



Middlebury

Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 3 inclusive.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

There were very large lectures. There were no assignments except until the end of the year so it was up to the student to study outside of class and keep himself up to date. This was difficult for me and as a result I was a little overwhelmed by the cumulative exam at the end of the semester.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

There is much more social competition between friends and there is little customer service. Everyone is kind of on their own and if you need help, you must do your best to use the few services that are off offered.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I feel I have a good understanding of the German culture of which I had little before I left. I gained appreciation for the ease and development of America. I also appreciate the loyalty aspect of American friendships and how important and valuable that is.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I gained independence and an ability to adapt to different social groups and find connections with the most foreign personalities and backgrounds.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

It has not.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I lived with three young Germans and two young french girls. The experience was invaluable to my learning of the culture and language.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

The discussion was too advanced for my language skills

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

As much as I had expected. I am practically fluent now, just have difficulty with non-everyday vocabulary.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

They are overwhelmed by the number of students, do not expect too much individual attention

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

At which institution/university did you take this course?

FU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Please describe the course content:

History of west Deutschland from 1949-1989

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

readings and discussion

Other comments about this course:

great professor, Note

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Einfuehrung der Geschichte des Mittelalters

At which institution/university did you take this course?

FU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam, but I did a paper instead

Describe course content

history of middle ages with german concentration

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

readings and student led discussion

Other comments about this course:

This was a horrible class, the teacher, Eberlein, had no passion and had nothing to contribute to class, she relied heavily on the student participation and did not fill in the gaps when no one raised their hands.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Spieltheorie

At which institution/university did you take this course?

FU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Cumulative Exam

Describe course content

game theory - economics

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lectures with power piont half the class, problem solving in front of the class the second half.

Other comments about this course:

good class, make sure you keep up outside of class on your own.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Grundkurs Architektur

At which institution/university did you take this course?

FU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

slide test, but I wrote a paper instead, also a few presentation in front of historic buildings in berlin

Describe course content

History of architecture from greek until modern

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

slides and discussion of them

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Even though the academics and course-load were not as good as Middlebury, the city of Berlin is awesome and the people are very interesting and diverse.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Do not accept campus housing. although it is somewhat stressful finding a room, it only took me 5 days of searching the city and interviewing for rooms in an apartment while staying in a hostel. It was very very stressful during those days but I ended up with a room in the middle of berlin with young germans and that is how you have fun and learn the language/culture. The alternative is living 30 minutes away by subway and living in an ugly dorm building in the suburbs (the benefit is that it is cheap here and near the school, but you live alone in a dorm room surrounded by foreigners).

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Update and improve the courses that are pre-approved for credit. Allow us to see the courses offered before showing up in Berlin.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

The educational system in Germany, Berlin to be specific, is really different from ours. Much is expected of students and everything is somehow self-taught. Self-taught in the sense that students are expected to work independently on topics that interest them. Lectures/Discussions are to some extent very limited in scope and are intended to introduce the general topic to the student, while the details are left to the students to be discovered through thorough research and studies. This made me learn to work on my own and to do extensive researches both online and offline. With so much of the work left to the student, I had to make many adjustments in terms of my approach to school work. This also called for a lot of organization, commitment and self-discipline. I also learned to be very flexible as there were times when we had to work in groups (eg. on problem sets and presentations). Unlike Middlebury, which has a defined campus, FU-Berlin stretches over a large area of south-west Berlin. Students do not live on campus, but rather all across Berlin. Coordinating group meetings was therefore almost always a problem. I had to be considerate of others and be very understanding when it came to that. Also, because class participation didn't have any effect on the final grade, I sort of wanted to ignore the assigned readings at the start of classes. But I soon realized that to make the best out of class lectures/discussions, I had to read most if not all of the assigned readings. I benefited a lot from being in this different academic environment: I learned to be punctual, self-disciplined, well organized and to work independently.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

German culture and my culture are quite possibly two completely different (almost "parallel") cultures. While we seem to be very oblivious of time, Germans are very very conscious of time. They value, appreciate and respect someone who's always on time more than the smartest person on the planet (thats just my observation!). Another thing: customer service doesn't exist and doesn't have any whatsoever significance in German culture. After all, "if you need it, you'll come". Also, there's no room for errors in German culture. The emphasis on perfection was a tad out of my realm.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Study abroad has helped me develop more appreciation for the German culture. There is, indeed, nothing wrong with always striving to be the very best, to be punctual and to be organized. I realized after my first few weeks in Berlin, that these were the exact qualities that I had to work on. At the same time, I realized how friendly, tolerant and welcoming American culture is.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Adaptability, good organizational skills, an open mind, and the willingness to try different things! I think studying abroad has helped me appreciate different cultures even more!

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Not much as far as career goals are concerned. However, the 2 chemistry courses that I took there helped to deepen my interest and appreciation for chemistry.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

There was only one German on my hall, so I really didn't have much contact with Germans at home. But that really wasn't important as I didn't spend much time at home anyway.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

It made it possible for me to work in a group with native speakers.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

N/A

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

Berliners take every opportunity they get to practice their English. ie they may see you as a good resource for improving their English. So be adamant and seize every opportunity to practice and improve your German. My German improved tremendously and its largely because of the fact that I worked in groups with natives outside the classroom. I also connected with some local families and joined them for dinner on most weekends. This also was a big influence. But I probably could have cut back on my outings with my American friends.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

I thought the Chemistry department was quite good. Their labs are equipped with excellent machines.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Thermodynamics (upper... 2nd year course according to German standards)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet-Berlin

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams

Please describe the course content:

Energy, Heat Capacity, Laws of Thermodynamics, etc

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures and tutorials

Other comments about this course:

N/A

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

European Labor Migration since 1945 (Proseminar ie upper level course)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet-Berlin

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Paper

Describe course content

"Gastarbeiter" program in Germany, Immigrants in Germany and their integration, the German Immigration law, turkish immigrants in Berlin

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

seminar and discussions. We had to hold presentations. We also watched films and visited a museum.

Other comments about this course:

none

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Chemical Kinetics (upper level/3rd year course)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet-Berlin

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams

Describe course content

Rates of reaction, Equilibrium, Diffusion, Boltzmann Distribution

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures and tutorials

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Didn't experience discrimination of any kind in Berlin despite my color!

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

It's a wonderful program und Berlin ist einfach HAMMER!

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Embrace and immerse yourself into your host culture as much as you can. Do what the locals do and discover your host city/town in your own style. They say 'curiosity killed the cat'...alas it didn't kill the human being. Explore!!!

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

I found the meeting and handouts very useful. Most of my questions were answered at the meeting. However, since it takes quite some time to put together all the necessary documents like letter from your health insurance company, passport photos, resume and cover letter in the chosen language etc, it may be better if we are made aware of such needed documents a little bit ahead of time.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

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2010

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2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Germany has a much more independent structure for learning than Middlebury requires. Some classes require a presentation, but no homework or reading is ever checked, there are no midterms in the Humanities. Your only grade (if no presentation) is a final paper. If you are a structured enough student, it is wonderful because, unlike Middlebury, you can really dive into one topic deeply without the required weekly busy work of overwhelming reading. The one downside is that professors are not as invested in their students' passions, academic problems, or questions. If you plan ahead, they will meet with you if you make an appointment.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Germans can be brutally honest at times, and will seldom give any sort of encouragement to their foreign students the way Americans will. As much as people complain about Americans being underexposed to other cultures, the Germans themselves describe Americans as very friendly and helpful to foreigners in a way the Germans never have been. In other words they are not mean or rude, but they are not a warm people nor do they make allowances due to your status as a sometimes-confused foreigner.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Clearly, studying abroad has improved my language skills and given me a first-hand experience at learning about Germany. I would accredit this to having a job there, a German roommate and being directly enrolled in the Uni without the padding that comes with programs such as Erasmus (Inter-Europe Exchange Program). It really hasn't changed my way of looking at American culture, except for seeing that many Americans really are overly-portly, but that urban Americans are much more tolerant of foreign cultures than urban, educated Germans are.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Conducting an internship abroad with the Associated Press contributed to my personal growth in ways that I do not have the sufficient space to describe. It allowed me to realize my own personal career goals while also developing on-the-job experience using personal languages, in short. A willingness to ask questions was very important. Living in a large city such as Berlin outside of a dorm atmosphere also helped me grow in independence in ways that a small town in Vermont, though beloved, could not.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I now am sure that I want to live abroad, hopefully in Germany.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I disagree strongly with Middlebury's suggestion that semester only students in Germany live in dorms. The dorms are out where residential houses are (read: no German students and little noise tolerated) and are occupied primarily by other foreign students whose main language in common is NOT German, but English. The dorms do not tend to socialize. I lived with a wonderful German roommate, who grew up in Berlin and gave me access to a German friend group I never could have met otherwise. It is always easy to make friends in Berlin, but harder to make German friends. I wish Middlebury would provide the apartment-finding websites that most German students use, so that Middlebury students could have an easier time finding a place. Being the cheapest capital city in Europe, Berlin is also an affordable place to find an apartment.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

I found few friends at the Uni itself. Classes meet only once a week; that does not help.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I worked (and still do) as an Intern for the Associated Press. Through this, I was given access to interviewing celebrities, major German and international political figures. Maybe that's not integration, but it is a very unique view into the German culture and government.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My improvement was greater than expected. Having a German roommate, mostly German friends, a brother living nearby who speaks fluent German and a boyfriend who, though American, spoke German with me, were all major factors.

Germans will not compliment your German. That doesn't mean, however, that they don't respect your trying to speak their language. Frustrating at times, but just remember that. Sometimes your profs will offer to speak English with you. Don't ask them to speak German if they continue to speak English to you (they can get insulted) but do speak German back to them.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Independence. They don't give you busy work nor do they baby you.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

The libraries are not nearly as good as at Middlebury. They have weird hours which make no sense. Check on the library website for details.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Pop Culture in the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One Final Paper

Please describe the course content:

Readings, discussions, listening to others' presentations

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The teacher talked about material with 4 or 5 students adding ideas.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

1950s China: The Construction of a "New China"

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One Final Paper

Describe course content

Readings, Discussions

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Pretty much like Middlebury with an engaging professor and lively students

Other comments about this course:

It was a great course. Freie has the strongest Chinese program in Germany. If you are into China, take a course here!

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Sinti and Roma in Europe and Germany ("Gypsies")

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One Final Test

Describe course content

Short readings

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures

Other comments about this course:

It is easy to get lost in a pure lecture course.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

History of the Federal Republic of Germany

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Freie University

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One Final Paper

Describe course content

Readings

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture with 4 or 5 students occasionally making comments

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Each week, I had a different Turkish man come up to me, doing everything from whispering obscenities, to touching to slapping my rear end. This was not appreciated. There is really nothing you can do about it, except tell them to go away and stay street-smart. It had nothing to do with what I was wearing or how I was dressed. I was wearing nothing more revealing than every other girl on the street, and sometimes it even happened in my oh-so-attractive Gym sweats.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Berlin provides an excitement and independence that no other German-speaking city can provide. After 3 years of working hard learning the language at Midd, it is a fun and rewarding place to test out your knowledge...

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

I've heard that Mainz as a town is very similar to Midd, more daily work, charming, safe, quiet. If that is what you loved about Midd, go there. If you are looking for a bit more hands-off from your University and want a louder, more fast-paced city-life experience, you are better suited for Berlin. Neither is better or worse, but they are VERY different and you should know what you personally want.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

More practical tips for each city. These can be obtained by asking those of us who lived in them. I also did not need to use as many Midd resources, because my brother has lived in Germany for two years and was able to help me a lot.