

# DIRECT EXCHANGE INFO SESSION - 2025

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Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies  
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz

Anne Bull, Sandra Meerwein, Samira Deq, Julia Velten

# Agenda

1. General Information
2. The Application Process
  - Resources for Information
  - Interviews
  - Written Application
  - Terms and Conditions
  - Additional Information
3. Programs Prof. Scheiding
4. Programs Prof. Banerjee



## General Information: What is the “Direct Exchange”?

- **Established in 1956/57** through the personal initiative of professors at JGU and in the States
- **Program Objectives:**
  - **Deepen expertise in American Studies** and experience the literature, language and cultures of North America
  - **Enhance professional skills** and use your cultural insights and language skills for your future career
  - **Serve as a cultural ambassador** by representing JGU abroad
  - **Experience North American life firsthand**
  - **Enjoy unforgettable moments** that contribute to both personal and academic growth



## General Information: What does the Direct Exchange Offer?

- **Unique Opportunity** to study in North America
- **Competitive advantage** due to a relatively limited number of applicants
- **Guided application process**
- **Financial support** (differs for every partnering university):
  - **Full scholarships**
  - **Partial scholarships** in combination with a *teaching assistantship* or *research assistantship*
  - **Partial scholarships (no tuition fee)** – additional expenses can be covered by DAAD, Auslands-BAFöG, Fulbright, savings etc.



## General Information: How do your Studies Benefit from this Exchange?

- **Academic Advancement: Earn credits** toward your study program at JGU (consult with student counselors prior to stay abroad)
- **Language proficiency and fluency**
- **Cultural knowledge**
- **Career Boost:** Improved prospects at job market through international experience
- **Personal growth**
- Option to take a **leave of absence** (“Beurlaubung”) to stay within your program’s “Regelstudienzeit”



# The Application Process: Overview

- Step 1: Info Session
- Step 2: Interview with either Samira Deq and Julia Velten (Programs Prof. Banerjee) or Sandra Meerwein and Anne Bull (Programs Prof. Scheiding) **use sign-up sheets**
- Step 3: Application draft
- Step 4: Submission of revised required application forms

Note: The process may be subject to change.



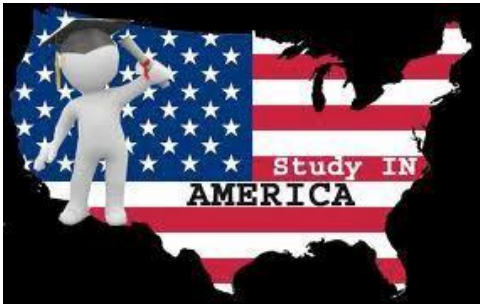
# Step 1: Where Can I Find More Information?

- General Information about studying in the U.S. : “JGU International” website  
[jgu.to/studium/auslandsaufenthalte](http://jgu.to/studium/auslandsaufenthalte)
- Information about the Direct Exchange and application process: Obama Institute’s website (Download section)  
<http://www.obama-institute.com/studies-2/exchange-programs/>
- Information about exchange universities: Official Homepages of the respective institution



## Step 2: Interview

- You are going to introduce yourself during an interview
- Please Bring:
  - Filled-out “General Information” document (Download section Obama Institute Website)
  - CV
  - Picture
- **Be prepared:** Which university/college do you want to go to and why? What makes you a great fit for the respective exchange program?
- This **interview** as well as your **application forms** provide the basis on which either Prof. Banerjee or Prof. Scheiding will write their **confidential appraisals**.



## Step 2: Interview



### **Programs Prof. Scheiding**

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT / Washington College, Chestertown, MD  
/ University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS / Hood College, Frederick, MD

### **Interviewers: Anne Bull and Sandra Meerwein**

Wednesday, November 19, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[smeerwein@uni-mainz.de](mailto:smeerwein@uni-mainz.de)

[bullanne@uni-mainz.de](mailto:bullanne@uni-mainz.de)

### **Philosophicum II, 02.203**

Please use the **sign-up sheet** to secure a slot!



## Step 2: Interview



### Programs Prof. Banerjee

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME / Clark University, Worcester, MA/ University of Louisville, Louisville, KY / York University, Toronto, CAN

### Interviewers: Samira Deq and Julia Velten

Wednesday, November 19, 12 – 2 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Room Philo II 02.227**

Please use the **sign-up sheet** to secure a slot!

[sdeq@uni-mainz.de](mailto:sdeq@uni-mainz.de)

[juvelten@uni-mainz.de](mailto:juvelten@uni-mainz.de)



## Step 3: Written Application

- Brief **Cover Letter** addressed to the partnering university/college
- **CV** (in English, American-style)
- **Professional Photograph (Lichtbild)** (separately attached, not incorporated into CV!)
- **Personal Statement** (1-1.5 pages, letter of motivation)
- **Academic Record**
- Please hand in **your first application draft** to either Samira Deq / Julia Velten or Sandra Meerwein / Anne Bull by **December 15, 2025 as a .docx file**. Your counselors will review your application draft and recommend improvements. You will receive further information during the special office hours.
- Submit your **finalized, complete application as a PDF** to Samira Deq / Julia Velten or Sandra Meerwein / Anne Bull until **January 15, 2025**.  
(**Attention**: Deadline for complete application for Clark University January 5, 2025)



# What is an Academic Record?

## Academic Record

of successfully completed courses  
(failed exams are not listed)



### Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

Contact: Major (European Literature)  
Studienbüro Komparatistik/Europäische  
Literatur, Buchwissenschaft, Slavistik,  
Theaterwissenschaft

Department 05: Philosophy and Philology  
Postal Address:  
Jakob-Welder Weg 18, D-55099 Mainz  
Phone +49 6131 39-20720  
Fax +49 6131 39-20426  
Email studb05-av@uni-mainz.de

Contact: Minor (Film Studies)  
Prüfungsamt des Fachbereichs 02

Department 02  
Postal Address:  
Colonel-Kleinmann-Weg 2, D-55099 Mainz  
Phone +49 6131 39-22616, -22246  
Email pruefungsamt02@uni-mainz.de

Last Name: Mustermann  
Date of Birth: 01 April 1990  
Place of Birth: Musterstadt

First Name: Markus  
Sex: Male  
Matriculation Number: 2345678

Target Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Major/Minor)

Course of Studies Current Semester

Major: European Literature 5

Minor: Film Studies 5

Estimated Time of Enrollment: 6 Semester

The student is currently enrolled at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz. As of Winter Term 2011/12 the student has successfully completed 100 of 180 credit points in his modules.

This is to certify that the above is true and a true rendition of the original.

International Office, JGU Mainz

(\*\*) Grading System:

1.0 / 1.3 = very good, 1.7 / 2.0 / 2.3 = good, 2.7 / 3.0 / 3.3 = satisfactory, 3.7 / 4.0 = sufficient  
The manner of adding the cumulative and the individual grades is contingent on the specific regulations of the respective department.

be = passed

k.B. = not yet graded

Σ = will be added to the cumulative grade.

Grades listed in parentheses will not be added to the cumulative grade.

| Module #                         | Name                                                        | Type of Course | Semester/Date  | Credit Points  | Grade <sup>(**)</sup> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Major: European Literature       |                                                             |                |                |                |                       |
| 05.861.020                       | English Language Test                                       | Language test  | Winter 2009/10 | (k.B.)         | be                    |
| Module Examination: written exam |                                                             |                |                |                |                       |
| 05.861.030                       | SK French Language Test                                     | Language test  | Summer 2011    | (k.B.)         | be                    |
| Module Examination: written exam |                                                             |                |                |                |                       |
| M.05.861.010                     | Module 1: Introduction to European Literature               |                | Winter 2009/10 | 12             | Σ 2.0                 |
| 05.861.080                       | VL Introduction to Comparative Studies                      | Lecture        | Winter 2009/10 | 2              |                       |
| 05.861.090                       | PS Introduction to Comparative Studies                      | Proseminar     | Winter 2009/10 | 3              |                       |
| 05.861.100                       | PS Introduction to Methods of Comparative Studies           | Proseminar     | Winter 2009/10 | 3              |                       |
| Module Examination: written exam |                                                             |                |                | 10 Feb 2010    | 2.0                   |
| M.05.861.020                     | Module 2: Basic Terminology of Analysis and Interpretation  |                | Summer 2010    | 12             | Σ 1.3                 |
| 05.861.110                       | PS Basics of Text Analysis (Prose, Drama, Short Story)      | Proseminar     | Winter 2009/10 | 6              |                       |
| 05.861.120                       | Methods of Text Interpretation: Literary Models and Methods | Proseminar     | Summer 2010    | 3              |                       |
| Module Examination: term paper   |                                                             |                |                | 31 August 2010 | 1.3                   |
| M.05.861.030                     | Module 3: Literary Theory                                   |                | Summer 2010    | 14             | Σ 2.3                 |
| 05.861.130                       | VL Introduction to Literary Theory                          | Lecture        | Summer 2010    | 2              |                       |
| 05.861.140                       | PS Poetics: Theory of Postmodernism                         | Proseminar     | Summer 2010    | 3              |                       |
| 05.861.150                       | S Literary Theory 1: Genre Theory                           | Seminar        | Summer 2010    | 3              |                       |
| 05.861.160                       | S Literary Theory 2: Fiction Theory                         | Seminar        | Summer 2010    | 3              |                       |
| Module Examination: oral exam    |                                                             |                |                | 22 July 2010   | 2.3                   |
| M.05.861.040                     | Module 4: Internationality of Literature                    |                | Winter 2010/11 | 16             | Σ 1.3                 |
| 05.861.170                       | VL The Idea of World Literature                             | Lecture        | Summer 2010    | 2              |                       |
| 05.861.180                       | PS International Poetry since 1945                          | Proseminar     | Winter 2010/11 | 3              |                       |
| 05.861.190                       | S Internationality of Literature: Baudelaire and Poe        | Seminar        | Winter 2010/11 | 3              |                       |
| 05.861.200                       | S Internationality of Literature: The Sonnett               | Seminar        | Winter 2010/11 | 3              |                       |
| Module Examination: term paper   |                                                             |                |                | 25 March 2011  | 1.3                   |

| Module #                                                             | Name                                                                                     | Type of Course | Semester/Date  | Credit Points  | Grade <sup>(**)</sup> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Only credits of completed modules are added to the cumulative grade. |                                                                                          |                |                |                |                       |
| M.05.067.1010                                                        | EULModule 5/6: Philological Module "German Literature"                                   |                | Summer 2011    | 16             | Σ 1.3                 |
| 05.067.1010                                                          | VL German Literature EUL: German Literature in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century              | Lecture        | Winter 2010/11 | 1              |                       |
| 05.067.1015                                                          | PS/S Thematic Seminar in German Literature 1: King Rother                                | Seminar        | Winter 2010/11 | 4              | be                    |
| 05.067.1020                                                          | PS/S Thematic Seminar in German Literature 2: Alfred Döblin: Berlin Alexanderplatz       | Seminar        | Summer 2011    | 4              | be                    |
| 05.067.1025                                                          | S Thematic Seminar in German Literature: Story and Novel in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century | Seminar        | Summer 2011    | 4              | be                    |
| Module Examination: term paper in a Proseminar or Seminar            |                                                                                          |                |                | Winter 2010/11 | 1.3                   |
| Minor: Film Studies                                                  |                                                                                          |                |                |                |                       |
| M.02.054.010                                                         | Module 2: Basics of Film Studies II                                                      |                | Summer 2010    | 10             | Σ 1.3                 |
| 02.054.030                                                           | S Introduction to Film Theory                                                            | Seminar        | Summer 2010    | 4              | be                    |
| 02.054.040                                                           | VL History of Film II                                                                    | Lecture        | Summer 2010    | 3              | be                    |
| 02.054.050                                                           | S Film Drama                                                                             | Seminar        | Summer 2010    | 3              | be                    |
| Module Examination: oral exam                                        |                                                                                          |                |                | 20 July 2010   | 1.3                   |
| M.02.054.020                                                         | Module 3: Film Genres                                                                    |                | Winter 2010/11 | 10             | Σ 1.5                 |
| 02.054.060                                                           | VL History of Film Genres                                                                | Lecture        | Winter 2010/11 | 3              |                       |
| 02.054.070                                                           | S Forms of Genre – Animated Movies                                                       | Seminar        | Winter 2010/11 | 4              |                       |
| Module Examination: term paper                                       |                                                                                          |                |                |                | 2.0                   |
| Module Examination: presentation                                     |                                                                                          |                |                |                | 1.7                   |
| 02.054.160                                                           | S Drama of Genres – Plot in Classic Hollywood Movies                                     | Proseminar     | Winter 2010/11 | 3              |                       |
| Module Examination: Presentation                                     |                                                                                          |                |                |                | 1.0                   |
| M.02.054.030                                                         | Module 4: Film History and Cultural Patterns                                             |                | Summer 2011    | 10             | Σ 1.3                 |
| 02.054.090                                                           | L Epochal Style                                                                          | Lecture        | Summer 2011    | 4              |                       |
| S National Cinematographies – German Exiles in Hollywood 1933-1945   |                                                                                          |                |                | Seminar        | Summer 2011           |
| Module Examination: oral exam                                        |                                                                                          |                |                | 01 Sept 2011   | 1.3                   |





# How Does the Selection Process Work?

- The candidate will be selected by the American (or Canadian) College/University unless stated otherwise
- **The response can be expected between March and April**
- **Answers will either be given through us or the college/university directly**
- We will inform every applicant as soon as we receive an answer – Please let us know if you receive a confirmation by the respective university/college directly!



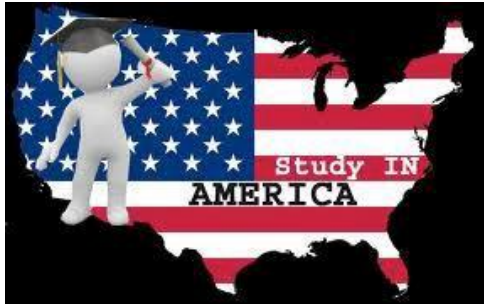
# Terms & Conditions of Submitting Your Application

- By submitting your application, you confirm to accept the scholarship should you be selected by the partnering university/college!
- You are responsible to meet all visa requirements/ requirements posted by the host institution – make sure to be up to date on all rules, requirements, and deadlines!



## Additional Information: TOEFL

- Some universities require a TOEFL-Test (**T**est **o**f **E**nglish as a **F**oreign **L**anguage). Further information on the test can be found here <http://www.ets.org/toefl>.
- Costs: approx. \$255
- Please google possible TOEFL test locations via the link above, available test locations are, for example, MZ, FFM, WI or DA



## Additional Information: Travel Stipends

- Given that most students will have to pay for their travel expenses (not all universities will cover these expenses), we **strongly recommend to** all applicants, to apply for a Fulbright travel stipend as well (the deadline is usually January 15).
- Further information can be found here: [fulbright.de/stipendien/programm/reisestipendium-ma-uni-und-fh](https://fulbright.de/stipendien/programm/reisestipendium-ma-uni-und-fh) bzw. in der **Abteilung Internationales**, Forum 2.

# DIRECT EXCHANGE PROGRAM: PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

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# Washington College, Chestertown, MD

*Application via Prof. Scheiding*



- *Teaching assistantship at the German Department*
  - 3 classes, max. 10 hours a week
  - Social activities of the *German Club*
- Scholarship for 2 semesters
  - Tuition waver for 2 classes per semester
  - Free housing
  - Stipend of ca. \$2.400 per year (monthly payrate)
- Extra costs: visa, health insurance and health fee, costs for introductory week and deposit (ca. \$550), book fees, meal plan
- TOEFL is needed if your application was successful

B.A./B.Ed.

# Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

*Application via Prof. Scheiding*

- *Teaching assistantship* in German: Visiting and teaching the beginner's German classes once/week each; German conversation during the "Sprachtisch", weekly coffee get-togethers ("Kaffeestunde"), organizing events as a main task (\$1250 monthly pay)
- Scholarship: 2 classes per semester □ full stipend
- Flights are covered, free housing in the "Deutsches Haus", free dining in the cafeterias, student health insurance
- You will have to pay for your visa
- **Middlebury interviews via Zoom**



B.A./B.Ed.

# University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

*Application via Prof. Scheiding*



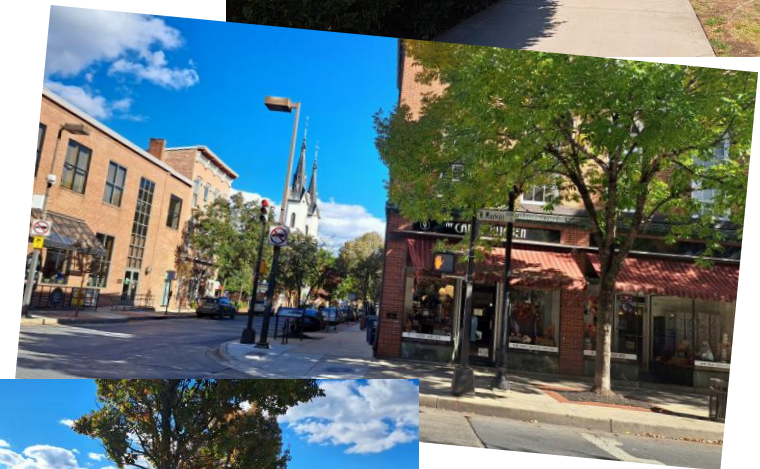
- A **completed Bachelor's degree** by the time of departure is mandatory, as well as a graded graduate studies seminar incl. a term paper
- TOEFL is required
- A full tuition and course fee waiver of up to 12 credits, a living stipend of \$3,750 USD per semester term (\$7,500 for a full academic year)
  - the stipend may take up to two months into your stay to be issued
- Students are responsible for Campus fee \$492, KUID card \$21, Orientation fee \$240, ISS Checkin Fee \$35, International Student fee \$170 and required Health insurance (@\$1,026)

M.A./M.Ed.

# Hood College, Frederick, MD

- *Teaching assistantship* in German (2x 50min courses per week) and 3x weekly observation in other courses with correction work (approx. \$3500 for 8 months; paid biweekly) and a conversation course
- Scholarship (worth ca. \$20.000) for 12 credits = 2 classes per semester
- Rent-free housing in the “Deutsches Haus” (organizing cultural activities)
- Freemeals at the cafeteria
- You will have to pay for insurance, flights, visa, and books
- TOEFL, Duolingo and IELTS is accepted as English language tests
- 1-2 years; registration at Hood College as degree-seeking student
- Option to obtain double degree (M.A. American Studies)

M.A./M.Ed.



# University of Louisville, KY

*Application via Prof. Banerjee*



- Tuition waiver covering for 1-2 semesters (sponsored by Sister Cities)
- Option for a second person to go through “Study @ the Ville” program. (\$5,000 “scholarship” > \$9,868 per semester)
- You will have to cover for housing, food and health insurance
- Additional costs (ca \$250)
- TOEFL or Duolingo is mandatory

# Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

*Application via Prof. Banerjee*



- Focus on teaching German
- Tuition and housing covered by Bowdoin, comes with a *part-time instructorship* (up to 15 hrs/semester, conversation courses and/or “language crash courses”; single or group teaching) in German (*teaching and related activities; mentoring the German Table*)
- monthly pay of ca. US\$ 600
- tuition fee waiver for 2 classes per semester, free housing and food, as well as health insurance
- You only need to pay for your visa

# Clark University, Worcester, MA

*Application via Prof. Banerjee*



## Graduate Studies

### American Antiquarian Society

- Only for MA- Students who have completed at least 2 “Hauptseminare”
- Can be financed through: e.g. an additional stipend, etc. , if not – tuition fee: 20% of the regular tuition fee (approx. USD 35.000 per year = approx. \$7000)
- University’s health insurance is mandatory (USD 1.650 per year)
- Up to 4 classes per semester

### **Binational Degree an der Clark University is possible (Binational MA)**

- TOEFL is mandatory

# York University, Toronto, Ontario

*Application via **Prof. Banerjee***



## Graduate Studies

- Tuition waiver for three classes per semester
- Only for students that are at the end of their studies (GPA at 2,5 and above)
- University's health insurance is mandatory (approx. CAD 264/term)
- You need to pay for housing and food
- Additional costs may apply (books, trips, etc.)
- Confirmation letter of English proficiency, TOEFL or IELTS results
- Graduate students must not enroll in no more than three courses per semester



## Any Further Questions?

If you have any questions exceeding the information given online, please contact:

- Anne Bull ([bullanne@uni-mainz.de](mailto:bullanne@uni-mainz.de)) for information on Washington College, Middlebury College
- Sandra Meerwein ([smeerwein@uni-mainz.de](mailto:smeerwein@uni-mainz.de)) for information on University of Kansas and Hood College
- Samira Deq ([sdeq@uni-mainz.de](mailto:sdeq@uni-mainz.de)) for information on Clark University, and York University
- Julia Velten ([juvelten@uni-mainz.de](mailto:juvelten@uni-mainz.de)) for information on University of Louisville, and Bowdoin College



**Programs Prof. Scheiding (Anne Bull & Sandra Meerwein):**

Wednesday, November 19, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Philosophicum II, 02.203

[smeerwein@uni-mainz.de](mailto:smeerwein@uni-mainz.de) ; [bullanne@uni-mainz.de](mailto:bullanne@uni-mainz.de)

**Programs (Prof. Scheiding):**

Washington College, Chestertown, MD

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

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[sdeq@uni-mainz.de](mailto:sdeq@uni-mainz.de); [juvelten@uni-mainz.de](mailto:juvelten@uni-mainz.de)

**Programs (Prof. Banerjee):**

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

Clark University, Worcester, MA

University of Louisville, Louisville, KY York

University, Toronto, CAN