

2017-2018



# American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

A Study Abroad Program in Germany since 1958





## 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),
- Summer program (end of May - early July).

Additional options are **internship and service learning opportunities, research projects.**



## Summer Program in German & European Studies

During our six-week summer program, students enjoy homestays with German families, language courses at all levels, and a German/European Studies Seminar (topics vary). The seminar has an experiential focus and includes field trips, workshops, concerts, and more. Students earn 9 credits.





## 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 that take place 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. In addition, the nearly ubiquitous bicycle paths throughout the city provide an easy means of transportation and are very popular among students.

### 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 center provides various amenities to students, including a lounge with German language TV, DVDs, newspapers and magazines, a fully equipped computer lab as well as a small kitchen. Wi-Fi is available in all areas of the 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

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 just 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. Consistently ranked among the top three of German universities, it is one of the few federally recognized 'elite' schools in the country and home to a number of Nobel laureates. Furthermore, the University's excellent reputation has attracted multiple world-class institutions and firms to the city in such diverse areas as Medicine, Physics, Software, and Finance.

The student body at Universität Heidelberg consists of approximately 30.000 students, including 5000 international students from over 130 countries:



### Coursework at the University

Students may choose freely among the full range of courses offered by the university once they have passed a language proficiency exam. Popular departments include, for example, Economics, History, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Transcultural Studies.

Universität Heidelberg also offers language courses for international students at intermediate and

advanced levels. AJY students typically take a mixture of courses across different departments, and all course selections are tailored to the interests and abilities of each program participant.

A sample course catalog is available on our website. Virtually all courses at the university are taught in German. Most students earn between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester.

### 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 students with their transition to life in Germany, 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 include topics such as German literature, international business, and advanced reading and composition. These courses are taken for full credit and are uniquely tailored to the speaking 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 – if your school is on a term system rather than a semester system – a high intermediate level of German. 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 highly motivated students with a solid foundation in German, maturity 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 group transfer service upon arrival
- On-site orientation and academic advising

### 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
- Health, travel, liability, medical evacuation and repatriation insurance
- Public transportation pass for Heidelberg and the surrounding area
- A German Rail Pass/Interrail Pass
- All Universität Heidelberg tuition and fees
- Instruction at the study center and use of its facilities
- Placement in AJY internships (competitive)
- Study trips and excursions sponsored by the program
- Cultural events and AJY culture coupons
- Official transcript

### Financial Aid

Students should contact the financial aid office at their home institution. For additional information on 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)).

Each semester, AJY also offers a small number of paid office assistantships.

### Transcript

Essentially 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, as well as letter grades corresponding to the US grading system.



## Heidelberg – The City

Nestled in a beautiful green valley along the banks of the Neckar River, the city of Heidelberg sits calmly below its iconic sandstone castle. Once dubbed “the last possibility of the beautiful” by Mark Twain, Heidelberg today displays an atmosphere of both authentic German Romanticism and youthful modernity. The bustling city center, with its many shops and restaurants, is home to one of the longest pedestrian zones in Europe, while the adjoining alleys give way to the unbridled charm of the old town district and its friendly cafés.

Whether you are enjoying the liveliness of University Square or taking a quiet stroll through the lavish castle gardens, Heidelberg invites you to experience its unique and enchanting atmosphere. Gracefully avoiding the pitfalls of larger cities, it strikes a harmonious balance between the dynamic bustle of modern life and the dignified ease of a historic European city. 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 AJY sponsored excursions. The program plans field trips to places such as the Black Forest; Strasbour, seat of the European Parliament; the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart; 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, 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.



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