

Extracurricular Activities in Berlin

Berlin universities and Berlin in general offer a wide range of extracurricular activities. In addition to the links below, there are innumerable clubs, associations, and initiatives. A popular way to find things to do or to join people with similar interests is also to look at the universities' black boards.

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

Each university has an international club, which organizes events and day-trips, movie nights, dance classes or international evenings (e.g. French night or German Stammtisch). It is a great way to meet other international students or German students who have been abroad and/or are interested in the international community.

FU: http://www.fu-berlin.de/studium/international/internationaler_club/index.html

HU: <https://www.international.hu-berlin.de/de/studierende/an-der-hu>

TU: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/210989342620409>

SPORTS AND GYMS

While Berlin and German universities in general do not have their own gyms, they do offer inexpensive sports classes of all kinds, e.g. beach volleyball, sailing, yoga, soccer or aikido. These classes are offered during the semester as well as during the break (*Ferienkurse*).

FU: <http://www.hs-sport.fu-berlin.de/>

HU: <https://www.hochschulsport.hu-berlin.de/de>

TU: <http://www.tu-sport.de/>

Berlin also has innumerable swimming pools and sports clubs where students can get involved.

<http://www.berlin.de/special/sport-und-fitness/schwimmen/schwimmbad/>

MUSIC, ORCHESTRAS, AND CHOIRS

Another great opportunity to meet Germans is to join a student orchestra or music club. Rehearsals usually start with the beginning of the regular semester.

Collegium Musicum is the umbrella organization of the TU and FU ensembles.

<http://www.collegium-musicum-berlin.de/>

The *Junges Orchester der FU Berlin* is organized by students.

<http://www.junges-orchester.de/>

Similarly, Humboldt University has different choirs and orchestras.

<http://www.musikundmedien.hu-berlin.de/umd>

In addition, *Musikschulen*, either subsidized by the state or privately organized, offer inexpensive instrument lessons and often times have bands and orchestras. Each Berlin district has one or more *Musikschule* locations.

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bildung/lebenslaenger-lernen/musikschulen/adressen/>

Berlin also has innumerable choirs and singing clubs.

<https://www.chorverband-berlin.de/choere/>

LANGUAGES

Doing a language tandem is a great way to meet German students and to improve language skills outside of university.

FU: <http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/slz/tandem/index.html>

Students meet regularly with a German partner wishing to learn English (or whatever other language you have to offer). To alternate between the languages, the partners divide up the time of their meeting – both partners are thus teacher and student at the same time.

HU: <https://www.international.hu-berlin.de/de/studierende/an-der-hu/orbis-infothek/sprachboerse>

TU: <https://mediothek.zems.tu-berlin.de/mediawiki/index.php/Tandem>

<p>In addition, all Berlin universities have a <i>Selbstlernzentrum</i> or <i>Mediothek</i> where students can practice various languages through different media.</p> <p>The universities' language centers also offer language classes during the semester.</p>	<p>FU: http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/slz/index.html</p> <p>HU: https://www.sprachenzentrum.hu-berlin.de/de/selbstlernzentrum</p> <p>TU: https://www.zems.tu-berlin.de/mediothek/</p>
<h3>GETTING (POLITICALLY) INVOLVED AT UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES</h3>	
<p>Pretty much every department has a so-called <i>Fachschaftsinitiative</i>, an initiative for and by students studying at the same institute. They organize their own orientation days, run student cafés, theater groups and/or get politically involved at the university.</p>	<p>FU: http://www.astafu.de/fachschaftsinis</p> <p>HU: http://fachschaften.hu-berlin.de/</p> <p>TU: http://asta.tu-berlin.de/leben/inis</p>
<p>Students may also get involved at the university-wide level and join the student association AStA and the student parliament. The AStA has different departments which often get politically involved, such as the queer department or the international students department.</p>	<p>FU: http://www.astafu.de</p> <p>HU: http://www.refrat.hu-berlin.de/</p> <p>TU: http://asta.tu-berlin.de/</p>
<h3>VOLUNTEERING</h3>	
<p>Students wishing to volunteer in an organization can choose from a wide range of options, e.g. working in a homeless people's organization or in local soup kitchens, reading books to primary school children, going grocery shopping for elderly people, working with refugees, or teaching English.</p>	<p>http://www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv/</p> <p>https://volunteer-planner.org/</p> <p>https://www.betterplace.org/ Zeit spenden</p> <p>http://freiwillig.berlin/</p>
<h3>STUDENT JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS</h3>	
<p>All Berlin universities have a career service, which assists and supports students in all matters related to the job and internship search.</p>	<p>FU: http://www.fu-berlin.de/career/</p> <p>HU: https://www.hu-berlin.de/de/career-center</p> <p>TU: http://www.career.tu-berlin.de/menue/if_career_service/</p>
<p>The <i>Heinzelmannchen</i>, a branch of the Germany-wide student service association <i>studierendenWERK</i>, runs a huge student job database and has various student jobs available. They are famous for offering jobs to work as Santa Claus at Christmas time.</p>	<p>http://www.studentenwerk-berlin.de/jobs/</p>
<h3>RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES</h3>	
<p>Berlin is a multi-religious city and has various religious communities.</p>	<p>Roman Catholic: http://www.erzbistumberlin.de/</p> <p>Roman Catholic student union: http://ksg-berlin.de/</p> <p>Protestant: http://www.ekbo.de/</p> <p>Protestant student union: http://www.esgberlin.de/</p> <p>Muslim: http://zentralrat.de/2597_main.php</p> <p>Jewish: http://www.jg-berlin.org/</p> <p>Baptist: http://www.ibcberlin.org/</p> <p>Christian: http://www.americanchurchberlin.de/</p>

LGBT / QUEER COMMUNITY

Berlin has an important LGBT and queer scene and offers everything from queer bars and clubs, to gay city tours and queer magazines.

<http://www.siegessaeule.de/>

<http://www.queerpride.de/>

VOLKSHOCHSCHULEN (Public or Community Colleges)

In addition to sports classes and musical groups at the universities, *Volkshochschule* Berlin offers inexpensive courses in sports and dance, languages, arts and crafts as well as weekend workshops and excursions. Every district of Berlin has such an institution, but the range of courses differs noticeably from one district to another. You can register for courses in any district regardless of where you live. These affordable courses are usually held in the afternoon or in the evening.

<http://www.berlin.de/vhs>

In addition to the *Volkshochschule* managed by the city of Berlin, the Jewish community of Berlin offers a diverse range of courses at the *Jüdische Volkshochschule Berlin*.

<http://www.jvhs.de>