

Alumni Spotlight



Bernadett Molnar, AJY FYR 17/18

“My study abroad experience at Heidelberg is a really special one. I met so many people and experienced the German culture in a way that I never would have if I had not studied abroad in Heidelberg. During my time at AJY I took classes in the university’s German department and for my extracurricular work I volunteered in a fifth grade English class at a local high school. This opportunity had a massive impact on me, because it ended up altering my initial career plans and it helped me realize that my interests lie in child development. AJY is a phenomenal place that connects you to people and places that you normally wouldn’t have encountered and I’m thankful for the experiences that I had there.”

**Interested in Studying in Germany?
Contact us!**



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Scan the QR Code on your smartphone to see AJY’s website and connect with the Program on social media!

Student Life

Housing, Meals, and Transportation

Students live in single rooms in one of the many dormitories located throughout Heidelberg. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are usually shared with German and other international students.

The five University cafeterias offer reasonably priced meals. Heidelberg is a “green” city and has an excellent public transportation system, a pass for which is provided by the program. Heidelberg’s extensive bicycle-path system makes riding a bike to class or back to the dorm convenient and fast.



Language Partners

Students have the opportunity to be matched with German university students for the purpose of improving their German. This language partnership enables both the American and German students to converse informally in their target language, and AJY will typically host informal events for language partners during the semester.

Extracurricular Activities & Service Learning

Universität Heidelberg offers countless opportunities for extracurricular involvement, including intramural sports as well as theater and music groups, to name only a few. Many students also choose to get involved in the local community via volunteer work or religious organizations. AJY encourages its students to take advantage of these opportunities and is happy to help make such connections.

Eligibility and Application Deadlines

Students must have junior status (or second-semester sophomore standing with strong SAT or ACT scores) and at least four semesters of German, or a high intermediate level of German if your school is on a term system. While there is no minimum GPA and all applications are reviewed holistically, the average GPA among recently admitted students has been 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Above all, we are looking for mature students who have a solid foundation in German, an earnest motivation to study abroad, and who appreciate being in a different academic culture.

Application Deadlines

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| April 1 | Full Year, Shortened and Full Fall Semester Applications |
| November 1 | Spring Semester Applications |
| March 1 | Summer Program Applications |

Program Fees

For current information on program fees and policies, housing costs, and estimated expenses, please visit our website.

A study abroad semester at AJY includes:

- Pre-departure information sessions and virtual office hours
- Airport pickup by AJY staff
- Housing
- All Universität Heidelberg tuition and fees
- Health insurance
- Residency permit
- Public transportation pass for Heidelberg and the surrounding area
- A German Rail Pass (for Fall and Spring breaks)
- On-site orientation and academic advising
- Placement in internships (competitive)
- Instruction at the AJY Study Center and use of its facilities
- Study trips and excursions organized by the program
- Cultural events and AJY culture coupons
- Official transcript

Financial Aid

Students should contact the financial aid office at their home institution. For additional information on scholarships, please consult the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at www.daad.org and the Institute of International Education (www.iie.org/gilman).

Each semester, AJY also offers a small number of paid office assistantships.



American Junior Year at Heidelberg University

A Study Abroad Program in Germany since 1958

The AJY Program



American Junior Year at Heidelberg University (AJY) has provided students from American colleges and universities with an opportunity to directly enroll at Universität Heidelberg for over 60 years. It was founded in 1958 by Heidelberg University, Ohio, in cooperation with Universität Heidelberg, Germany. The program is designed to foster linguistic and cultural immersion, intercultural competency, and academic success. With roughly 20 participants per semester, the AJY team, led by Resident Director Dr. Martin Kley – a native German who studied and taught German Studies in the U.S. – is able to closely mentor students in how to adjust to the local culture and a new academic environment.

The AJY Study Center

Located in the heart of Heidelberg on its famous University Square, our Study Center is open daily between 7 am and 11 pm. Beyond housing classrooms and offices, the Study Center provides various amenities to students, including a lounge with a German-language TV, DVDs, newspapers and magazines, a fully equipped computer lab, and a kitchen. Wi-Fi is available in all areas of the Study Center. In commitment to our high academic standards, a German-only rule is observed at the Study Center.

Program Staff

At AJY, we pride ourselves on the close relationships we maintain with our students. Our program staff is committed to providing high-quality, personalized services across the full spectrum of academic and non-academic issues. Whether advising on course choice and registration, organizing field trips and cultural activities, or facilitating extracurricular involvement, Resident Director Kley and his team are always available and ready to help.

Heidelberg for All Seasons

Full Year

- Study in Heidelberg for a full German academic year
- Dates: September-July

Semester

- Shortened Fall Semester: September-December
- Full Fall Semester: September-February
- Spring Semester: March-July

Summer Program

- Six-week language immersion program with language courses at all levels
- German & European Studies Seminar with an experiential focus, including field trips and workshops
- Homestays with German families
- Students earn 9 credits
- Dates: late May-early July

Discovering Germany

Among the highlights of the program are many travel opportunities, including study trips organized by AJY. The program organizes a longer excursion to Berlin, as well as several daytrips to nearby cities such as Stuttgart, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Schwetzingen.

The program also provides students with a German Rail Pass to further encourage individual exploration throughout Germany. Popular destinations include Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich, as well as the border towns of Salzburg and Basel.



Heidelberg – The City

Nestled in the beautiful green Neckar river valley, the city of Heidelberg sits at the foot of its iconic sandstone castle. Heidelberg is very much a “Studentenstadt”, i.e., a city populated in large measure by students and therefore an ideal place to make friends in classes, dorms, cafeterias, coffee shops, or during recreational activities.



Academics

Universität Heidelberg

Founded in 1386, Universität Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest university; it is consistently ranked among the top three German universities and ranked highly worldwide. The student body at Universität Heidelberg consists of approximately 30,000 students, including 5,000 international students from over 130 countries.

Course Load

Once students have taken a pre-semester intensive German class at the AJY center followed by the University’s standard proficiency exam, the Resident Director advises program participants on a course schedule best fitted to their interests, abilities, and requirements. AJY students typically take some of their courses at the International Center or the Department for German as a Foreign Language but may choose freely among any University of Heidelberg courses for which they meet the prerequisites. There is also a growing number of courses taught in English, especially in the STEM fields. While AJY is first and foremost an immersion program, one such course may be granted per semester. Most students earn between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester. A sample course catalog is available on our website.

Courses at the AJY Study Center

At the beginning of the program, AJY students complete a pre-semester intensive German class on aspects of contemporary German society and culture. This language course prepares students for their coursework at the University and includes various excursions in and around Heidelberg.

Throughout the semester, several courses are offered at the Study Center itself. These are taught by faculty from Universität Heidelberg and include topics such as German literature, sustainability, and advanced reading and composition. These courses are taken for full credit and are carefully tailored to the proficiency level of our students.

Tutorials & Writing Workshops

The program arranges weekly tutorials for students enrolled in lecture courses at the University. These serve to review subject matter from the lectures, discuss readings, and assist students in preparing for their final exams. AJY’s writing & research workshops are designed to help students with their homework assignments, classroom presentations, and term papers.

Internships

The AJY program offers its students a number of credit-earning, academic internship opportunities through partner institutions in and around Heidelberg. These internships run concurrently with the semester at Universität Heidelberg and require 8 hours of field-related work per week. Full-year students often complete their internship in a two-month period between semesters.



Let’s stay in touch!