

ESTIMATED STUDENT BUDGET

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY 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 the duration of the five-week long ISU 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. 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 ISU 2011, 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 for the ECLA International Summer School is 4,500 Euros.

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.

Health Insurance

All students who do not yet have a German/EU-wide insurance coverage are provided with health insurance as part of the comprehensive fee.

Transportation Tickets

ECLA offers its students 4 single AB Zone tickets per week free of charge during the ISU. 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 as part of the ISU programme 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. 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.

Health Services Fees

Please note that in addition to the health insurance that is covered by the ECLA comprehensive fee, there are certain fees you will have to pay when you seek medical treatment. These fees are:

Practice Charge (Praxisgebühr) – you will be charged 10 Euros for your first visit to a doctor and for your first visit to a dentist. Your subsequent visits to the same doctor or the same dentist will be free of charge. You may also subsequently visit other doctors without paying the practice charge again using a referral (Überweisung). You will also be charged this fee again if you go to the emergency room.

Prescription Charges – when buying prescription drugs, please note that there is a minimum charge of 5 Euros and a maximum charge of 10 Euros you have to co-pay.

Hospital Treatment – for each day in hospital you will be charged 10 Euros.

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 ISU. 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)

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. Here are some 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

Thus, expenses in this category range widely depending on the individual student lifestyle. Students should budget for at least 10 Euros per week, that is, at least 50 Euros for the duration of the ISU. This budget will support a modest student lifestyle.

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 as early as possible.