A GUIDE FOR WHAT’S NEXT

German

About the major

The German Department provides its students with a thorough training in German language and culture, enabling them to interact freely and easily with German native speakers in all areas of linguistic competency. Students will acquire a fundamental understanding of the major cultural, social, and historical forces that have shaped German society, including significant developments in German literature, as well as the basic skills required for cultural and intercultural analysis.

The Department of German’s interactive, communicative approach to language teaching provides an exciting multimedia classroom setting in which to absorb the culture of one of Europe’s leading economic and political powers.

Reasons you might choose this major

• You want to be able to connect with some of the over 100 million people speaking German in Europe and worldwide.
• You are interested in learning about the culture and language of one of the key players in European history and its historiography.
• You want to further your knowledge of the language in which some of the world’s greatest thinkers, writers, artists, musicians, historians, and scientists lived, thought, and wrote—Kant, Nietzsche, Goethe, Brecht, Mozart, Wagner, Einstein, Heisenberg.
• You want to connect with one of the major cultures that has shaped America’s national history and character.
• You are interested in engaging with the German and European markets and the designation “Made in Germany.”
• You have a strong interest in science, environmentalism, and technology, have a passion for linguistics, and are considering going to graduate school.
• You are interested or invested in soccer or winter sports and want to reach out to fellow enthusiasts overseas and at home.

“My study of Europe through the lens of history gave me an appreciation for how the European Union came into being, the origin of long-standing questions around national and regional identity and key events that shape Europe’s relationship with the United States. By becoming [nearly] fluent in German and studying abroad, I also was able to gain a non-U.S. perspective on these issues while also learning how to operate in a different culture and environment.”

—Elena Ziebarth ’01
Director of Marketing, FIA

Learning Goals
1. To be able to communicate effectively in German, both orally and in writing.
2. To demonstrate understanding of spoken German.
3. To use close reading and critical thinking skills to analyze German texts and materials.
4. To write documents of sufficient consistent and reasonable clarity to be readily intelligible to an educated outside reader.
5. To successfully complete courses within the regular academic curriculum at institutions of higher learning in Germany.
6. To develop cross- and intercultural sensitivity to be able to function in a German-speaking cultural environment.
7. To understand major historical and social developments that have shaped Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and understand their place in today’s globalized context.

Middlebury College
Center for Careers and Internships
Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one’s skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where German majors go

**Applying your learning through internships . . .**

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

- Bundestag
- NBC Universal
- Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
- J.P. Morgan Chase
- State Parliament Rhineland-Palatinate
- Johannes Gutenberg-Universität
- Landesbank Berlin
- McLean Hospital
- Filmmuseum, Potsdamer Platz
- City Hall of New York City
- U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
- Mare Verlag
- National Securities Investigation Division
- Literaturwekstatt Berlin
- Greenpeace
- Pacific Investment Management Co.
- JFK School Berlin
- Department of Homeland Security
- House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs
- The Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

- Volkswagen Ag, Head of Group Experiential Marketing
- Yahoo!, Vice President, Global Advertising Operations
- Heidelberg University, President
- Cohen & Steers, Senior Vice President and Director, European Research
- IDC, Vice President and Regional Director, Central Europe
- Department of Defense, Research Analyst
- Apex Foundation, President
- German Unlimited, Copartner and Translator
- Foreign Exchange Translations, Vice President of Operations
- JP Morgan, Vice President, International Tax Planning and Analytics
- Global School Access, Director of Student Management and Services
- Management and Services
- Dell, Marketing Operations Director, Global Brand and End User Comp.
- Macy’s Inc., Senior Counsel
- Truven Health Analytics, Senior Creative Manager
- CageFree Music, LLC; CageFree Records, Owner, President
- GE Onshore Wind, Global Treasurer
- Moravian Archives, Associate Archivist
- OSG Europe Corp S.A., Director of Corporate Planning
- Lyst, Head of Business Intelligence and Strategy
- U.S. Department of State/Office of Children’s Issues, Country Officer
- Diction GmbH, Translator/Editor
- Teachers Love Travel LLC, Cofounder

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