

ECLA APPLICATION GUIDELINES

DEAR APPLICANT

Thank you for your interest in ECLA. Before filling out your application form please read these guidelines carefully. If you have any questions which are not answered by these guidelines, please contact the admissions office (admissions@ecla.de).

For questions related to financial aid please contact the financial aid office (finaid@ecla.de).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students who want to attend ECLA are required to have a high school degree which is recognized by the German State. For information on the prerequisites, visit the database anabin.de (only available in German), the DAAD's Admissions Database at: <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/wege-durchs-studium/zulassung/06550.en.html> or contact the admissions office.

ECLA's programmes are taught entirely in English. Therefore, applicants should possess a knowledge of English equivalent to level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. (See pg. 4 for equivalent test scores).

ATTENDING OTHER ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES WHILE AT ECLA

The active attendance of other academic programmes while also studying at ECLA is generally permitted only where it has been approved by the Admissions Committee as one of the conditions of your enrolment. This includes having exams or writing your thesis. If you fail to inform us about enrolment in other programmes, this may result in probation or dismissal.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Download the PDF form, fill it out completely and legibly and send it to the admissions office together with the other required documents. Please submit a hardcopy by postal mail. **Emailed applications will not be considered.** Submit only one copy of the application. **Only complete applications that have arrived on time will be considered.**

Please send your application to:

**European College of Liberal Arts
Admissions Office
Platanenstr. 24
13156 Berlin
Germany**

Financial aid applications need to be sent directly to the financial aid office (see financial aid section).

ECLA does not charge an application fee.

There are two admissions deadlines. We recommend that you submit your application as early as possible, especially if you will need to apply for a visa.

Applications will be reviewed by the admissions committee after each deadline. Occasionally, the admissions committee will conduct phone interviews. Therefore it is important that you keep us informed about your current contact details.

Applicants will be informed about the admissions decision by the date indicated below. If you are admitted, you will need to confirm your intention to attend ECLA by returning the acceptance form by the Candidate Reply deadline.

APPLICATION FORMS

There is a common application form for the Bachelor programme, the Academy Year and the Project Year. Please indicate which of the programmes is of special interest to you, and submit the requested additional documents accordingly.

WAITING LIST

Applications that arrive by the late applications deadline will be considered for a waiting list in case places in the programmes are still available after the acceptance period. **Please note that it will not be possible for you to receive your visa in time if you are admitted through the waiting list. Therefore this option is only open to students, who do not need a visa.**

ADMISSIONS DEADLINES

There are two deadlines for application to the B.A., Academy Year, and Project Year, and all financial aid applications:

DEADLINE I Recommended for all, but particularly for students who are required to file visa applications	February 15 th 2010
ADMISSIONS DECISION	March 30 th 2010
CANDIDATE REPLY Students accept ECLA's offer of admission by returning signed acceptance forms	April 9 th 2010
DEADLINE II	April 30 th 2010
ADMISSIONS DECISION	June 11 th 2010
CANDIDATE REPLY	June 22 nd 2010
LATE APPLICATIONS FOR WAITING LIST (Only possible for applicants who do not require a visa)	July 15 th 2010
Late applications will be processed as received, provided there are still spaces available.	

It is advisable to have all materials in by deadline I. Early filing allows us to respond sooner, but does not advantage or disadvantage your application in any way.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The application package should contain the following items. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Use this section as a checklist to make sure you have completed each step:

- application form, including 3 required essays
- Two faculty recommendations (sent directly to ECLA by your referees)
- High school leaving certificate: if you have not yet graduated, the certificate can be submitted later.
- School/university transcripts: official transcripts from all secondary and university level work.
- Evidence of English proficiency level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF)
- Photocopy of the first page of your passport
- Any additional material you believe might strengthen your application (e.g. writing sample)
- Statement of Purpose (**only Project Year applications**)
- Study Proposal (**only Project Year applications**)

FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS

Download the recommendation form from the admissions website. Fill it out and give one to each of your referees.

Recommendations should be written on institutional letterhead and sent directly by the faculty member to our postal address. Recommendations sent by e-mail should be followed up by the original sent by postal mail. Both evaluators should be familiar with the quality of your academic work.

BACHELOR PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS ONLY

Please note that knowledge of German at the level B1 (CEF) and one additional language apart from German, English and your native language are graduation requirements. If you already can provide some evidence, please add it to your application.

PROJECT YEAR APPLICATIONS ONLY

If you are applying for the Project Year, you need to submit a Statement of Purpose and a Project Proposal.

The **Statement of Purpose** explains why the Project Year is of special interest to you in this stage of your academic career, how your studies so far have prepared you for the programme, and how the Project Year can help shape your plans for the near future.

The **Project Proposal** is a one-page outline of a project you believe you can undertake over the course of a year under faculty supervision. The outline clearly states your general field of interest, which may be identified in several ways including: a part of a discipline (e.g. philosophical aesthetics or the 19th century Russian novel), an intellectual problem, or a particular author or group of authors. It offers examples of concrete issues which might provide your focus. It may outline up to two fields of interest.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

All academic records need to be submitted as originals or certified copies. High school leaving certificates need to be submitted as certified copies. **Please only submit original documents if you do not need them back.**

Originals and certified copies need to bear the fresh seal or stamp of the issuing institution. Photocopies, faxed or scanned documents cannot be accepted as official documents. Certification should be made by a school or university official or by a notary.

If there is anything we should know about your school's grading system, please attach a separate sheet of explanation to your transcript.

LANGUAGE OF DOCUMENTS

All documents need to be submitted in German or English, or with a certified translation into German or English.

DOCUMENTATION OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

If you are a non-native speaker of English you need to provide documentation of English proficiency at the level C1 (CEF). The following standardized tests are accepted:

Name	Score
ALTE	Level 4
IELTS	6.5
Cambridge	CAE (A-C), CPE (A-C)
TOEIC	701
TOEFL (paper-based)	577
TOEFL (computer-based)	233
TOEFL (internet-based)	90
UNlcert	III
International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard or Higher Level (SL/HL)	5 in English

If you have successfully completed one year of High School or University with English as the language of instruction, you will not need an additional test.

In borderline cases, we may conduct an interview to determine if your level of English proficiency is sufficient.

ECLA TEST CODES

If you are sending test scores, use the following institutional codes: TOEFL 8527; SAT 4422.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

ECLA has a need-blind admissions policy. Admissions decisions are made regardless of your financial situation. For admitted students ECLA offers need-based financial aid. The awards vary widely and aim to cover the full amount of demonstrated need toward the ECLA comprehensive fee. Deadlines for financial aid applications are the same as for programme applications.

If you want to apply for financial aid, please read the information in the financial aid section of our website carefully and follow the instructions.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Begin the visa application process promptly. Background checks for international students are time-intensive. The visa application process generally takes 6-8 weeks, and in exceptional cases even longer. Once we receive your acceptance form, we will send you an official confirmation letter for the embassy. File your visa application as soon as you receive this document. In the end, you are responsible for making sure that all visa procedures are completed well ahead of your travel to Berlin. ECLA has a strict attendance policy and absences due to late arrival will count as unexcused absences and may lead to failed courses and jeopardized student status.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The European College of Liberal Arts Berlin admits students of any race, colour, national origin, ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, and age to all the rights, privileges, programmes, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the college. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, national origin, ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, and age in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programmes, and athletic and other school-administered programmes.

AND FINALLY...

The application is our way of learning about you, your background, achievements, interests and aspirations. The best strategy for completing the application is to be clear, honest and direct – to show us who you are, rather than to tell us what you think we would like to hear.

We look forward to receiving your application!



Fiona Schnüttgen
Admissions Officer