Tiann’s Majors: German, Political Science

Program: Academic Year in Freiburg, Year

Academic Life: While classes last about two hours, the class itself meets only once a week - leaving time to read and truly analyze what you read. Once you get out of basic lectures, your higher classes are more discussion oriented, so your discussion and thoughts are what fuels the class. While many of the classes I took were provided through the program as transition courses for Americans, I tried to take a wide variety of classes at the Sprachlehrinstutut and the Pädagogische Hochschule. I also took classes at the university itself in both English and German. Because of this, I was able to make friends from around the world and gain insight on international perspectives of the United States, while learning German and taking classes to further my knowledge about the language, country, and Europe.

Advice for Someone Considering this Program: Your travel experience can not get much better than Germany. Not only is it centrally located in Europe, their transportation system makes travel within Germany very simple. Furthermore, Germany is a leading country in the sciences and engineering, and German typically makes the top of lists for languages to know. Having studied in Germany gives you a one up in the job market and makes you more well-rounded for your future. The program offers an internship opportunity in the second half - giving you professional experience, enhancing your language abilities, and giving you the chance to network and make future connections.

How Study Abroad Changed Tiann: Through my year abroad, I gained confidence in living on my own. I gained confidence in my German language skills - something my professors here have recognized upon returning. I gained a love for the German culture - more than just Schnitzel. I became a healthier individual abroad - socially, mentally, and physically. My level of maturity increased, and I changed my own mindset and values more than once to try something new.

“I now have a better cultural appreciation and understanding of Germany and Germans.”