



Study Abroad Site in Siegburg, Germany

Summary:

This study abroad site in Siegburg, Germany presents an ideal location to study, serve, and experience culture. The one-month summer program will revolve around several main components: 1) Academic classes; 2) Service opportunities with a local church; and 3) Side trips to cities/sites that relate to the academic content. As a part of this program, students will live with local families, creating an immersive home-stay experience. Classes will be held at the Evangelische Freikirche Church in Siegburg, and students will engage in service projects with this church, as well. DBU has strong connections to this church through the family of Brent Thomason, one of our professors, whose wife, Aline, grew up in this church. Likewise, Siegburg provides an ideal location because of its beauty, safety, cleanliness, access to railways, proximity to a major international airport, etc. The overall cost per student will be \$3,150 for the one-month summer experience, exclusive of their airfare and tuition for their class.



Detailed Description of the Program and Site

Location:

Siegburg is a beautiful city in the western portion of Germany near Cologne and Bonn. With a history dating back 1000 years, today it is thriving community with a population of 41,000. The city is very safe, and has a mixture of old-world charm alongside modern amenities. The map below shows the location of the city, which is a 30 minute train ride from Cologne (a city of 1,000,000), and a 50 minute train ride from the Frankfurt International Airport. Siegburg provides easy access to a variety of historical cities of interest for DBU students by train: Paris (3 hr 45 min), Amsterdam (3 hr 15 min), Nuremburg (3 hr 15 min), Munich (4 hr 30 min), Berlin (4 hr 50 min), and Zurich, (4 hr 50 min).



Partner Institutions:

Our host site for classes would be at the Evangelische Freikirche Church in Siegburg, Germany. This church is a strong evangelical church with a vibrant faith community, and DBU has had a strong connection to the church through the family of Brent and Aline Thomason. The church is an ideal place to have our DBU students not only study, but help serve alongside what the church is already doing for God's Kingdom.

Our students will take classes in classroom space at the church that will not be used by the church during the work-week, and then we would work with the church to find ways for our DBU students to serve in meaningful ways with the church.



DBU Study Abroad Academic Program:

The DBU program in Siegburg will provide students with the opportunity to combine study and service abroad into one program that will last one month (May 25 – June 22, 2020). The overall cost for the summer program will be \$3,150 per student, exclusive of flights (the students would be responsible for their own flights) and tuition for the course itself.

Academically, we will focus on offering a leadership class and religion class. For this year, the two courses being offered will be: 1) LED 4301/MAL 5301 – Introduction to Leadership through the Lens of World War II (Professor: Dr. David Cook); and 2) RELI 4360 – Special Topics in Religion – Biblical Ethics in World War II (Professor: Dr. Brent Thomason).

The professors will lead the group on two side-trips to locations that would have both religious significance and leadership significance: 1) Corrie Ten Boom's "Hiding Place" home in Amsterdam; and 2) Berlin World War II sites (e.g., concentration camp, Nazi/World War II museum, etc.).

We will structure our classes to be Monday through Wednesday, giving students long weekends in which to travel or engage in other cultural experiences with the expectation that they would be back in Siegburg for Sundays to experience worship in the church and service on Sundays.

The basic concept would be that students would attend classes in the mornings/early afternoon on M-W and then serve for roughly 2 hours in the afternoon, leaving time in the late afternoons and evenings for study and relaxation.

Facilities for our DBU Program:

The partnership with Evangelische Freikirche Church will allow us to provide the following to our students:

- 1) Homestay Housing – Our DBU students will be paired with local church families to live during their 4 weeks in Siegburg. These families will be chosen and vetted by Dr. Thomason in consultation with the leadership of the church to ensure that the families selected would be appropriate and have the space available to house students in their home.
- 2) Meals – Homestay families will provide a light/continental style breakfast and dinner to students living in their homes Sunday-Wednesday, with the students being responsible for meals on their long weekends (we anticipate many of them will want to travel during those weekends). The DBU students will also gather with their professors and the professors families on Sunday nights for a communal meal together to build cohesion and allow for fellowship.
- 3) Classroom Space – DBU will be provided with access to classroom space at the church.

FAQ for Students and Parents

Flights

Because we find that many students want to travel in Europe either prior to or after the official dates of the DBU program, we allow students to make their own flight arrangements to and from Germany. We simply ask that they meet their program director at the meeting location designated by the DBU in Germany Program Director by the appointed date and time of the beginning of the program.

Housing

As a part of this program, students will live with local families, creating an immersive home-stay experience. These families will be chosen and vetted by our professors in consultation with the leadership of the church to ensure that the families selected would be appropriate and have the space available to house students in their home.

Meals

Homestay families will provide a light/continental style breakfast and dinner to students living in their homes Sunday-Wednesday, with the students being responsible for meals on their long weekends (we anticipate many of them will want to travel during those weekends). The DBU students will also gather with their professors and the professors families on Sunday nights for a communal meal together to build cohesion and allow for fellowship.

Internet Access

Each home will have wifi access. While this wifi service is appropriate for email, internet searching, and similar activities, it may not be equipped for video streaming or similar activities.

Groceries, Pharmacies, and other Amenities

Siegburg will have a variety of groceries, pharmacies, restaurants, and other amenities within a 10-15 minute of the church and of the homes that the students will be living in.

Nearby Churches

In all of our study abroad locations, we encourage students to attend local churches. In Siegburg, our group will be attending Evangelische Freikirche Church, which will also serve as our host institution, Alfa y Omega School. This church is a strong evangelical church with a vibrant faith community. This congregation of roughly 200 has a contemporary-style worship service Sundays at 11:00 am.

Safety

Siegburg is generally a very safe city. Tourists and locals alike walk the streets both day and night, and there is a low crime rate overall, especially compared to larger U.S. cities such as Dallas.

DBU Personnel & Services On-Site

During the DBU in Germany summer program, a DBU faculty member will be living on-site to provide students with program support. This program director will be available for questions and concerns, to help with emergency situations or needs, and other situations. Likewise, the Office of the Dean of Global Studies & Pre-Professional Programs will be available for calls or

questions during normal business hours from students, parents, or others needing help during the program.

Weekend Travel/Post-Program Travel

We encourage students to take advantage of our flexible class schedule to travel regionally within Germany and Europe during the summer. Our class schedule is designed so that students will have classes Monday through Wednesday and then have long weekends in which to travel or engage in cultural activities if they so choose. Likewise, students can choose to remain in Germany and travel on their own after the conclusion of the DBU in Germany summer program, though doing so would be at their own cost.

Cost

The cost for the DBU in Germany summer program is as follows:

- Program Fee: \$3,150
- Tuition: [Click Here](#) for the current tuition rate for Dallas Baptist University.
- Additional Notes: Please be aware that this trip fee does not include your flight to and from Germany. Because we find that many students want to travel in Europe either prior to or after the official dates of the DBU program, we allow students to make their own flight arrangements to and from Spain.

Appendix A: Pictures of facilities

Church Website: <http://www.ef-siegburg.de/>

Quarterly Magazine of EF Siegburg: <http://www.ef-siegburg.de/magazin>

Pictures of EF Siegburg:

Church Front Façade





Church Foyer



Church Sanctuary



Church Fellowship Hall



Church Classrooms



Representative Pictures of Host Home:

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/32135368>

(Note: Your accommodations may be different than this in terms of number of beds, number of rooms, amenities, etc.)