



About the Berlin School of Economics

- You will be taking courses at the Berlin School of Economics (also known as FHW, or the Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft). **It is located about 25 minutes by train or bike from IES**, so plan your schedule accordingly.
- You will select courses during the first week at FHW. Unlike the U of M, **you will visit your courses before signing up for them. Take advantage of this, as two or three classes that you may want to take can fall during the same time slot.** Therefore, you should visit all of them in order to make a final selection.
- As stated above, you might have schedule conflicts between your desired courses. **Each course commonly has only one or two sections offered, so make sure you have many courses (five or more) pre-approved for U of M credit before you leave**, and prioritize the classes that you will need the most.
- The teaching style of many FHW professors is quite different from what you may be used to at the U of M. There is generally little to no homework, and quizzes and midterms are also uncommon. **Grades are usually based on just the final exam, along with a presentation in some courses. It is highly recommended that you attend every class and take good notes.**
- **Most courses at FHW are only held once a week for three to four hours**, with several breaks during each class period.
- **There are many courses offered in English at FHW.** These attract international students as well as German students looking to improve their English. This is a good opportunity to make German friends. If you have completed German 1004, you can also take business courses in German.
- **The international program at FHW will pair you with a “buddy” who is a native German studying at FHW.** It is up to you how much you interact with your buddy. It can be a great way to get to know Berlin and German culture if you make the effort, so it is strongly encouraged that you do so.
- **Do not be afraid to eat at the cafeteria located on the top floor of FHW.** They offer very cheap (usually less than two Euro) and tasty meals compared to typical American cafeteria food. It always has at least one vegetarian dish, as well as many vegetarian-friendly snacks and a salad bar.
- **FHW sponsors many free or cheap parties and activities during the semester.** This is a good opportunity to get to know the other students, so go when you can!

Learning Abroad Center

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