



# HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

Studying at the University of Heidelberg -- Germany's oldest university -- you will find yourself developing a more independent and self-reliant attitude towards learning. Your classes will give you a new outlook on your chosen academic discipline and will broaden your understanding of European history and cultures. Since all instruction is in German, your language proficiency will increase rapidly. You will discover how these new language skills allow you to assimilate German life and culture in a way that would be impossible to experience otherwise. You can come to Heidelberg for a full academic year or for just one semester. Regardless of your major, the program staff will help you tailor a course of studies to fit your individual interests and needs. In the AJY Year study center, located on Universitätsplatz in the heart of the old city, you can relax with friends between classes, watch television or read newspapers, use computers for term papers or homework assignments, cook in the kitchen -- everything, of course, auf Deutsch!

**Study Options:** You may study with the AJY program in Heidelberg for a full academic year, for one semester, or for a 6-week summer term. A full-year study abroad experience will enable you to fully immerse yourself in German language and culture. Or you may choose to study for only one semester at the University of Heidelberg. During the fall semester, you have the option of returning to the U.S. in late December or extending until mid-February. The Heidelberg @ Heidelberg summer program offers intensive German language coursework in late May and June.

**Housing:** Rather than living with other Americans, AJY students are spread out across Heidelberg, living with German students in a dormitory or in a shared apartment (*Wohngemeinschaft*). That enables you to speak German informally with your neighbors -- from before that first cup of coffee in the morning until the late-night chat in the evening. Your living situation is as significant as the classroom for furthering your command of German and your understanding of German and European culture. All of the rooms are fully equipped and have access to shared kitchen and bath facilities. Most housing is fairly centrally located, requiring only a short walk or bus ride to and from classes or other activities. Almost all of the rooms are singles. Your room will be available from the day the group arrives in Heidelberg for the duration of your enrollment in the program.

**Meals:** Students usually prepare breakfast on their own. For noon and evening meals, they may take advantage of the very reasonably priced offerings at *the Mensa Academica* of the University. Since all rooms have access to either limited cooking facilities or to full kitchens, many students cook occasional meals with fellow students in their apartments or dorms.

**Admissions:** You will need the following requirements before applying: junior standing, two years of college German and a minimum 3.0 GPA. In order to apply, students must submit: (1) an application, (2) a \$20 application fee, (3) a college transcript, and (4) two recommendations (one of them must be from your German professor). If you're planning to apply, please pick up an application packet at the International Center, DuBourg Hall 150.

**Language of Instruction:** German.

**Scholarships:** ALL SLU scholarships will go with the student.

**More Info:** For more information, please go to the web site at <http://www.heidelberg.edu/ajy/>

**City of Heidelberg:** Heidelberg is one of Germany's most beautiful cities. For centuries, its romantic charm has attracted admirers from all over the world. It is also the classic German student city -- bustling with a wide range of cultural activities such as theater, dance, and music and all types of shops, student pubs, and sports facilities. Heidelberg is located on the Neckar River in southwestern Germany -- one of the sunniest and warmest corners of the country. Built on the ruins of Celtic and Roman settlements, Heidelberg was the capital of the Palatinate until 1685. The massive castle is considered by many to be the most impressive in all of Germany. It was damaged during the Thirty Years' War and destroyed by the French in 1693. This imposing ruins is perched on the hillside above the old city. At the beginning of the 19th century, the writers and painters who were drawn to Heidelberg to marvel at this remarkable combination of natural scenery and historical architecture helped to launch the German romantic movement. Today, Heidelberg also is known for its sidewalk cafes and student pubs and for the friendly, relaxed approach to life of the typical Heidelberger. The castle courtyard is used in the spring and summer for outdoor concerts and opera productions. Ship tours leave regularly to explore the castles along the Neckar valley. There is a re-creation of the burning and destruction of the castle three times each summer. During early December, the *Universitätsplatz* and *Marktplatz* are host to the colorful *Weihnachtsmarkt*. More than 10 museums and several theaters and concert halls attest to the vibrant cultural life of the city. With more than 140,000 inhabitants, Heidelberg is large enough to have a lively cultural scene and yet small enough not to be overpowering.

**Community Activity:** In order to meet Germans outside the academic environment, all students are required to participate in an activity such as a sports club, choir, volunteer work, orchestra, cooking class, church or synagogue, after school program with children, etc. The American Junior Year staff will help you find the activity that is right for you and will assist you in making the initial contact.

**Student Life:** The more quickly you make new German friends and get involved in activities in the local community, the more exciting and rewarding your time in Germany will be. The efforts of the staff and faculty of the Junior Year program are designed to help you quickly achieve the language skills and cultural fluency that will enable you to function effectively and independently. In Heidelberg, you will: Live with German students and with other students around the world, meet regularly with your German *Sprachpartner*, and get involved in one or more sports, music, volunteer or other community organization.

**Facilities:** Since you will be matriculated at the University of Heidelberg, you will have access to all University facilities. At the University's computer center, you will be able to access e-mail, the Internet, etc. The athletic center at the University can be used by all students; it also offers an extensive selection of courses and extra-mural activities in various sports. The library of the University of Heidelberg has more than three million books, subscribes to hundreds of journals and maintains a modern media center for student research.

**Study Center:** Located in the heart of Heidelberg on the *Universitätsplatz*, the AJY Study Center contains classrooms, offices, a full kitchen, and a student lounge. Students can use the Center to relax between classes, study or gather with friends. Among the facilities available are a library, television, videocassette recorder, and a student telephone. Several personal computers with internet access and a laser printer are available for term papers and academic assignments.

**Excursions/Travel:** The program organizes four study trips each year. On these trips, students are provided with bus transportation, sight-seeing, hotel or hostel accommodation, breakfast and usually one other meal a day en route. Students arriving for the Fall Semester spend 2 days exploring the Romantic Road shortly after arriving in Heidelberg. In visits to Weikersheim, Creglingen Wertheim, Wurzburg, and Rothenburg ob der Tauber, students are introduced to examples of German architecture representative of wide range of cultural trends and historical periods. Following the Preliminary Course, there is a four-day study trip of southern Germany sponsored by the program. This trip varies from year to year but often includes visits to the castles at Meersburg on Lake Constance and Neuschwanstein in Füssen. Students can explore medieval cities such as Konstanz, Lindau, and St. Gallen. If weather permits, one day is devoted to a hike in the Bavarian Alps. Two 3- to 4-day study trips are made during the spring semester. One trip focuses on the political and cultural life of Berlin. Another trip explores smaller centers of historic and cultural interest in eastern or northern Germany. In recent years, towns such as Weimar, Dresden, Erfurt, Jena, and Eisenach were visited. During these study trips, students have a full schedule of tours, discussions, and cultural performances. In past years, one-day study trips have been organized to such places as the medieval monastery at Maulbronn, the Black Forest, Strasbourg, the concentration camp at Struthof, Frankfurt, Mainz Speyer, and Worms, and along the Castle Road. At the beginning of the semester, regular group visits to theater performances, concerts, or opera introduce students to the variety of cultural offerings in the Heidelberg area. Later in the semester, students are provided with 'cultural coupons' to allow them to attend cultural events on their own or with friends. In addition to these events organized by the AJY Program, students often use weekends and the long semester break to explore Europe. The central location of Heidelberg and the fact that it has excellent train connections makes it an excellent "home base" for such travel.