

Freie Universität Berlin International Summer and Winter Program (FUBiS)	
Lecture : European Studies	
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1. Introduction

I stayed in Europe from January 3 to January 30 and participated in the winter program at Freie Universität Berlin in Germany. Traveling to Europe requires not only considerable expenses but also more than ten days of travel time. Also, it is difficult to find friends who can travel together due to scheduling conflicts.

In this regard, FUBiS was a great option. It allowed me to experience life in Europe while also taking part in Germany's high-quality education system. In addition, one of the major advantages of the program was that the courses could be recognized as credits for my major (Department of Public Administration).

2. Lectures and course content

The course I took was <European Studies>. All FUBiS program classes are held at the Lankwitz Campus rather than the main Dahlem Campus. Classes are held about three times a week. <European Studies> focuses on international issues facing Europe and the role of the European Union in addressing them.



Rather than being lecture-based, the class mainly consisted of student discussions and excursions. For Korean students, being encouraged to participate actively in discussions could sometimes feel a bit challenging. In addition, discussing topics related to international politics in English may not be easy for some students.

The professor specializes in international relations, politics, and history. Therefore, the course would be particularly suitable for students majoring in international relations or public administration. As mentioned earlier, active participation and cultural understanding are the most important aspects of this class.

3. Accommodation



There are various accommodation options available. However, all accommodations are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. When submitting your application, you can select your preferred accommodation and make the payment immediately. When I submit my application, there were no good accommodation option for me due to I'm late 1 week. So, I booked an Airbnb, which cost me around 1.4 million KRW in total. Although all FUBiS classes are held at the Lankwitz campus, I hadn't checked this in advance and ended up booking accommodation near the Dahlem campus (which takes about 30 minutes by bus). Even though it was far from school and quite expensive, I was very satisfied because the host was kind, and the place was quiet and clean. If you dislike sharing a room with someone else, Airbnb is an excellent option for you.

4. Daily life and cultural experiences

Classes were held three times a week, and on my days off, I enjoyed Berlin's cultural scene. I usually ate out, though dining in Berlin is relatively expensive compared to Korea—typically costing around 20,000 to 30,000 KRW per meal. The most iconic Berlin dishes are sausages and Schnitzel, and people also eat a lot of bread. To be honest, I can't agree with that the Berlin's local food all that delicious. Fortunately, there is a strong Korean network, so you can find plenty of Korean restaurants downtown. I visited there once a week.

The defining feature of Berlin is undoubtedly its museums. There are museums and art galleries scattered all over the city, including the famous Museum Island where major museums are clustered together. As a FUBiS student, I could visit them either for free or at a discounted price by showing my student ID. Other memorable spots include the Brandenburg Gate, the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, and the Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom). Most of Berlin's famous landmarks are located right in the heart of the city. Most of these places can be reached by

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public transit. In fact, the convenience of the public transportation system is one of Berlin's biggest advantages. Although it feels a bit more dangerous at night compared to Korea, Berlin is still a relatively safe place in Europe. Even so, I wouldn't recommend deliberately going to risky areas."



5. Reflection and Conclusion

To be honest, while Berlin is a great place to live, it wasn't ideal for a long trip. It is entirely possible to tour Berlin's main landmarks within just two days. However, considering Germany's high quality of education and standard of living, this opportunity was incredibly valuable. In particular, it's not often you get the chance to debate international issues in English with foreign university students. Although I am not an International Studies major, this program was a huge help in broadening my perspective on global issues. While I wouldn't visit Berlin again just for travel, I believe returning for educational purposes would be completely worth it. Furthermore, given Berlin's pivotal role in modern history, one cannot deny that it is a city offering immense cultural and educational value for college students.

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