

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Germany is a beautiful, diverse and interesting country situated in central Europe. It is bordered by Denmark in the north, and Poland and the Czech Republic in the east, Austria and Switzerland in the south and the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Luxembourg in the west. The landscape of Germany varies greatly from lowlands and beaches (North Sea, Baltic Sea) to high mountains like the Alps. Germany has about 82 million inhabitants. It is the largest country in the EU in terms of population. Germany is a modern, cosmopolitan country. Its society is shaped by a plurality of life styles and a true ethno-cultural diversity.

Area: 357,021 square kilometres Population: 82.5 million Capital: Berlin Language: German National holiday: 3rd October

COUNTRY MAP





Age criteria: 15-17.5 years old

Starting months: August/ September and January/ February

Language requirements: 2 years of German (level A2)

Visa: Mandatory - extra fees apply

Area choice: Hamburg, Berlin, North, Central, South (not guaranteed) **Preparation course:** STS Welcome Camp, extra fee apply

School year: August/ September - June/July

School day: approximately 8:00-16:00

Subjects: Mandatory and optional subjects

Optional trips: Options to join trips during the year

THE SCHOOL

Exchange students will attend a public school and are placed in grade 9, 10 or 11. Every school decides which grade the exchange student will attend. Students usually have to take compulsory classes such as Maths, German, English, Social Science, Natural Science and Physical Education. In addition, students can choose, among other subjects, music, arts, computer science etc. depending on what the school offers.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Full Zapp application
- Good health
- Good grades (minumum C average)
- Good knowledge of English
- Skype interview before acceptance
- 2 years of German (level A2)

THE CULTURE

Since the Germans love being active, they are always busy doing something. They love traveling and enjoy visiting places in their own country as well as further away. That makes it even more important for an exchange student to try to take initiative, and be open and ready to "be part of what is happening". The student should help out in the host family's home and join the family for family activities. In addition to family life, it is important that the student builds his or her own social life and finds their own hobbies.

HOST FAMILY

Spending time together and chatting about daily topics is very important to German families. Like in many European countries, there is no typical family structure in Germany anymore. Nowadays both parents work and the traditional family exists alongside single parents and patchwork families. In their everyday life, people are busy with work and school during the day, and most families have dinner together.

SPORTS

Spare time activities are very popular in Germany and soccer is certainly the biggest sport. Other popular sports are Gymnastics, Tennis, Athletics and Handball. More than 40% of all Germans regularly play sport, and sport is one of their preferred hobbies. Students are strongly urged to become involved in activities outside of school such as sports, clubs, social events, art, music, or drama.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students will have the opportunity to join a weekend in Hamburg and Munich while there they will meet and connect with other STS students, and have two nights, accommodation with half board. Students will get to visit exciting sights and museums of both cities and try typical regional food.