PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SMC-SPONSORED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Freie Universität Berlin & the Berlin European Studies Program (FU-BEST)

Submitted by the
International Programs Coordination Committee (IPCC)
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A. Rationale for Adding Program

Why Germany?

The International Programs Coordinating Committee (IPCC) seeks to increase study abroad destinations in order to allow Saint Mary’s students accessibility to diverse cultures, opportunities for all fields of study and relevance in today’s global society. In order to better ascertain where we should consider developing new programs, the Center for International Programs (CIP) and the Office of Institutional Research conducted a survey in April 2010 asking Saint Mary’s College of California students (including all grade levels, both prospective and alumni study abroad students) to identify where they would like to see new study abroad destinations. The survey posed the following open-ended question: “We are trying to add new destinations that meet the academic and personal needs of our students. Please write new destinations you would like to see added to the list.” The results showed Germany, India and China to be the most popular requests amongst its 46 respondents (see Table 1).

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Destinations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia: Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France: Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland: Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy: Milan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy: Sicily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea: Seoul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain: Granada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks/Caicos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of students: 0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6,
In addition, the survey presented students with 6 international destinations (Berlin, Freiburg, Shanghai, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago and Chiang Mai) and asked them to rank their level of interest on a Likert scale. 14 out of 45 respondents chose Berlin to be city of highest interest after Rio de Janeiro (see Table 2).

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freiburg, Germany</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiang Mai, Thailand</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freiburg, Germany</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiang Mai, Thailand</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apart from responding to the results of the student survey, there are many other compelling reasons for establishing a study abroad program in Germany. Located at the very center of Europe, Germany is the gateway to Eastern Europe – the bridge between east and west, and occupies a key position in European culture and politics. Moreover, it is Europe’s economic powerhouse, the world’s fourth largest economy and a major player in global affairs. Germany is a leader in science, technology, as well as renewable energy and environmental innovation, and has been the home of great artists, musicians, scientists, philosophers, and countless other important thinkers who contributed to European and our own cultural heritage. Lastly, given Germany’s well known tumultuous past, it is important to get to know contemporary Germany in order to understand the evolution the country has undergone and to obtain a more accurate picture of the open, tolerant and multicultural society that it has become today.

Why Berlin?

Located in the heart of Europe, Germany’s capital, Berlin, is one of the post Cold war era’s most vibrant and exciting cities, a large metropolis renowned for its arts and cultural events, universities, politics, media, museums, night life, and cafés. Berlin is home to 153 museums. It is also recognized for its high quality of living, its superb public transportation system, its multicultural and international flavor and its distinctive neighborhoods. Berlin’s unique urban and historical legacy provides endless places of interest to visit and explore. The city is one of the most visited tourist destinations and is a focal point for young people from all over the world, and its location makes it easy to visit many important other cities and regions of Europe. The opportunity to study and live abroad in Berlin would doubtless offer Saint Mary’s students an unparalleled educational and life-altering experience (http://article-dashboard.com/Article/Study-Abroad-in-Berlin/58649).
Why FU BEST?

Freie Universität (FU) is one of Germany’s premier institutions of higher education. It was founded in 1948 and has an enrollment of circa 32,000 students. The FU has a strong international profile, featuring leadership in international education and a large percentage of foreign students, and numerous partnerships with foreign universities (especially in the U.S.). Freie Universität is located in Berlin's charming southwestern sector with easy access to the city's center. In 2007, after an intense, nation-wide competition, Freie Universität Berlin became one of only nine German universities to be awarded the status and predicate as "institution of excellence" in higher education by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In the “Excellence Initiative” competition, involving the DFG and the German federal government and entailing the prospect of extensive additional funding, the FU won the highest number of grants and was selected for its outstanding graduate programs, excellent research clusters, and successful internationalization strategy.

The Berlin European Studies Program at Freie Universität (FU-BEST) operates separate from Freie Universität and is considered an ‘island program’ due to its varying academic calendar from that of the German structure, the English course offerings and facility location. However, Freie Universität is the Academic Governing Board and Accrediting Body to FU-BEST. Students will be studying alongside other US study abroad students from different US Institutions of Higher Education. The FU-BEST program features an academic calendar consisting of two regular American-style Fall (September-December) and Spring (January-April) semesters, making it a seamless education abroad experience for Saint Mary’s students. Students must enroll in German language training and select content courses from a menu of English courses covering such topics and disciplines as cultural studies, art history, comparative literature, the European Union, German history, German and European politics, sociology/psychology, film studies, comparative religion, music history, environmental studies, sociology, and philosophy.

1. Where will the program take place?

Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

The site of the FU-BEST Program is a large villa centrally located in the FU campus area. The building features offices, classrooms, a kitchen, a lounge area, and a study/laptop-workspace area for program participants. The building features wireless internet access as well as a small computer lab, is located close to other FU facilities, and offers easy access to public transportation.

Below, is a list of mostly U.S. colleges and universities who have sent students to FU-BEST. Some of them (marked by an *) offer FU-BEST as an institutionally-sponsored program for their students and have formal partnership associations with the program:

- Alverno College
- American University*
- Arizona State University
- Asbury College
- Baylor University
- Binghamton University
- Boston College*
- California State University at Fullerton
- California State University at Humboldt
- California State University at Long Beach
- California State University at Northridge
- Catholic University of America*
- Central Washington University
- Chapman University*
2. Which semester is it designed for? Could it apply to both semesters?

Students may study abroad at FU Best in either the Fall or the Spring semester. The Berlin European Studies Program at Freie Universität (FU-BEST) features an academic calendar consisting of two regular American-style Fall (September-December) and Spring (January-April) semesters. In should be noted, students who choose to study in Berlin during the Spring semester will need to fulfill their Jan-term requirement by taking a fifth course at FU-BEST.

3. What are the learning outcomes for the program?

As a result of their participation in the study abroad program with FU-BEST students will:

- Deepen students' understanding of European political, cultural and economic affairs and the role of Germany in the European Union.
- Deepen their understanding of the global economy, specifically as it relates to Germany’s role in the European Union and global market.
• Heighten skills of observation, reflection, critical analysis, conflict resolution and problem solving as they relate to intercultural situations and semester-long study abroad.
• Develop a growing awareness of cultures other than their own, as the students will live in the heart of Berlin, in neighborhoods integrated with the general population.
• Be able to examine and articulate their own culture identities within the context of their host and home cultures.
• Grow in their capacity to become global citizens and develop richer perspective on “culture” in general.
• Enrich their academic experience through exposure to different teaching methods, theoretical frameworks and interactions with peers from various cultures and educational backgrounds.
• Acquire and articulate internal monitoring skills and attributes such as adaptability, flexibility, ethnorelativity, humor and empathy when navigating cross-culturally.
• Gain global skills necessary for successful navigation in diverse work teams both academically and professionally.
• Be able to identify and articulate differences and similarities between societies through the comparative study of culture, history, economy and politics.
• Deepen their understanding of German language, society, culture, history, and geography.

4. How many students can attend?

FU-BEST is a growing program, with the ultimate size currently expected to be somewhere 100 and 150 students per semester. There is not a minimum or maximum number of students that Saint Mary’s can send and the cost per student will remain the same regardless of the number of applicants.

5. Does the program include an SMC faculty member’s participation? If so, how?

The SMC/FU-BEST program does not require (or invite) an SMC faculty member’s participation. Freie Universität has a full capacity of faculty, staff and student support services professionals, to provide an integrative and comprehensive program for SMC students. Faculty teaching FU-BEST’s content courses generally hold a Ph.D. in their particular field and are German citizens. The FU-BEST Academic Director deliberately does not hire international faculty so students are exposed to German culture in the classroom even if their courses are run in English. Details about the courses and faculty can be found under “Course offerings” on the program’s website: www.fubest.org.

6. What is the design of the program overall in terms of study time, travel itinerary, housing, transportation, and cultural immersion opportunities? What are the typical fall/spring program dates?

The program’s semester dates are approximately late August to mid-December for Fall and early January to late April for Spring. Students of the FU-BEST program live in homestays or single-occupancy furnished studio apartments (see accommodations section for SMC-program proposal details). Public transportation passes are included in the program package, along with a week-long excursion to sites such as Munich, Vienna, Paris, London, Hamburg, Prague, Nuremberg,
Budapest or Copenhagen, attendance at local cultural events, participation in an FU Buddy program, etc. Details are available on the program’s website. Each semester begins with several Orientation Days.

Additionally, FU offers Summer study abroad opportunities. This is an interesting extension opportunity for Saint Mary’s students who might seek to extend their program. Summer study abroad is not necessarily supported by this proposal but is a noteworthy optional supplement to the Saint Mary’s student experience. More information on Freie Universitat- Berlin Summer (FU-BIS) can be found in Appendix I.

B) Program Structure

1. How does the program incorporate experiential learning into the program?

In addition to the German Language Classes and English Content Classes, FU-BEST includes the following experiential learning opportunities for students:

Extended Classroom Model
FU-BEST employs the concept of the "extended classroom" to tie the academic work carried out in the FU-BEST building to the tremendous variety of historical, political, cultural, and societal sources and opportunities available in contemporary Berlin. Many content courses feature field-trips and assignments that take advantage of these sources and opportunities.

The "extended classroom" concept is also tied to the fact that FU-BEST content courses meet for 2.5 hours per week. Consequently, all students are required to complete 2 small "independent projects" encompassing 1-2 page reports on specific sites in the city (such as museums, memorial sites, etc.), as assigned by each course's teacher. The German language sections also feature regular field-trips in the city, in each case led by the teacher.

The FU-BEST program features an elaborate set of learning support and cultural experience activities. Some of these are mandatory, others are optional.

Cultural Excursions and Immersion Activities
Each semester, all students not only participate in a week-long off-site excursion, but also visit four sites in and around Berlin on selected Fridays as integral and mandatory part of the overall academic program: the Reichstag building (including a session of the German parliament) and/or the Chancellor's Office (Bundeskanzleramt), the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, the former prison complex in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen of East Germany’s state security police (Stasi), and the royal palace Sanssouci as well as the 1945 allied conference site in nearby Potsdam.

In order to enhance participants' German language ability and their interaction with German society, the program not only recommends the selection of a homestay as far as housing is concerned, but also offers the option of a one-on-one “FU Buddy” (see flyer posted on this page), frequent Stammtisch gatherings (see flyer posted on this page), and participation in the events organized by the Freie Universität's International Club (www.internationalerclub.de).

In addition, all participants are invited to select up to three events from a concert, opera, and
soccer program, with the tickets made available through the program, in addition to numerous suggestions made by the program staff regarding other cultural opportunities in the city. Program participants also receive a pass for use in all museums associated with the Foundation for State Museums in Berlin (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin).

2. What is the academic calendar?

**Typical Semester Calendar**
Start of Fall semester: **last week of August**
Midterm break: **last week of October**
End of Fall semester: **mid-December**

Start of Spring semester: **first week of January**
Midterm break: **late February/early March**
End of Spring semester: **third week of April**

Start of Sommersemester: **mid-April**
End of Sommersemester: **mid-July**

3. Please describe student housing on program

While there are two options for FU-BEST students, the International Programs Coordinating Committee proposes that all Saint Mary’s students are required to live in homestays and will not have access to the student apartment option unless petitioned (see Appendix II for description of the student apartment alternative). The IPCC feels that the homestay is an integral part of cultural immersion for our students, whether the students are language learners or not, they should utilize the language learning opportunities available to them. Since the FU-BEST students take classes with fellows study abroad students from the United States during the day, building a homestay with locals in their living arrangement will create a more immersive study abroad experience.

**Homestay**
A homestay experience guarantees linguistic and social immersion, providing students with unrivalled opportunities at improving their language and intercultural skills. It can also be comforting to be with a family when confronting the often inevitable moments of homesickness. Students always have their own key and a private room. Bathroom (and other) facilities may or may not be shared with others in the home. Many host-families offer to undertake various activities with their guests, ranging from sightseeing to concert visits, although this is not a formal program expectation. Students will be provided breakfast and dinner by their family. Lunch will be the responsibility of the student.

4. What are the benefits of this program for both the students and SMC?

Studying abroad in Germany, and particularly at the FU-BEST program in Berlin, will be beneficial for both our students and the college in a variety of ways. Many of these benefits are related to the program features have already been mentioned above in the sections providing details of the program design and description.
**Schedule:** The program has been designed specifically to adapt to an American-style schedule, making the transitions and adjustments for our students from life and study at home to study abroad and then back again to Saint Mary’s as smooth and seamless as possible.

**Curriculum:** FU-BEST offers a broad and diverse curriculum taught in English with courses that would appeal to students from a wide range of academic disciplines and with diverse interests (many of these subject areas are listed above in section “Why FU-BEST?,” page 3). The FU-BEST curriculum as well as life in Germany will expose connections to our students’ academic curriculums at Saint Mary’s and to their lives, in ways they would not have expected. They will discover relationships between the German cultural heritage and our own through the countless examples from German life, language, personalities and pop culture which permeate our lives and culture -- from Collegiate Seminar readings and texts for courses across the curriculum (Einstein, Freud, Nietzsche, Hildigard von Bingen, Kafka) to the Pope, Mozart, techno music, gummi bears and soccer. Conversely, students will have the opportunity to realize the immense influence the U.S. has had on German culture, society, language and daily life.

**Broadening of cultural horizons and global awareness:** Both the FU-BEST program design and life in Berlin will transform our students in incalculably beneficial ways. As a world city, Berlin will offer our students the opportunity to interact not just with German society, but with global society. It is the crossroads for cultures from all over the world, a setting for major European and global political proceedings, the location of world-class cultural and intellectual institutions. Exposure to and interaction with the host city can only broaden our students’ minds and awareness about the world and their place in it. At the same time, the nature of the FU-BEST program and of life itself in Berlin will provide the necessary structure and support to assist students in navigating life in a big city with ease and a sense of stability. The program’s planned excursions to destinations within Germany and beyond the its borders in Europe, its “extended classroom” approach, its orientation program and built-in support systems, residence arrangements, together with the city’s efficiently designed and well-run administration and superb transportation system – all this will provide the proper balance between structure and freedom, which will assist students in evolving and maturing in ways not otherwise possible in their lives.

**German Language and German Studies at Saint Mary’s:** It goes without saying that establishing a study abroad program such as this can only help to promote interest in our German program and our German-Studies Minor. It is well known that, of the major European languages, German has more difficulty attracting students, particularly here on the west coast of the U.S. This fact, however, contrasts with available information about the study and importance of German elsewhere in the country and in the world as:

1) German is the most widely spoken language in the EU.
2) German belongs to the three most learned languages in the world, as well as the ten most widely spoken languages in the world.
3) Germany represents the heritage of a large number of Americans – in 1990, German-Americans represented the largest ethnic group in the United States.
4) German is closer to English than any other language: As a Germanic language, English is a close relative of German, thus making German much easier to learn than students may think.
Furthermore, German is an important language on the Internet, rating among the top five; it is valuable for research in many disciplines, for entrance or success in graduate schools, and in the fields of international business and global affairs. Thus, it seems reasonable to awaken our students to these realities and expose them to the potential benefits of learning German and becoming interested in German Studies. A German Studies Minor goes well with a number of majors and programs on campus, such as International Area Studies, International Business, History, Politics, Theology, Art History, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Psychology, Environmental Studies and more. Even minimum exposure to the language can be beneficial to students, as was pointed out earlier, since it bears many connections to students’ chosen fields of study and interests. Lastly, in the event that studying abroad in Berlin per chance rouses a student’s serious interest in the language and culture and the desire to pursue studies at a higher level at a later time and, perhaps in Germany, the German government and academic exchange organizations, such as the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) promote many programs of study and excellent funding opportunities for interested students.

Thus, it would be a wonderful development if, as a consequence of offering students the opportunity to study at the FU-BEST program in Berlin, Saint Mary’s could bolster the strength and reputation of its own German program while providing students with a worthy new dimension in their academic and personal lives.

5. What are the potential concerns, including such things as safety, security, or other risk factors?

FU-BEST operates a solid and secure program in a safe and well-organized environment. Crime levels in Berlin are well below those in most U.S. cities, for example. The program uses well-equipped and securely located facilities.

With the Freie Universitat student ID, offered as part of the FU-BEST program, students have full access to all facilities on campus (including the athletic center, advising resources, the library and the health center). FU-BEST also has hired an English-speaking psychologist for its students and have an extensive list of medical facilities and doctors in Berlin who speak English.

FU-BEST can make special arrangements for students with learning disabilities on a case by case basis.

6. How does this program meet student interest/need?

See results from Survey Monkey conducted by Center for International Programs and Office of Institutional Research as highlighted above.

Being that Saint Mary’s College offers German language as a course offering and the minor, a new semester long study abroad program in Berlin supports this on-campus coursework.

In addition, the program serves majors in International Area Studies (IAS), since IAS students all study abroad during their tenure at SMC. Previously, IAS students focusing on Germany had to attend a non-Saint Mary’s program and take a leave of absence from the college. “A Saint Mary’s sponsored program in Germany would be very welcomed since it would allow IAS students to study abroad within the college structure. Furthermore, IAS students would receive
more comprehensive support in their study abroad experiences.” – Dr. Jennifer Heung, IAS Professor and Former IAS Program Director.

B. Academic design

1. What are the admission requirements for students? Are there any prerequisites?

Applicants to the FU-BEST program should be at least 18 years old, have reached the equivalent of second-semester sophomore status in college or university, have a very good command of English in order to complete a rigorous academic program in that language, be committed to participation in our intensive German language component, and have a GPA of at least 3.0. Students whose GPA is below 3.0 are welcome to apply, but cannot be guaranteed admission to the program until their overall qualifications are more closely reviewed. The FU-BEST program is intended for students at the second-semester sophomore level or beyond at 4-year universities and colleges who are in the process of completing their B.A./B.S. degree.

2. Which student majors/concentrations does the program target? Is it open to all students? If not, why?

There are no language prerequisite requirements for attending the FU-BEST program, however students will be required to take a language course during their time in Berlin.

This program is open to second semester sophomores and above. Students applying must have a 3.0 GPA.

For a full list of courses and links to syllabi, please see the link below:
http://web.fu-berlin.de/fubest/course.shtml

Students will be able to fulfill general education requirements as well as requirements for their major/ minor. This program will be particularly beneficial for the following concentrations:

- Modern Languages (German)
- International Area Studies
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Business
- Philosophy
- Environmental Studies
- Politics
- History
- Music

3. If there is a third-party institution involved academically, what is the institution known for?

There is no third-party institution involved in this program.

4. If English is not the primary language, programs should include a language component, either by requiring language prior to departure or by including language within the program. How will the program address the language component?

Students are required to enroll in intensive German language, offered at all levels. The FU-BEST program does not require knowledge of German prior to enrolment.
5. How will courses transfer back to Saint Mary’s?

Contact Hours and Credits
German Language Courses have 65 contact hours per each non-intensive course and 130 for the Intensive German option. Content courses, taught in English have a minimum of 45 contact hours. Students will be awarded 5 ECTS / 1 SMC credit for all German language and Content classes with the exception of the German Intensive courses where students will earn 7 ECTS / 2 SMC credits. It is important to note that all courses offered in the FU-BEST program are upper division courses.

Grading System
FU-BEST uses the German/FU grading system, featuring numerical grades. Please see the table below for comparison with the U.S. equivalents. The program itself does not award Pass/Fail grades. FU-BEST transcripts (produced in English) contain only German/FU grades. Participants have a right to proper feedback regarding any grade received on an assignment or test. In view of the overseas nature of the program, a grade of “incomplete,” with course work to be handed in later, will only rarely be feasible and is therefore in principle not available.

Table 3: Grading Transcription

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Grade</th>
<th>FU Grade</th>
<th>Points on a 100- scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,0 or 1,3</td>
<td>95-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>1,7</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>2,0</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2,7</td>
<td>75-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>70-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3,3</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>4,0</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&gt; 4,0</td>
<td>&gt; 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. What are the courses offered?

- **German Language Program**  
  (all levels offered)
- **FU-BEST 1**: Contemporary Germany in European Perspective  
  **FU-BEST 2**: Integration, Conflict, and Security in Europe  
  **FU-BEST 3**: History of Central European Classical Music: Baroque to Contemporary  
  **FU-BEST 5**: German Cinema Before 1945  
  **FU-BEST 6**: The Human Condition and the Totalitarian Experience  
  **FU-BEST 7**: Berlin: History, Memory, Literature  
  **FU-BEST 8**: Modern German History in European Context: A Thematic Approach  
  **FU-BEST 9a**: The Promise of German Philosophy: Kant to Hegel  
  **FU-BEST 9b**: Tragedy and New Beginnings in German Philosophy: From Marx and Nietzsche to Habermas  
  **FU-BEST 10**: Islam and Europe: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions  
  **FU-BEST 11**: European Business Cultures: Management and Marketing in Cross-National Perspective
• FU-BEST 12: Architecture in Berlin from the 19th Century to today
• FU-BEST 13: Contemporary Cinema in Germany and Europe
• FU-BEST 14: Theatermetropole Berlin: Vergangenheit und Gegenwart
• FU-BEST 15: Literatur und Film in Deutschland seit der Wende
• FU-BEST 16: Themes and Issues in Transatlantic Relations
• FU-BEST 17: European Legal Traditions
• FU-BEST 18: Environmental Politics and Policy in Europe
• FU-BEST 19: Art and Dictatorship
• FU-BEST 20: Pop Culture: European-American Trends
• FU-BEST 21: European Traditions in Sociology

7. How many weeks is the program?

Fall Semester: 16 weeks
Spring Semester: 17 weeks

8. How many courses/credits will each student take (up to 4 SMC courses, 5 if they miss January Term)?

Fall Semester: 4-5 courses
Spring Semester: 5 courses

9. How are transcripts to be processed (e.g., by SMC or the third-party institution)? If third party, what is the contact information for that person and institution.

Transcripts are issued by the program as official FU documents and will be sent directly to Saint Mary’s College approximately one month after the students’ completion of the semester or academic year.

10. Please provide any other background information about the program and institution:

FU-BEST Mission Statement
The semester-based FU-BEST (Berlin European Studies) program aims to provide an intensive, multi-faceted study abroad experience to its participants. Combining mandatory German language instruction and a diverse menu of content courses taught in English and German, FU-BEST seeks to be an accessible opportunity to a wide range of potential participants. Using its concept of “extended classroom,” the program’s goal is to link high quality academic instruction with a broader international experience, encompassing elements of culture, society, history, and politics, in Berlin, in Germany, and in (Central) Europe generally. Small classes and the availability of day-to-day guidance and support are designed to enable students to make the most of a unique educational opportunity.

C. Budget design

1. Using the budget template enclosed, does the program meet the budget requirements?

Yes, see Appendix III.
2. *For every budget line, please provide an explanation of projected cost. This should include a detail of every proposed activity within the excursion line.*

See Appendix III.
Appendix 1

Freie Universitat Berlin Summer Study Abroad

FUBiS offers intensive and semi-intensive German language classes at five different proficiency levels. In addition FUBiS offers subject classes on various class topics. These classes are held mostly in English by distinguished German and international faculty.

The FUBiS program offers students many choices:
- Combination of language and subject classes. This allows students to improve their language skills as well as further their knowledge of a subject matter.
- Combination of two subject classes which may count toward a major or minor at the home institution.
- Intensive German language classes. These classes meet every weekday and allow students to focus on and thus considerably improve their German skills.
- Participation in either one semi-intensive German class or in one subject class.

http://www.fubis.org/
Appendix II

Additional FU-BEST Living Accommodations:

Apartments (only available to SMC students upon petition)
The apartments utilized by the FU-BEST program are located about 30 minutes by bus and metro from the program site. This is not at all unusual, since German (and more generally, European) universities tend to be commuter-student institutions. The apartments are single-occupancy, each one with its own bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. Pillows, blankets, and sheets are provided; participants must bring their own towels, an alarm-clock, and other personal items. Each apartment also contains a TV-set and a coffee-maker. There is an on-site laundry room with washers and dryers; tokens are bought at the office of the manager (Hausmeister). Participants opting for apartment housing are required to submit credit card information as security deposit. The apartments do not feature telephone or internet connections; a cost-effective wireless internet connection can be purchased directly by each participant at his/her own expense at a nearby office/shop, using information provided by the program. Most participants buy a cell phone once they are in Berlin. The FU-BEST program assumes no responsibility for telephone or internet connections in the apartments.
# SMC Study Abroad Program, Freie Universitat, Berlin, Germany

**Working Fall 2011**

| Notes:  |  
| --- | --- |
| **Revenue:** |  
| Tuition | 17,640.00 | 88,200 |  
| Int'l Room & Brd | 5,338.00 | 26,690 |  
| **Adjustments made:** |  
| Total Revenue | 22,978 | 114,890 |  
| Student Activity Fee | 75.0 | 375 |  
| Tuition Discount | (5,292) | -26,460 |  
| Consortium Students fee |  
| Course fee | 0 |  
| **Net Revenue** | 17,761 | 88,805 |  

| Tuition Cost |  
| Housing costs | 4,725 | 23,625 |  
| Meals |  
| Ground Transp | 200 |  
| Overseas Heath Insurance | 200 | 1000 |  
| **Total Expenses** | 9,180 | 45,900 |  

| Net Income | 8,581 | 42,905 |  
| Percentage return on net revenue | 48% | 48% |  

**Enrollment Table—Fall 2011 estimate of students going**

| Berlin | 5 |