DIRECT EXCHANGE
INFO SESSION - 2026

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

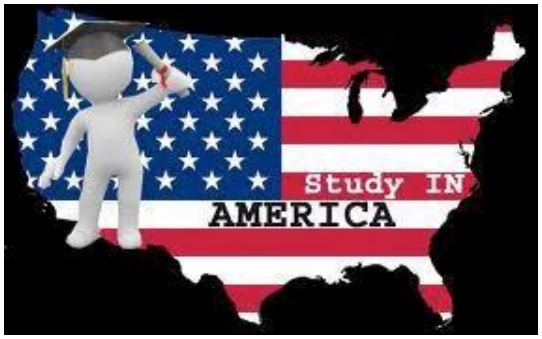
Sandra Meerwein, Frank Newton, Samira Deq, Julia Velten

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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



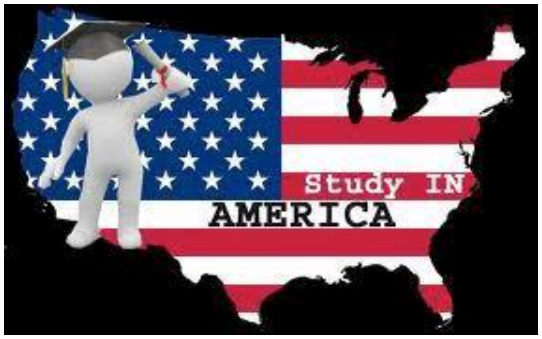
General Information:
What is the “Direct Exchange”?

- **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?

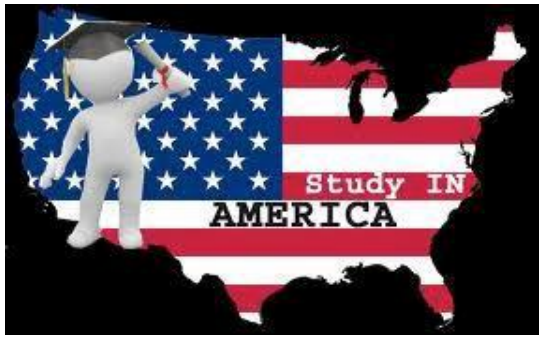
- **Unique Opportunity** to study in North America
- **Competitive advantage** due to a relatively limited number of applicants
- **Guided application process**
- **Financial support** (differs for every partnering university):
  - **Full scholarships**
  - **Partial scholarships** in combination with 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**

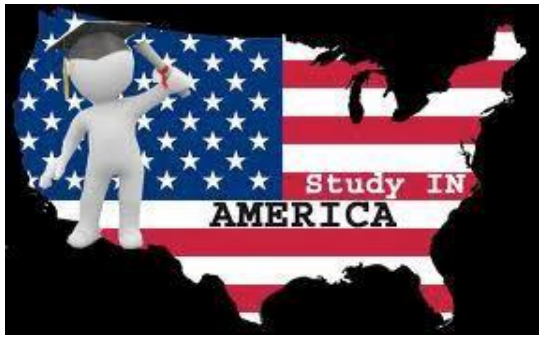
- Option to take a **leave of absence** (“Beurlaubung”) to stay within your program’s “Regelstudienzeit”



The Application Process: Overview

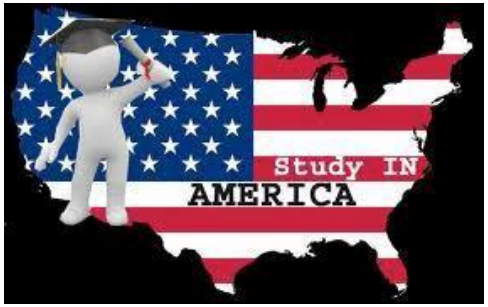
- Step 1: Info Session
- Step 2: Interview with either Samira Deq and Julia Velten (Programs Prof. Banerjee) or Sandra Meerwein and Frank Newton (Programs Prof. Scheiding) **use sign-up sheets**
- Step 3: Application draft
- Step 4: Submission of revised required application forms

Note: The process may be subject to change.



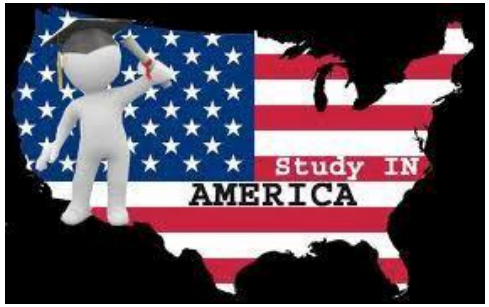
Step 1: Where Can I Find More Information?

- General Information about studying in the U.S. : “JGU International” website
  jgu.to/studium/auslandsaufenthalte
- 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: Sandra Meerwein and Frank Newton

Monday, November 23, 10 a.m. – 15 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24, 10 a.m. – 15 p.m.

smeerwein@uni-mainz.de

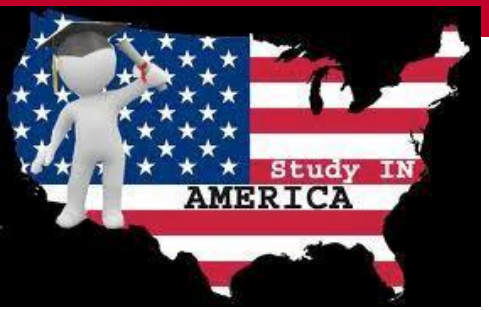
frnewton@uni-mainz.de

Philosophicum II, 02.201

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

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Step 2: Interview



Programs Prof. Banerjee

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME / Clark University, Worcester, MA/ University of Louisville, Louisville, KY / University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS/ Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA/ York University, Toronto, CAN

Interviewers: Samira Deq and Julia Velten

Tuesday, November 24, 12 – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25, 12 – 5 p.m.

Room Philo II 02.227

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

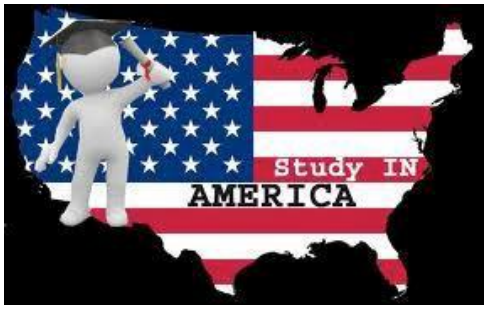
sdeq@uni-mainz.de

juvelten@uni-mainz.de

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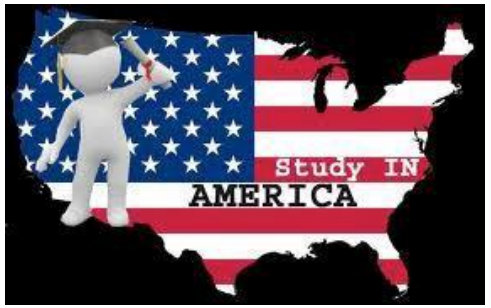


Step 3: Written Application

- 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 / Frank Newton by **December 20, 2026 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 / Frank Newton until **January 15, 2027**.
(Attention: Deadline for complete application for Clark University January 5, 2027)



What is an Academic Record?

Academic Record

of successfully completed courses
(failed exams are not listed)

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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-avl@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 pruefungsamtfb02@uni-mainz.de

Last Name: **Mustermann** First Name: **Markus**
Date of Birth: **01 April 1990** Sex: **Male**
Place of Birth: **Musterstadt** 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
∑ = will be added to the cumulative grade.
Grades listed in parentheses will not be added to the cumulative grade.

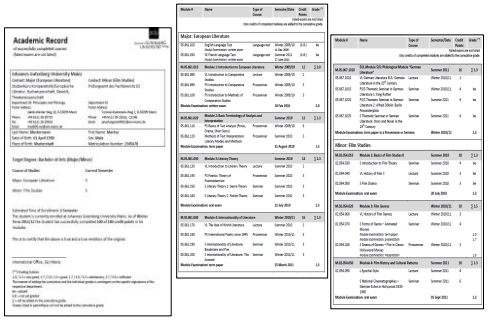
Module #	Name	Type of Course	Semester/Date	Credit Points	Grade (**)
					Failed exams are not listed.
					Only credits of completed modules are added to the cumulative grade.
Major: European Literature					
05.861.020	English Language Test *Modul Examination: written exam*	Language test	Winter 2009/10 11 Dec 2009	(k.B.)	be
05.861.030	SK French Language Test *Modul Examination: written exam*	Language test	Summer 2011 17 June 2011	(k.B.)	be
M.05.861.010	**Module 1: Introduction to European Literature**		**Winter 2009/10**	**12**	**∑ 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**	**∑ 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**	**∑ 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**	**∑ 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 (**)
					Failed exams are not listed.
					Only credits of completed modules are added to the cumulative grade.
M.05.067.1010	**EUL.Module 5/6: Philological Module "German Literature"**		**Summer 2011**	**16**	**∑ 1.3**
05.067.1010	VL German Literature EUL: German Literature in the 20th 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 19th 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**	**∑ 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**	**∑ 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**	**∑ 1.3**
02.054.090	L Epochal Style	Lecture	Summer 2011	4	
	S National Cinematographies – German Exiles in Hollywood 1933-1945	Seminar	Summer 2011	6	
Module Examination: oral exam			**01 Sept 2011**		**1.3**

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Requesting an Academic Record

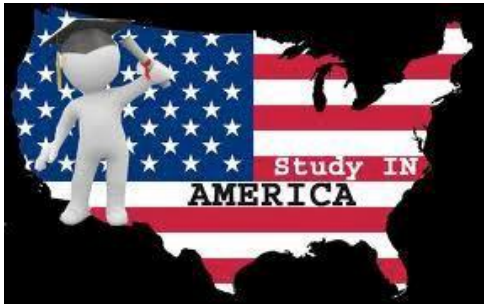
Where to request an academic record?

- **<u>BEds/MEds/Kernfach not within DEL:</u> Please request it directly at your respective Prüfungsbüro**; provide your full name, email address (use your university‘s account!), matriculation number, and subject combination. Academic record needs to be **in English**.
- **<u>BAs/MAs (Kernfach DEL):</u> Please fill out the provided list**; your Direct Exchange **counselors will then request the academic record for you**

Once you have received your academic record:

- The academic record will be sent to you on JOGU-StINe (this may take a few days or longer!)
- **Please forward it to us along with your first application draft**

<u>(Uniwechsler:</u> Please get your academic record from your previous university…)

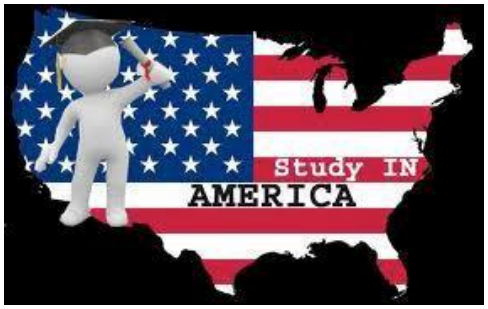


How Does the Selection Process Work?

- 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!

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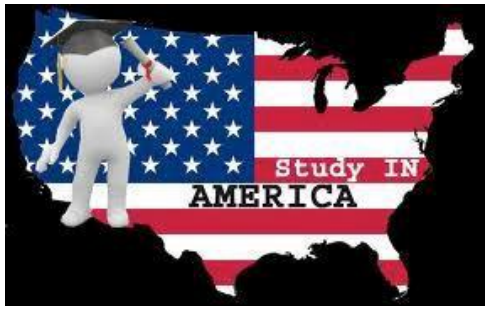
Terms & Conditions of Submitting Your Application

- 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 bzw. in der **Abteilung Internationales**, Forum 2.

DIRECT EXCHANGE PROGRAM: PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

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Brunswick, ME
Middlebury, VT
Toronto, ON, CAN
Worcester, MA
Frederick, MD
Chestertown, MD
Louisville, KY
Lawrence, KS
Atlanta, GA
Oxford, MS
UNITED STATES
National capital
State capital
City
North Pacific Ocean
North Atlantic Ocean
Gulf of Mexico
Great Plains
Central Lowland
Coastal Plains
Colorado Plateau
Rocky Mountains
Cascade Range
Sierra Nevada
GREAT BASIN
Mojave Desert
Appalachian Mountains
Seattle
Olympia
Portland
Salem
Spokane
Missoula
Helena
Butte
Billings
Yellowstone National Park
Boise
Pocatello
Casper
Cheyenne
Fort Collins
Denver
Pueblo
Grand Forks
Bismarck
Fargo
Minot
Duluth
Minneapolis
St Paul
Rapid City
Pierre
Sioux Falls
Sioux City
Omaha
Lincoln
Kansas City
Wichita
Green Bay
Milwaukee
Madison
Chicago
Grand Rapids
Detroit
Lansing
Cedar Rapids
Des Moines
Fort Wayne
Toledo
Cleveland
Buffalo
Rochester
Albany
Montpelier
Boston
Hartford
New York
Scranton
Pittsburgh
Harrisburg
Trenton
Philadelphia
Springfield
Indianapolis
Cincinnati
Columbus
St Louis
Jefferson City
Springfield
Nashville
Memphis
Charlotte
Raleigh
Wilmington
Charleston
Savannah
Jacksonville
Daytona Beach
Orlando
Tampa
Miami
Fort Lauderdale
Tallahassee
Birmingham
Jackson
Shreveport
Little Rock
Fort Smith
Oklahoma City
Tulsa
Amarillo
Lubbock
Wichita Falls
Fort Worth
Dallas
Abilene
Austin
Houston
San Antonio
Galveston
Corpus Christi
Laredo
Baton Rouge
New Orleans
Biloxi
Roswell
El Paso
Tucson
Phoenix
Flagstaff
Albuquerque
Santa Fe
Las Vegas
Reno
Carson City
Salt Lake City
Sacramento
San Francisco
San Jose
Fresno
Bakersfield
Los Angeles
San Bernardino
San Diego
0 100 200 300 mi
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N

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.

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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.

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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.

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Hood College, Frederick, MD

M.A./M.Ed.

- *Teaching assistantship* in German (2x 50mincoursesperweek) 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)



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University of Louisville, KY

*Application via **Prof. Banerjee***



2nd+ Semester B.A./B.Ed.

- Tuition waiver covering for 1-2 semesters (sponsored by Sister Cities
- You will have to cover for housing, food and health insurance
- Additional costs (ca $250)
- TOEFL or Duolingo is mandatory

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Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME



*Application via **Prof. Banerjee***

Graduate Studies

- 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
- tution fee waiver for 2 classes per semester, free housing and food, as well as health insurance
- Application process may involve an online interview with faculty of Bowdoin College

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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

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University of Mississippi, MS



*Application via **Prof. Banerjee***

Graduate Studies

- Research stay for advanced M.A. Students
- TA-Ship with approximately 1000$ pay per month
- University's health insurance is mandatory
- Auditing classes possible
- Classes for credit possible through private payment
- Online interview with UM faculty required

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Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA



*Application via **Prof. Banerjee***

- Available for students who are in the thesis writing stage
- Tuition fees for 10 SWS included
- You need to pay for housing and food
- Additional costs may apply (books, trips, etc.)
- Possibility of TA-Ship

Dual PhD Program:

- PhD Candidates at JGU can apply for a dual PhD, working with colleagues from JGU and GSU
- Involves the completion of course work at GSU

Graduate Studies

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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:

- Frank Newton (frnewton@uni-mainz.de) and Sandra Meerwein (smeerwein@uni-mainz.de) for information on Washington College, Middlebury College, University of Kansas and Hood College
- Samira Deq (sdeq@uni-mainz.de) for information on Clark University, Georgia State University and York University
- Julia Velten (juvelten@uni-mainz.de) for information on University of Louisville, University of Mississippi, and Bowdoin College



Programs Prof. Scheiding (Frank Newton & Sandra Meerwein):

Monday, November 23, 10 a.m. – 15 p.m.

Thursday, November 24, 10 a.m. – 15 p.m.

Philosophicum II, 02.201

smeerwein@uni-mainz.de ; frnewton@uni-mainz.de

Programs (Prof. Scheiding):

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



Programs Prof. Banerjee (Samira Deq & Julia Velten):

Tuesday, November 24, 12 – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, November 25, 12 – 5 p.m.
Philosophicum II, 02-227

sdeq@uni-mainz.de; juvelten@uni-mainz.de

Programs (Prof. Banerjee):

Bowdoin College, Brunswick,ME
Clark University, Worcester, MA
University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
Georgia State University, GA
York University, Toronto, CAN

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