

ESTIMATED STUDENT BUDGET 2010 - 2011

DEAR APPLICANT

This guide aims to help you and your family to calculate a realistic budget to cover the cost of education and living for one academic year at the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin. All costs are expressed in Euros per academic year. Many figures are estimates that will vary widely depending on individual needs and preferences. Accordingly, this document can only serve as a means of orientation and does not constitute a binding calculation.

Students whose families are not able to cover the full cost of study at ECLA are encouraged to seek financial assistance from ECLA and from other potential sources (foundations, governments, private sponsors). Financial aid from ECLA provides support toward the cost of the comprehensive fee, but it does not provide support toward other expenses. When classes are in session you are allowed to work a maximum of 6 hours per week to help cover *personal expenses* in Berlin, but you should not rely on income from work to contribute toward the comprehensive fee. A limited number of student jobs at 7 Euros per hour is offered by ECLA each term. Available student job openings are posted on the ECLA website and emailed to current students at the beginning of each term or whenever new job openings become available. As soon as a position is filled, the relevant job posting is removed from the website. Please note that on-campus employment cannot be guaranteed. For further information about ECLA's need-based aid contact the Financial Aid Officer (finaid@ecla.de).

CALCULATING STUDENT BUDGET

When calculating the student budget for the 2010-2011 academic year, please consider the following:

ECLA COMPREHENSIVE FEE

This fee covers tuition, room, board and most other relevant items except for travel to/from Berlin and personal expenses. The total amount of the fee is 15,000 Euros for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Books and reading materials

Students can borrow all necessary reading materials from ECLA. This service is covered by the comprehensive fee. Borrowed books have to be returned to ECLA in the same condition as received, without any notes or highlighting.

Medical expenses

All students who do not yet have a German/EU-wide insurance coverage are provided with emergency medical insurance as part of the comprehensive fee. Please note that this insurance only covers new medical conditions on an emergency basis. It does not cover preventive care or the treatment of pre-existing conditions.

Liability insurance

German liability insurance is included with the medical emergency insurance described above. If you are a German citizen with your own medical insurance, please make sure that you have liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung).

Transportation Tickets

ECLA offers its students 4 single AB Zone tickets per week free of charge during academic terms. For students who would like to have more flexibility, ECLA offers partial reimbursement on monthly tickets: students can buy the 10am monthly ticket (51 Euros) or the regular monthly ticket (72 Euros) and ECLA will reimburse 50 Euros.

Museum tickets

All museum trips organized by ECLA are at no extra cost for students.

COMPREHENSIVE FEE DOES NOT COVER:

Visa Fees

Depending on your citizenship, you will need a visa to enter Germany and establish a place of residence in Berlin. Please inquire with the German consulate responsible for your area about the cost of the visa. This fee is not covered by the ECLA comprehensive fee.

Residence Permit

Depending on your citizenship, you will need a permit to establish a place of residence in Berlin. This permit typically costs between 50 and 60 Euros and is not covered by the comprehensive fee.

Security Deposit

ECLA requires a 50 Euro security deposit for keys, electronic chips, books and other items issued to students at the beginning of the academic year. This deposit is returned, if and when all borrowed items have been returned in appropriate condition. Should an item be lost, damaged or destroyed, the student is responsible for covering the full cost, including any costs in excess of the 50 Euros of the security deposit.

Bike Deposit (optional)

If you are planning to use one of the ECLA bikes, please be prepared to bring an additional 50 Euro security deposit.

Personal Expenses (e.g. phone charges, personal care items, entertainment)

Expenses in this category range widely depending on the individual student lifestyle. Students should budget for at least 10 Euros per week. With 30 term weeks in an academic year, the minimal annual cost thus amounts to 300 Euros. This budget will support a modest student lifestyle and may be covered or increased through part-time jobs on campus. Some examples of prices for expenses in this category are:

1 tube of toothpaste	1,29 Euro
1 toothbrush	0,29 to 1,99 Euro
1 bottle of shampoo (400ml)	1,75 to 3,95 Euro
1 pair of shoes	20,00 to 100,00 Euro
1 t-shirt	5,00 to 30,00 Euro
1 pair of jeans	20,00 to 100,00 Euro

Living costs in Berlin are relatively low compared to other large cities in Germany and living in Germany is in general not as expensive as in many other European countries. However, expenses for going out and entertainment run considerably higher as you can see on the example of prices listed below: 1 slice pizza in a cafe costs as much and sometimes more than a whole pizza bought from a supermarket. A glass of any soft drink at a cafe or restaurant is 2 to 3 times more expensive than the same amount at a supermarket. A cinema ticket costs for students 5,50 Euros on weekdays and 6,50 Euros on weekends. Here are some examples:

1 cup of coffee (in a cafe)	1,80 to 3,50 Euro
1 glass of soft drink (in a cafe)	2,00 to 4,00 Euro
1 slice pizza (in a pizzeria)	1,80 to 6,00 Euro

Fortunately, many cultural events such as theatre performances and arts exhibitions are promoted through public subsidies, which allows for considerably low prices, especially, for students. Museums in Berlin also offer free admission to permanent exhibitions every Thursday afternoon for four hours before closing.

Prices

1 cinema ticket (reduced fare for students)	5,50 to 6,50 Euro
1 theatre ticket (reduced fare)	6,00 to 30,00 Euro
1 museum ticket (reduced fare)	2,00 to 8,00 Euro

Transportation to/from Berlin

This expense depends not only on the place of residence, but also on good information and a timely booking. Flight rates on www.easyjet.com, www.germanwings.de, www.gexx.de, www.airberlin.de, www.flydba.com, www.tuifly.com/en/index.html can often compete with train or bus rates. It is advisable to reserve early, especially for the trips around Christmas and Easter (Winter and Spring Breaks at ECLA).

Expenses For On Campus Stays Between Terms

Stays on campus during the winter and spring breaks (approximately three weeks each) are permitted. The cafeteria will be closed and no meals will be served during the breaks. ECLA does not charge an extra living fee for the students who stay on campus, but the cost of food and other items (see Personal Expenses above) will typically amount to no less than 40 Euros per week. Some examples of prices in this category are:

1 Broetchen (bread rolls)	0,35 Euro
1 packet of salami (200g)	1,09 Euro
1 L milk	0,90 Euro
1 kg apples	1,99 Euro
1 kg potatoes	0,99 Euro
500g noodles	0,79 Euro
500g rice	1,29 Euro
1 bottle of mineral water (0,75L)	0,80 Euro