend. If your passport should be lost or stolen, it is much easier to get a new one with the information on the copy of the old one.

There is no visa requirement for U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens do not need a visa to travel to Germany and no inoculations of any kind are required. Your U.S. passport allows you to enter Germany and stay up to 3 months. Paperwork for your residence permit will be taken care of once you arrive in Heidelberg.

All students should note that it may take 2-3 weeks to receive your residence permit through the AJY, during which time you will not have your passport, so you should plan to avoid traveling outside Germany during the first month after the program begins.

If you are not a citizen of the U.S., Canada or a country within the European Union, you need to contact a German Consulate (or the German Embassy) closest to you to obtain a student entrance visa and residence permit. You will not be permitted to enter the country legally without this entrance visa. *Please notify the AJY staff in Heidelberg that you are applying for a student entrance visa.*

Traveling to Heidelberg ... and back home

Students make their own flight arrangements, arriving on the day that the AJY program begins (see academic calendar). The nearest airport is Frankfurt International Airport. Students will be met by AJY staff at the airport. AJY makes arrangements for a group transfer to Heidelberg for students arriving by noon on the official day of arrival. Approximately one week before the start of the program, we will provide you with detailed arrival information. Students arriving independently in Europe before the start of the program can either join us at Frankfurt International Airport or meet us at Heidelberg Main Train Station.

AJY students make their own flight arrangements to Germany. For researching flights, we recommend consulting the following sites:

www.generationfly.com

www.studentuniverse.com

www.statravel.com

www.cheaptickets.com

- ➔ Please be aware that these discount agencies will not provide the same level of service as provided travel agencies or airlines. They also usually have high fees for changes or cancellations, so read the fine print. You should also consider purchasing travel insurance that covers flight changes or cancellations.

Full year students may encounter the problem that they are not able to book their return flight in advance. In this case they may elect to either enter an assumed return date they can later have changed (check applicable fees in advance!), or simply book a one-way flight and book the return flight once they are in Germany.

What to pack – what not to pack

Heidelberg's weather is moderate but damp. Winter brings more rain and slush than snow. You need to bring an all-weather coat and shoes that can withstand rain. Summers can bring frequent showers but otherwise, summer weather is warm and pleasant, seldom extremely hot, but often humid.

German students usually dress casually. However, you will want to bring along at least one outfit for special occasions such as concerts or theater performances.

Do not bring bedding unless you have a very favorite pillow! You will be supplied with a pillow, a comforter, and a set of sheets.

Above all, try to pack light! It is best to pack a small amount of clothing that will give you a good number of combinations. Keep in mind that you have to carry your own luggage through airports and

train stations, up and down stairs. Regarding the costs of bringing bulky items such as musical instruments or sport equipment, consult with your airline.

Students from previous years have left items at the Study Center to give away or be sold during the flea market that is organized on the date of arrival. Items such as mobile phones, alarm clocks, radios, hair dryers, extra blankets and towels, and irons are usually available.

- ➔ Another way to avoid carrying extra weight is to ship a box to the Study Center ahead of your arrival. **Be sure that your package is properly marked with "Used items for personal use only – exchange student."** Be aware of customs regulations! **(please see p. 15)**

We recommend that you bring:

- A sufficient supply of any prescription medicine you need,
- An extra pair of glasses, cleaning solution for contact lenses,
- Sturdy walking shoes,
- A towel and wash cloth,
- Your laptop computer. Virtually all laptops are configured to handle European as well as U.S. electrical current without need of a separate transformer. But you may wish to check with your manufacturer just to be safe. **You will definitely need a plug adapter to fit German-style sockets; these are best purchased in the U.S.**
- Musical instruments, if you play an instrument, you can bring it with you. There are many opportunities to join groups in the performing arts.

- ➔ **No street shoes are allowed in the university gyms. If you plan to do indoor sports, bring one new pair of shoes or plan to purchase a pair upon arrival.**

We advise against bringing other electrical appliances – European current is 220 volts 60 cycles AC and will ruin American electrical appliances that are not made for international travel. Inexpensive appliances are available in drugstores or at the AJY flea market.

In general, almost anything you can buy in the US is available in Germany. If in doubt, opt to pack light. There is a good chance you will want extra room in your luggage to bring back items you will have bought during your stay in Germany.

Arrival and Departure Dates, Semester Schedule

For detailed 2016-17 Academic Calendars please consult our website at [Program and Semester Dates](#).

PREPARING FOR YOUR STUDIES AT UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

You will find the adjustment to German academic life an interesting challenge. As an American student, you are accustomed to frequent tests, regular assignments, course syllabi, assigned textbooks and easy access to professors. All of these are rare in the German system. Academic freedom, so renowned at German universities, will challenge you to cultivate self-discipline and responsible study and planning. You will notice a more pronounced difference between lectures and seminars, the frequent use of oral testing, and the expectation that all students participate actively in seminar discussions.

The philosophy of the Program is to leave you sufficient freedom to experience the German system and yet to provide support and structure when that freedom may become overwhelming. Academic advising is designed to help you select courses that will be appropriate to your interests and language ability and which best correspond to the curriculum requirements of your home campus.

Preliminary Course

Required of all Program participants, this month-long course provides sixty (60) hours of intensive practice in listening and reading comprehension, advanced German grammar and vocabulary, thereby preparing the students for the University's German Language Proficiency Examination.

The course is supplemented by a program of visits/excursions to various cultural institutions around Heidelberg with an emphasis on exploring contemporary German society.

University Language Proficiency Exam

Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH, German Language Proficiency Exam) is comprised of a written and an oral examination assessing your language skills. These skills are needed to attend classes and take notes, read and analyze texts and manipulate the German language well enough to write exams and papers. This examination is administered at the beginning of each semester by Universität Heidelberg, and you will receive a certificate. AJY will cover the exam fee. Failure to pass the exam may require adjustment to your initial course selection, but will not preclude you from obtaining the full number of credits for the semester.

You have the opportunity to retake the exam (at your own expense) at the end of your stay, should you fail the exam.

Academic planning for the semester

Numerous sessions during the Preliminary Course will deal with academic planning. The Program's "Guidelines for Academic Planning" will be distributed and students will be provided with pertinent

information about courses. Each student meets with the program director individually to make a preliminary selection of courses. During the first two weeks of the university semester, you attend courses listed on the preliminary course selection form and, in consultation with the program director, determine which of these courses will be pursued for credit. During this time, you will also clarify any open questions you might have with your home campus advisors. By the end of the second week of the semester a final course selection is agreed upon by the student and the program director. The Program then sends an official copy of this final course selection to the student's home campus.

Grades and Transcripts

It is the responsibility of the student to hand in a grade report (Schein) from each course at the end of the semester. The program director translates these into U.S.-style grades and sends them to the Registrar's office in Tiffin for the student's official AJY transcript. You are responsible for ordering a copy of your AJY transcript through your Pipeline account to be sent to your home school at the end of each semester. You should check with your study abroad office as to where it should be sent. Since transcripts are ordered online, you can easily do this from Heidelberg. Transcripts for the Fall Semester are usually available by mid-March and for the Spring Semester in late August. Note that a hold will be put on your transcript until any outstanding bill for room damages or cleaning has been paid.

Your AJY transcript is held on record permanently at Heidelberg University and you can (re)order official transcripts at any time in the future. You will most certainly need to do so if you apply to graduate or professional schools later.

MONEY MATTERS

For your initial needs it is a good idea to bring along approximately 200 Euro in cash. During the first couple of weeks, you might be spending more money than during the semester because of initial purchases...

The current exchange rate (June 1, 2017) for U.S. Dollars/Euro is:

US \$ 1.00 = EU € 0.90

EU € 1.00 = US \$ 1.10

If you would like to bring along € 200, as we recommend, you will need to exchange \$ 222.22. If you want to follow daily exchange rate, use: www.x-rates.com.

- ➔ In addition, bring along your checkbook or some U.S. dollars in cash for purchases at the AJY flea market.

ATM Cards / Credit Cards

Most AJY students use ATM machines to withdraw cash from their U.S. bank accounts using a debit card. This is a convenient method of transferring money with relatively low transaction fees. **Please inform your bank/credit card company that you will be using your card abroad.** Some companies require a clearance for the use of their card abroad. Be sure to ask about the daily limit on the amount you will be able to withdraw. Leave a photocopy of your bank card with your parents before leaving for Heidelberg.

Credit cards are convenient to have in case of unexpected expenses. Visa and master cards are widely accepted in Germany, American Express cards much less so.

Few AJY students elect to open a personal account at a German bank.

Work Opportunities

Can you earn money by working in Heidelberg? Yes, within limits. Students receive a residence permit that will allow them to work up to 90 days or 180 half days per calendar year while in Heidelberg. However your academic work should always has priority.

- ➔ Each semester, AJY offers paid student positions (part-time) to help with office-related work. Students can also apply for the paid AJY Social Media Expert position.

MEDICAL ISSUES

Insurance Coverage

(Comprehensive Health, Personal Liability, Medical Evacuation and Repatriation of Remains)

AJY arranges health insurance coverage for you with companies recognized in both Germany and Europe. Your Program fee covers the cost of this insurance. Coverage includes: Doctor's visits, prescription medicine (except for the first several Euro of each prescription, for which you are responsible), hospital care (with the exception of approximately 12 Euro per day, for which you are responsible), routine dental and eye care, and, if needed, physical therapy or counseling. There are special regulations in regard to coverage of pre-existing conditions or in the event of pregnancy.

You will have access to university hospitals, the university counseling center, family physicians, and specialists. The Program maintains a list of dentists and doctors our students have visited in the past. AJY staff is experienced in dealing with emergency matters and provides help for students seeking routine treatment. *Prior to your departure from the U.S., please inform the staff of any problem or*

disorder which may cause you difficulty and which may require treatment.

Coverage begins on the date the Program begins. It is valid throughout Germany and many European countries but does not cover students in their home country. You will not be covered for injuries sustained while participating in risky activities such as canoeing or bungee jumping. The insurance remains in force until the end of the month in which you terminate your studies with the Program. If you plan to arrive early or to remain in Europe after leaving the Program, you are responsible for your own insurance.

- In addition to health insurance, the AJY Program arranges for all the students to be covered by Personal liability insurance and Insurance for medical evacuation and for repatriation of remains during the duration of the program.

HOUSING

Housing Policies

All room assignments are made by the German office in Heidelberg, not the American office in Tiffin. The American office does not receive your addresses in Germany in advance.

The Business Office in Tiffin, Ohio will charge you for your room rent along with the billing for the general program fee. Full year students are charged in two separate billings.

Your room in Heidelberg is available on the day of official arrival. No earlier check-ins are possible. It continues to be available until the last day of the program as posted in the [Program and Semester Dates](#).

Extended fall students and students who stay for two semesters (so called full year students or FYR students) keep their rooms during the holiday break (December 23, 2017 through January 7, 2018). FYR students also keep their rooms during the break between the two semesters (mid-February to mid-April).

Room assignment

All AJY student rooms are located in university dormitories throughout the city or in private dormitories for students only. Since there are different types of rooms, we give you the opportunity to list your preferences by filling out the online housing form on our website at [Pre-Departure Forms](#). Once the university student housing office informs us of your assignment we will forward you your

dormitory address one week before your arrival in Heidelberg.

The Program expects that you will accept your room assignment. You may have to accept a housing arrangement different from what you desire, but be assured that we will take your preferences into consideration and final assignments will be made in the fairest manner possible.

All students in the program are expected to show common sense and respect for the rights and privacy of others in the housing arrangements. Failure to act responsibly and courteously could force the program director to require that you vacate your room.

What does your room look like?

All rooms are single rooms, usually in suite arrangements (3-6 people) with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. Laundry facilities are available in all university dormitories. In addition, there are several laundromats throughout town.

Rooms are furnished with basic furniture: bed, desk, desk lamp, chair, shelves, wardrobe closet, rug, and curtains. The program will also provide you with bedding (pillow, comforter, and sheets), and some essential dishes. Additional items can often be purchased reasonably at the AJY flea market or at local stores.

- Except for furniture and bedding (pillow, comforter, sheets, and some dishes), **the dorm rooms are empty** when you arrive, so you may need to purchase some additional supplies to make your room a home.

Upon arrival, you will be given an inventory sheet on which to record the condition of your room. Please list any problems or damages. Your room will be inspected at the end of your stay by the building superintendent, and you will be charged for any necessary repairs or cleaning.

DAILY LIVING

Meals, Shopping

Unlike American colleges and universities, German universities offer no semester-long meal contracts in their cafeterias. Instead, you purchase each meal individually. There are two university cafeterias close to the AJY Study Center. They are open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. You can get a full meal for less than 5 Euro. Of course, there are also many ethnic restaurants near the AJY Study Center which cater to the students and tailor their prices to the student budget.

Most grocery stores are usually open between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Some supermarkets remain open until midnight. **Keep in mind, all stores remain closed on Sunday.** You will quickly find out that shopping in the grocery store and cooking in the dormitory kitchens is the best way to eat healthy food at a reasonable price.

Clothing

Do not forget to bring comfortable walking shoes! Sneakers or flip-flops will make AJY excursions and field trips less enjoyable! You might also want to pack appropriate clothing for a visit to the opera, a festive dinner or other social events.

Mobile Phones

AJY requires that you have a **German** mobile phone while in Heidelberg as part of AJY's safety policy. We offer you two choices: a) you buy your own and resell it at the end-of-semester AJY flea market, b) AJY will provide you with a phone to use during your stay in Heidelberg (security deposit required).

For more information on different providers and phone calls to and from Germany, you may want to consult: german-way.com or ricksteves.com

LAN / WIFI

You will be able to access the internet from the computers in the AJY computer room and from your own laptops via wireless Internet throughout the entire AJY Study Center. All dorm rooms are equipped with internet access via either LAN connection or WIFI. Within the campus range you also may use the university WIFI. You will be able to activate this connection once you are officially enrolled at Universität Heidelberg (approximately two to three weeks after arrival). Good news: Heidelberg is in the process of installing public WIFI throughout the city.

Mail

Be sure to give everyone your AJY address before you leave. Please use the following format:

Your name
c/o American Junior Year at Heidelberg University
Hauptstrasse 133
69117 Heidelberg
Germany

Be sure that your package is properly marked with "Used items for personal use only – exchange student." Specific information on restrictions and regulations can be found on the website of German

Customs Services: www.zoll.de/EN

Bicycles and Public Transportation

Heidelberg is very bicycle-friendly and has an extensive network of bike paths! Many AJY students buy cheap, used bicycles (along with an expensive lock!) to get around town, and most places can be reached within a 15 to 20 minute bike ride.

As any other German town its size, Heidelberg has a convenient network of buses and streetcars that will take you nearly everywhere. On weekdays, buses and streetcars run every ten minutes on most lines, with weeknight and weekend services a bit more limited.

The Heidelberg Semester-Ticket purchased for you by the Program will allow you use of local and regional public transportation in [a large area of southwestern Germany](#), extending to Würzburg in the East and to Wissembourg, France in the West.

Behavior and Responsibility

As a foreigner, you have the responsibility of respecting the traditions of the host country, obeying its laws and observing the regulations of its institutions. In most cases you will be able to do this by using common sense and exercising courtesy and respect for the rights of others. In some cases, you will need to inform yourself about regulations and practices that are different from those at home.

You will familiarize yourself with the "**Student Code of Conduct**" for the Program, which is distributed as part of the orientation materials you receive when you arrive in Heidelberg. We will also familiarize you with the **Heidelberg University Sex Discrimination Policy (Title IX)**. The Program expects you to pursue your academic work earnestly and with discipline and integrity. The great amount of freedom at the German University will require considerable amounts of self-discipline.

In all respects, students are expected to adhere to the policies and guidelines in this handbook. More materials on the issue will be distributed at the orientation sessions taking place in the first few days of the program.

Finally, we expect all AJY students to follow the rules governing the use of the AJY Study Center and the AJY Students Safety Provisions.

Places of Worship / Spiritual Life

Regardless of your religious affiliation, you will find that places of worship provide you with excellent opportunities to meet new people and become involved in community life in Heidelberg.

- The two major religious denominations in the area are the Roman Catholic Church: <http://khg->

heidelberg.de and the *Badische Landeskirche*, which draws from both Lutheran and Reformed traditions: www.esg-heidelberg.de.

- There is also a synagogue and an active Jewish community in Heidelberg: <http://www.ikg-heidelberg.org>
- While the mosque in Heidelberg is rather small, the largest mosque in Germany is just a short distance away in neighboring Mannheim: www.ditib-ma.de
- Other churches and religious groups are represented in the Heidelberg area also: Methodist, Anglican, Baptist, Mormon, Quaker, Mennonite, Seventh-Day Adventist, and more. You may wish to consult www.kirche-heidelberg.de

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The possibilities for getting involved are limited only by your imagination.

From Amnesty International to Environmental Groups, University and Church Choirs, Theater Groups, Sports Clubs – the opportunities are endless ([Das StuRa Dschungelbuch](#)) and will be discussed in depth during our orientation.

Service Learning

The AJY Program has a long tradition of student volunteers: they work with children, in nursing homes or senior citizen centers, food banks, homeless shelters, and more. During orientation, we will have a meeting with the “*Freiwilligenbörse*”, an organization in Heidelberg placing volunteers.

If you would like to browse their catalogue of volunteer opportunities, please go to <http://paritaethd.wordpress.com>

Cultural Opportunities and Sports

You will find that Heidelberg and the surrounding area have an enormous amount of cultural institutions and events to offer.

- ➔ You will be provided with a set of *AJY Culture Coupons*, with which you can explore cultural events on your own or with friends. In addition, by showing your Universität Heidelberg ID Card, students can receive tickets to the theatre, the opera, concerts, museums and other events at a reduced rate.

Heidelberg's own Municipal Theater presents excellent performances in drama, opera and modern dance. Our students also take advantage of Germany's first national theater in neighboring Mannheim (15 minutes away from Heidelberg). You can get tickets for the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra and attend events at the numerous festivals in or around town: From jazz to international

film, from photo festivals to poetry slams, there is a wide variety of ways to use your AJY culture coupons for cultural opportunities!

Heidelberg is home to several museums, the best known being the *Kurpfälzisches Museum* with fascinating collections of Roman and Celtic archaeology, Heidelberg history, and fine arts dating from medieval times to the present. The city and the university also have interesting collections in the fields of pharmacy, ethnology and classical sculpture. The Universität Heidelberg maintains a museum about the more than 600-year history of the university and permits tours of the university's student prison. The university library houses the *Codex Manesse*, which is generally considered to be the finest existing collection of Middle High German poetry and scenes of courtly life.

For soccer fans interested in watching Bundesliga matches, there is nearby Rhein-Neckar-Arena, home of the first league soccer club 1866 Hoffenheim.

One of the leading teams in Europe's champions Hockey League, the *Mannheimer Adler*, also has their home arena outside Heidelberg.

Aside for the [University Sports Facilities](#), Heidelberg has 120 community sports clubs (for example, rugby, lacrosse and rowing), as well as two outdoor and three indoor pools.

And finally, during the Spring Semester, you have the opportunity to run in the annual Heidelberg half marathon or participate in the *Heidelbergman* triathlon. You will not get bored.

Staying with a German Family

During their entire stay in Heidelberg all AJY students live in university dormitories. Short-term homestays (one to two weeks duration) with German families are available, however, to full year and full semester students who wish to experience life in and with a German family. Typically, these homestays take place during the holiday season in December or during the break between the fall and the spring semester (mid-February to mid-April).

AJY cooperates with 'Das Experiment', a German non-profit organization that offers homestays throughout Germany. These homestays are available at virtually no charge to the student and are highly recommended. Prospective students who are interested in this should consult the Experiment e.V. website. Please be sure to contact AJY (ajy@uni-heidelberg.de) well in advance to ensure placement – places are limited.

Vacation and Travel

AJY organizes a number of study trips and excursions during the preliminary course. During the semester, we also encourage you to take advantage of the day and weekend excursions planned by the International Office of Universität Heidelberg. The destinations for these excursions include such

interesting sites as Nürnberg, Würzburg, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Strasbourg, or Hamburg. A/JY culture coupons may be used to help pay for some of these excursions.

A very popular feature of the program is the German Rail Pass, which is included in the program fee. This pass can be used for your own individual travel during breaks or on weekends. **Full year students can opt for an Interrail Pass during their second semester.** We will spend a fair amount of time during orientation discussing travel options in Germany and Europe with you.

- ➔ As a full-time student at Universität Heidelberg, you will be issued a Student ID card. This card will provide you with many student discounts in Heidelberg and all over Germany. However, for travelling in Europe, you might want to purchase an ISE or ISIC Card in order to receive student discounts and services. Please see: www.isecard.com, www.isic.de.

Auf Wiedersehen!

We look forward to seeing you in Heidelberg!