

2019-2020



# American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

A Study Abroad Program in Germany since 1958





## Summer Program in German & European Studies

Our total immersion summer program runs from the end of May to early July. Students enjoy homestays with German families, language courses at all levels, and a German/European Studies Seminar. The seminar has an experiential focus and includes field trips, workshops, concerts, and more. Students earn 9 credits.



## Heidelberg for all Seasons

American Junior Year at Heidelberg University (AJY) was founded in 1958 by Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio in cooperation with Universität Heidelberg, Germany.

AJY students are enrolled full-time at Universität Heidelberg for the:

- **Full Academic Year,**
- **Fall semester (September - December),**
- **Full semester**
  - Extended Fall semester (September - February),
  - Spring semester (March - July).

Students also have the option of **completing internships, participating in service-learning opportunities, or conducting research projects.**







## Student Life

### Housing, Meals, and Transportation

Students occupy single rooms in one of the many dormitories located throughout Heidelberg. Kitchen and bath facilities are usually shared with German and other international students.

The five university cafeterias offer reasonably priced meals at all hours of the day. There are also a number of smaller eateries in the city center catering to students, as well as weekly farmers markets at various locations throughout the city.

Heidelberg is a “green” city and has an excellent public transportation system, a pass for which is provided by the program. Heidelberg’s extensive bicycle path system makes riding a bike to class or back to the dorm convenient and fast.

### AJY Study Center

Located in the heart of the city on Heidelberg’s famous University Square, our study center is open daily between 7 am and 11 pm.

Beyond housing classrooms and offices, the study center provides various amenities to students, including a lounge with German language TV, DVDs, newspapers, and magazines; a fully equipped computer lab, and a kitchen. Wi-Fi is available in all areas of the study center. In commitment to our high academic standards, a German-only rule is observed at the study center.

### Program Staff

At AJY, we pride ourselves on the close relations we maintain with our students. Our program staff is committed to providing high-quality, personalized services across the full spectrum of academic and non-academic issues. Whether advising on course choice and registration, organizing field trips and cultural

*“The summer semester was in full tide; consequently, the most frequent figure in and about Heidelberg was the student. Most of the students were German, of course, but the representatives of foreign lands were numerous. They hailed from every corner of the globe.”*

Mark Twain, *A Tramp Abroad*, 1880

activities, or making arrangements for extracurricular involvement, our program coordinators are always available and ready to help.

### Language Partners

Students have the opportunity to be matched with German university students for the purpose of improving their German. This language partnership enables both the American and German students to converse informally in their target language, and AJY will typically host informal events for language partners during the semester.

Upon request, the program can also arrange a short-term homestay with a German host family to allow for even greater immersion into German society.

### Extracurricular Activities/Service Learning

Universität Heidelberg offers countless opportunities for extracurricular involvement, including intramural sports as well as theater and music groups, to name only a few. Many students also choose to involve themselves in the local community via volunteer work or religious organizations. AJY encourages its students to take advantage of these opportunities and is happy to help make arrangements.





## Universität Heidelberg

Founded in 1386, Universität Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university. Currently ranked among the top three universities in Germany and ranked in the top 50 worldwide, it is home to a number of Nobel laureates and to the most comprehensive collection of medieval poetry written in Middle High German.



Codex Manesse, Walther von der Vogelweide

Once students have passed a language proficiency exam, they may choose freely among the full range of courses offered by the university. Virtually all courses at the university are taught in German. Through academic counseling with the Resident Director, program participants select the courses best fitted to their interests and abilities. AJY students typically take a mixture of courses across different departments. Popular subjects include German Studies, Economics, History, Jewish Studies, Philoso-

phy, Political Science, Psychology, and Transcultural Studies. Universität Heidelberg also offers language courses for international students at intermediate and advanced levels. Most students earn between 12 and 16 credits per semester. A sample course catalog is available on our website.

### Coursework at the University

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### Courses at the AJY Study Center

At the beginning of the program, AJY students complete a preliminary course on aspects of contemporary German society and culture. In addition to assisting with the transition to life in German, this course includes various excursions in and around Heidelberg, as well as a language component that helps prepare students for their coursework at the university.

Throughout the semester, a number of courses are offered at the study center itself. These are taught by adjunct faculty from Universität Heidelberg and cover subjects such as German literature, international business, and advanced reading and composition. These courses are taken for full credit and are uniquely tailored to the language abilities of our students.

### Tutorials / Writing workshops

The program arranges weekly tutorials for students enrolled in lecture courses at the university. These serve to review subject matter from the lectures, discuss readings, and assist students in preparing for their final exams. AJY writing/research workshops are designed to help students with their homework assignments, classroom presentations, or term papers.





## Eligibility and Admissions

Students must have junior status (or second-semester sophomore standing with strong SAT or ACT scores) and at least four semesters of German, or a high intermediate level of German if your school is on a term system. While there is no minimum GPA and all applications are reviewed holistically, the average GPA among recently admitted students has been 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Above all, we are looking for mature students that have a solid foundation in German and an earnest motivation to study abroad.

Application deadlines: April 1 (Fall semester/full academic year), October 1 (Spring semester), and March 1 (Summer program).

### Program Fees

For current information on program fees and policies, housing costs, and estimated expenses, please visit our website. The program fee currently includes:

- Pre-departure information
- Airport pickup by AJY staff
- Housing throughout the semester (including semester breaks)
- All Universität Heidelberg tuition and fees
- Health, travel, liability, medical evacuation, and repatriation insurance

### Internships

The AJY program offers its full semester/academic year students a number of credit-earning, academic internship opportunities through partner institutions in and around Heidelberg. These internships run concurrently with the semester at Universität Heidelberg and require 8 hours of field-related work per week.

- Residence permit
- Public transportation pass for Heidelberg and the surrounding area
- A German Rail Pass/Interrail Pass
- On-site orientation and academic advising
- Placement in internships (competitive)
- Instruction at the AJY Study Center and use of its facilities
- Study trips and excursions organized by the program
- Cultural events and AJY culture coupons
- Official transcript

### Financial Aid

To learn more about financial aid options, students are encouraged to contact the financial aid office at their home institution. For additional information on externally funded scholarships, please consult the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at [www.daad.org](http://www.daad.org) and the Institute of International Education ([www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)).

AJY also offers a limited number of part-time student positions to help defray the cost of living in Heidelberg.

### Transcript

All courses are taken for academic credit, including the tutorials and internships. At the end of each semester, the student's home university receives an official transcript from the Registrar at Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio. The transcript lists all course titles in English, the number of semester hours of credit earned, and letter grades corresponding to the U.S. grading system.





## Heidelberg – The City

Nestled in a beautiful green valley along the banks of the Neckar River, the city of Heidelberg sits 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, while the narrow adjoining side streets give way to the unbridled charm of the old town district with its numerous cafés. Whether you are enjoying the commotion of University Square or taking a quiet stroll through the lavish 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 students with 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.





Junior Year at Heidelberg

Heidelberg University  
Tiffin, Ohio



Promoting  
excellence  
in academic  
exchange  
since  
1958



#### U.S. Office

American Junior Year  
at Heidelberg University  
Heidelberg University  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883-2462  
Toll-free: 1-800-925-9250  
Email: [ajy@heidelberg.edu](mailto:ajy@heidelberg.edu)

#### German Office

American Junior Year  
at Heidelberg University  
Hauptstrasse 133  
69117 Heidelberg, Germany  
Tel. 011-49-6221-23874  
Email: [ajy@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:ajy@uni-heidelberg.de)  
[www.heidelberg.edu/ajy](http://www.heidelberg.edu/ajy)

