



Tel Aviv University
TAU Recanati

The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Student exchange program summary at Humboldt university, winter term 2011-2012

About the University: The Humboldt University of Berlin (Universität zu Berlin) is Berlin's oldest university, founded in 1810 by the liberal Prussian educational reformer and linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt. The university known for the highest number of novel prize winners, including famous names such as Karl Marx, Heinrich Heine, Alexander von Humboldt. In 2011 QS World University Rankings ranked Humboldt University 132rd overall in the world, and 6th in Germany. Its subject rankings were: 27th in Arts & Humanities, 186th in Engineering & IT, 65th in Life Sciences & Biomedicine, 49th in Natural Sciences, and 59th in Social Sciences and tied for 35th in Law respectively 8th in Europe.

Visa Information: a Israeli citizen does not need a visa to enter Germany, and can stay till 90 days as a tourist. Before this period ends, one must go to the 'Bürgeramt' and register as a resident of the city Berlin. For that you must bring with you your apartment contract, approval from university, passport, ticket back home.

Housing: the university offer dorms in cheap prices (150-170 euros per months all inclusive). However, the dorms are usually remote and very basic. In addition, applying for the dorms take place in a very early timing of the year (so you might have no place till TAU-HU agreement will be approved). In the other hand, Berlin is a big city with a lot of accommodation available. In my opinion it is better to stay at flat of your own or flatshare (WG), while prices are about half as in Tel Aviv.

Living expenses: Berlin is still a cheap city compare to western europ, although prices rapidly rising. The living expenses are roughly 30% lower than in Tel Aviv. Average prices: Beer 2.5-3 euros, Entrance to a club 10 euros, Donner Kebab 2.8 euros (fast food), main dish in a restaurant 10 euros.

Transportation: The student card given from university will grant free transportation pass to all busses, s-bahn, u-bahn and trams to areas A, B, C (Including the remote parts outside the city as Potsdam). The public transportation is very fast and frequent.

Courses: The courses in HU is a bit different from the one in TAU. The difficulty is the same or even a bit easier, but while in Tel Aviv the students knows what they are require to know (tutorials, example of past exams...), students in HU often don't have a clue in that sense. The average score in the exams can be often low (no factors policy like in TAU). The list of courses given just before the semester begins, so it's a bit hard to plan in advance. The Bureaucracy of HU is very difficult to handle, as the universities in Germany are known to exclude from the stereotype of 'German order'. The exams dates are not set when the semester begins, so when you follow your courses you might find out 2 months latter that

examination to two courses are in the same day or even in the same hour. Of course, term B is available, but as a foreigner you will not stay another months or two just for that, as the semester back in TAU already began (the long semester in Germany is the first one because of Christmas vacation, in oppose to Israel where the second semester is the long one because of Passover vacation). In some cases, I found out the courses I've wanted to follow are half in german (Lecture in german, tutorial in English) although it was not stated as follows.

German course - reduced price for students to learn German at HU.

Recreation: The student office offers a reduced price trip for a weekend to students in one of the cities in Germany, which is highly recommended. Orbis (another student organization) offer the same in a different city while the trip is all in German (and this trip is not recommended). In addition it is easy to go to many cities around Berlin, such as Warsaw, Prauge, Liepzig, Dresden, Hamburg. Another possibility is to go out in the huge city of Berlin, for Potsdam, or one of the lakes around such as Wannsee.

General experience: There is no MBA program in HU, and no MBA students. This fact makes it difficult academically wise, as courses are different. Also for networking purpose, this university is not recommended while most students are very young (early 20's). The university is German language orientated, while most foreign students speak German. In the other hand, the international student office is very helpful and friendly, and the city of Berlin is amazing!

Other: A 100 euros scholarship is granted to every student who never lived in Berlin before (but they require 194 euros registration fees to the university)

Please contact me for further information, orikatz5@gmail.com

Regards,

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