Marburg ♦ Germany
Message from the Director

Featuring two countries within one program, BCA Marburg is poised to offer its students the best of both worlds: pre-semester intensive language training in the Austrian capital city of Vienna, and the regular semester in the heart of Germany, in a progressive and at the same time charming, university town called Marburg.

Vienna will provide you with an important look into this modern society with a truly fascinating history, a topic all too often overlooked in the US classroom. Did you know, for example, that Sigmund Freud, Gustav Klimt and Amadeus Mozart called Vienna their home? And that Vienna is also home to organizations such as the United Nations, Amnesty International, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, World Vision, Doctors without Borders, Greenpeace and the World Peace Council? Your time in Vienna is short, and it will fly by, as there is always something to do in this city. Whether you prefer strolling and taking in the magnificent architecture along the Wienzeile or the First District, visiting some of the world’s best art museums and opera houses, or if you just prefer exploring life as a contemporary student, your options are virtually endless.

Once your language training is complete, we’ll proceed together to Marburg, the ideal place for you to come and immerse in the language and culture of central Germany. With a student population of 23,000 and on average only 100 U.S. students here at the Philipps University per semester, this location and its friendly population will help you get acclimated to German student life quickly.

I will set up the basics for you (housing, health insurance, admission, orientation, language training enrollment, local bank account with food allowance, residency permit, etc.) prior to your arrival so that you are able to delve into pursuing your academic and personal goals without any red tape. Regardless of whether you come from a metropolitan area or a small town, Marburg will be a relatively easy adjustment since it is mid-sized (with a population of around 80,000). I grew up in a small Midwestern town and did not start learning German until I entered college, so I know well what adjustments and difficulties you will be going through. And though many students have passed through my doors since I came here in 2001, it is still a wonderful and amazing thing for me to watch my students grow during their time in Marburg.

In addition to having access to some really neat classes (I often find myself wishing I could take some of the University courses myself), you will have the opportunity to see lots of important historical places both in and outside of Marburg. And we go places together both on and off the beaten path, from major/capital cities like Berlin to tiny townships like Stadtallendorf.

So pack those bags and get ready for the biggest journey of your life, a journey not only to German-speaking Europe, but to who you are in the process of becoming.

Nutze den Tag! (That’s “carpe diem” in German.)

Sincerely,
Kristopher Riggs
Resident Director, BCA Marburg

Kristopher Riggs has directed the Marburg program since 2001. In addition to teaching the BCA translation course in the fall semester and among many other responsibilities, Kris helps students negotiate the German university system; takes care of student admission and matriculation to the university; and assists students with obtaining a student residency permit for the Federal Republic of Germany. Kris has an MA in German and is certified as a German-to-English translator by the American Translators Association (ATA).

COVER IMAGE
Marburg an der Lahn, with its famous Schloß overlooking the Lahn River Valley, starting to show some fall colors.
Local to Global: Connecting to Ideas that Matter

Since 1962, BCA Study Abroad has been committed to helping students understand the complexities of the contemporary world by providing challenging academic programs and cross-cultural learning in locations around the globe.

From this start, BCA focused its educational mission on engaging students with ideas that matter.

As educators, we are convinced that no genuine understanding of global issues can be gained without a strong intellectual grounding in the histories, societies and cultures of the region in which our students pursue their studies. Furthermore, we believe that student learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we aim to understand.

By design, a significant component of BCA’s study abroad programs, both through traditional classroom education and in-field learning, is grasping the historical, social and cultural context of the big questions of the human condition.

Through this model, BCA strives to convey a more comprehensive and precise understanding of the world to the students who participate in our programs.
About the Program

Participating in our German-speaking Europe program is described by most of our students as the best decision of their lives. Not only does BCA place students in two sites, Vienna and Marburg, but they empower students to get the most out of their time in Europe by providing them with everything they need for a most rewarding experience: intensive German courses, historical and cultural orientation, customized academic advising, BCA-exclusive courses and all the red tape cut for you. Nothing holding you back. Go seize the day!

ELISABETHKIRCHE
St. Elisabeth’s Church (die Elisabethkirche) in Marburg, was the first true Gothic church built on German soil, dating back to 1235. It belonged to the Teutonic Knights and was a major pilgrimage destination until 1539, when Philipps the Magnanimous (founder of Philipps University) had the bones of Elisabeth removed from the now Protestant church.
Located in the culturally rich city of Vienna, Austria, The Internationales Kulturinstitut Wien (IKI Wien) adheres to the Common European Framework of Reference and is a certified examination center for the ÖSD (Austria’s German Language Diploma), an internationally recognized examination system for proof of German language proficiency. IKI Wien teaches all levels of German to students from around the world. This view of the Vienna Opera House is what a student sees from IKI Wien.
Student Learning

As a BCA Marburg student, you will start your study abroad experience in the culturally rich city of Vienna, Austria, for German language training before embarking to Marburg, Germany, where you will enroll at Philipps University for the remainder of your time abroad.

Language Proficiency

It is important for students to have an accurate and clear understanding of their level of German language proficiency when choosing to study abroad with BCA Marburg/Vienna. To help determine your current German language proficiency level, BCA works directly with the Goethe Institut, using a language exam designed by the Institut and provided to you online. Completion of the online German proficiency test, which is graded by examiners from the Goethe Institut of Frankfurt am Main, is required for acceptance into the Marburg/Vienna program.

Recommended University Courses

This is just a sampling of the rich array of courses offered at the University. For more recommended courses or to search their offerings for yourself, visit our website at www.BCAstudyabroad.org.

German-French Relations Since WWI (2 credits)

This course examines the contribution of war, culture, scientific exchanges, economic relations, and a certain mutual admiration to the relationship between Germany and France.

Women on the Home Front: Women in the First and Second World Wars (4 credits)

Looking at the world’s wars from the point of the everyday, this course highlights the role of women, their political responsibility, their economic importance, and their burdens and benefits in relation to the forefront. Students will explore how these factors mirror the present development of gender relations.

Violent Conflicts and Peace Processes in International Transition

This course is an in-depth introduction to peace and conflict studies, tracing the beginnings of the transformation of global conflict events to 1945 and moving all the way to the development of new research topics such as the relationship between development and peace.

Recommended Reading

While reading these books is not a program requirement, we recommend you read at least one as part of your preparation.

- Vienna. A Cultural History by Nicolas Parsons
- Fin-de-Siècle by Carl E. Schorske
- Vienna: Politics and Culture by Karl Vocelka
- Geschichte Österreichs: Kultur–Gesellschaft–Politik by Karl Vocelka

PHILIPPS UNIVERSITY, MARBURG

Founded in 1527, Philipps University is the world’s oldest Protestant university still in existence. The oldest portion of the campus, the Alte Universitäts, is built on the site of a 13th-Century Dominican cloister. During its nearly 500-year history, the University has educated and employed a number of distinguished scholars and thinkers, including nine Nobel Prize winners.

Today, 20,000 students study in the University’s modern facilities. Philipps is a large university with a wide range of academic disciplines, including English, sociology, peace and conflict studies, German, business, law, psychology, media, mathematics, chemistry, biology, geology, geography, education, medicine, pharmacology and physical education. Philipps University has hosted BCA participants since 1962.
“I attended the conference, which created a lot of opportunities to learn. As a member of the Model U.N. Economic and Social Council, I worked to solve international world hunger, as well as the oil reserve challenge in Ecuador.”

Jessica Funtanilla, Elizabethtown College
BCA Signature Courses

BCA’s Signature Courses focus student learning on intellectual development, cross-cultural awareness and trans-disciplinary study, both through traditional classroom learning and in-field experience. Much of this learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we explore.

With the exception of GER 202 at IKI Vienna, where our students are placed in classes among students from all around the world, the following courses are exclusively for BCA students. These courses are taught in German by local instructors hired by BCA.

Required Courses
GER 202: German Language: Composition, Grammar and Conversation at IKI Wien (Presemester Course; 4, 8 or 12 credits)
All BCA Marburg students start the program with a minimum of four weeks of language training in Vienna, Austria, at the IKI Wien. Depending on personal preference and language proficiency, you also have the option to study for up to 12 weeks (for an additional fee). GER 202 is the intensive German language course all BCA students take prior to the beginning of their first semester in Marburg. The course focuses on speaking, listening, grammar and writing in an academic setting.

HIS 205: Vienna: Crossroads of Europe, History and Culture (3 credits)
This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Vienna, Austria. The course focuses on the city as a geographical, political, cultural, and artistic crossroads at the heart of Europe and will help students understand how Vienna has been and remains a perpetually emerging and evolving modernity in politics, culture and the arts since the late 19th century.

BCA Courses
LIT 335: German Novels and Novellas (3 credits)
Students read, analyze and interpret three novels. In the past, the selections have included Homo Faber by Max Frisch, Hass im Herzen by Margret Steenfatt, Der Vorleser by Bernhard Schlink and more.
GER 310: German to English Translation I (3 credits)
This translation course (for students with little or no prior experience in translating) covers basic terminology such as Ausgangssprache/Zielsprache as well as translation strategies. Students focus on broadening vocabulary, the importance of fully understanding the text to be translated and various problems in translating from German into English.
SOC 370: Lahn Model United Nations Conference (1 credit, Spring Semester)
Students attend the Lahn Model United Nations Conference in Marburg and expand their understanding of the United Nations and how it works. Students write a 3-5 page paper summarizing their activities at the Conference and reflecting on how the Conference affected their understanding of and perspective on the United Nations as an organization.

GET STARTED ON A CAREER IN TRANSLATION
Ever wonder what it would be like to work as a translator? How to enter the professional field of translation? What to do with your bilingual skills after college? At BCA Marburg, we’ll provide you with hands-on learning so that you can eventually consider pursuing a career in translation. Our resident director, Kris Riggs, who is also an ATA certified translator, will teach you all the basics about translation, professional certification as a translator and using translation memory (TM) software so that upon completion of GER 310 you will have the basic skills to set your résumé apart.
On a hill high above, the city is dominated by the Landgrafenschloss, an imposing 13th century stone castle. Formerly the home of Hesse’s rulers, today it’s a museum and a student residence that houses two BCA students each semester.
Living in Marburg

Located in the wooded Lahn River Valley in the state of Hesse, Marburg is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Germany. Its many architectural gems include Germany’s oldest Gothic church, the Elisabethkirche. An ambitious project to restore the city’s half-timbered houses adds to Marburg’s immense charm.

On a hill high above, the city is dominated by the Landgrafenschloss, an imposing 13th-century stone castle. Formerly the home of Hesse’s rulers, today it’s a museum and a student residence. With a population of 80,000, Marburg offers the friendliness and convenience of a small city, but as a university town, Marburg also offers plenty of culture and activities.

BCA students have many opportunities to socialize with German students and to get involved in the community. Philipps University has a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including sports, art, music, and cinema. Philipps also has a relatively small number of American students—usually less than 70 in a given semester—making it much easier for students to immerse themselves in the culture.

Housing and Student Life

BCA Marburg students live and study side-by-side with local students, both in Vienna and in Marburg. Housing options include university and privately operated student dormitories—for the regular semester you can even apply to live in Marburg’s castle.

BCA arranges housing in various student residence halls in the Oberstadt (the historical old town of Marburg) that are run by the university. These residence halls are located near the castle and overlook the Lahn River Valley. The central location makes this a popular spot. Most BCA students live in the Oberstadt, but the housing options not in the Oberstadt also have their benefits. All accommodations include a private room with communal lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

Students typically prepare their own meals, especially in the evening. You can purchase a healthy, inexpensive lunch at the Mensa and other locations throughout the town of Marburg. The BCA resident director will provide you with a meal stipend for the semester.

Local Transportation

Vienna has one of the world’s best public transportation systems. During the language training, students will need to purchase a monthly public transportation pass valid for all buses, subways and trams in the city.

Most BCA students in Marburg live within easy walking distance of shops, businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues. Plus, you will have access to free rail travel throughout the entire state of Hesse via your Philipps University student ID, with easy connections to trains throughout the country.

Sports Facilities

There are a large number of course offerings at the Philipps University’s Zentrum für Hochschulsport. You can also bike or hike the region’s nearly infinite trail systems, both in the forest and throughout the river valley. Most students are amazed at just how much nature is at their fingertips.

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

BCA students travel together on educational excursions throughout the semester including:

- **Berlin, Germany**: Spend three days in this historic, trend-setting capital city.
- **Bratislava, Slovakia**: Take a day trip to neighbouring Slovakia’s capital city, Bratislava, to help you better understand its relations with Vienna, both past and present.
- **Stadtallendorf, Germany**: Here students visit the DIZ, a local museum on the site of a Nazi forced labor camp, now dedicated to preserving the memory of and educating people about the horrors of the Holocaust.
Mission Statement
Rooted in the values of peace and justice, BCA Study Abroad promotes international understanding, awareness of global citizenship and academic scholarship through educational exchange.

BCA Marburg Quick Facts
Dates of Study:
- Fall Semester: Early July/early August through late December/mid-February
- Spring Semester: Early January/early February through late July

Application Deadlines:
- Fall Semester: April 15
- Spring Semester: November 1

Language of Instruction: German: Direct enrollment track requires at least four semesters of college-level German (or equivalent).

Host University: Philipps University
Housing: University housing, private dorms or castle

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Netherlands: The Hague
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www.BCAstudyabroad.org