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Approaching Your Courses

In each of your German courses, you will receive a syllabus with information about course objectives and policies. Read this document carefully and use it throughout the semester. It explains what to expect and how your work will be evaluated. But there are also general principles and attitudes that are essential for success in all of your German courses at VU:

- Be prepared for class. Eliminate distractions when you do homework, and work in a quiet place.
- Schedule time to complete homework on a regular basis. Plan to complete two hours of homework per week for every course credit. (For example, a three-credit course involves nine hours per week: three in class and six as homework.) Keep this time commitment in mind as you create your class schedule each semester. At the university level, cutting corners with time usually means sacrificing learning and grades.
- When you have reading homework, take time to write notes in your text and to think about the ideas and themes in what you read. Look for more than literal understanding and surface meanings. You can only succeed at this if you are in the regular habit of reading in German, so establish that habit firmly. See the appendix entry “How to Read a Text” for further tips.
- Complete all writing assignments thoroughly and on time. Take advantage of the opportunity to think about grammar rules and practice dictionary skills while you write. Do not leave it to your professors or classmates to find your mistakes for you.
- Buy and use all required texts. Especially important are required grammar resources and dictionaries. Of course, in class you will also need a notebook, pen, pencil, calendar, and folder for course materials.
- Eventually, consider buying a German-German dictionary. (The top publishers of these include Duden and Wahrig.)
- Give your full attention in class. Always turn off cell phones and other gadgets before class and leave them off. Arrive early enough to get set up and begin work when the scheduled time begins.
- Come to class ready to cooperate with your classmates and professors. Be enthusiastic. Participate in German in all group and partner activities, with a positive attitude and good work ethic. No matter what your confidence level is, you will learn by doing your best to communicate in German. (This is true whether you are doing most of the talking or most of the listening.) Remember that practicing communication is key to mastering a language. Take advantage of opportunities to do this in class.
- Some of the material in your courses will be presented in lecture format. Always come prepared to take notes, and do so whenever your professor lectures. Keep your notes organized, and be ready to use them to review.
- Build positive relationships with your classmates and professors. Take the time to get to know your professors during their scheduled office hours. Whenever you have questions, concerns, or problems in a course, discuss them first with your professor in an office hour. Do the same if you are interested in learning more about a given topic. You will find that your professors are very interested in helping you and building positive working relationships with you if you make the effort to speak with them outside of class.
- Remember that your courses are only part of your opportunity to learn German at VU. Plan to practice speaking, listening, and reading in other ways too.

How to Read a Text

As a German major or minor, you will be doing a lot of reading. Follow these guidelines for reading success:

- 1) Find a quiet place to read, away from distractions. A corner in the library is ideal.
- 2) Set aside enough time to read carefully and thoroughly. If you are rushed, you will inevitably have trouble understanding the text.
- 3) Establish a consistent, comfortable reading pace. Don't make the mistake of stopping the flow of reading frequently to look up words you do not know. Continuing to read is usually the best way to figure out what is going on in a text. If you have trouble with a particular paragraph or section, try reading it a second time, perhaps out loud. If you still don't understand, now is the time to look up a key word or two before going on.
- 4) Read actively. To be able to contribute to class discussion, you will want to mark up your copy of the text, take notes, and keep track of your questions and ideas about the text.
- 5) Stop before you are mentally exhausted. If you find you are suddenly reading with your eyes and not with your head, it's time to take a break. Try 30 minutes on and 5 minutes off.

Perhaps the idea of writing in a book seems scandalous to you. But good readers always take ownership of their books and make them truly their own. Where should you write? Everywhere you find a blank space—use the margins, the end papers, the inside front and back covers. It's a little cramped, but highly practical. When you write in your book itself rather than on a separate piece of paper, you know you'll always have your notes right with you.

What should you write? Consider these ideas:

- For a non-fictional text, mark the thesis and topic sentences and summarize the argument.
- For a fictional text, make yourself a list of characters, like the *Dramatis Personae* of a play.
- Track a few elements of the text that you find particularly interesting. This can be a great way of starting to collect material for potential paper topics. For example, in Kafka's *Die Verwandlung*, you might keep track of Gregor's humanlike and his buglike characteristics in a little two-column table. In Heinrich Böll's *Das Brot der frühen Jahre*, you might mark all of the occurrences of the word "Brot" with a star in the margin. In a poem by Goethe, you could mark in the rhyme scheme.
- Interact with the text, intellectually and emotionally. You might hypothesize what will happen next, pose ethical questions, or even talk back to the characters.
- Mark words with which you are unfamiliar. You don't want to look them all up in the middle of your reading time, but you can go back later and add them to your vocabulary notebook.

Reading List

We hope that at some point, you will want to read some German literature of your own choosing—perhaps on a weekend when you have some free time, during a break or in the summer, or after you graduate.

How to choose what to read? As always, if you find an author whose work you like, try more of his or her books. You might even enjoy going back to re-read a book you read for a course. Sometimes the second time around—whether because it's later in life or because you feel more relaxed—is all it takes to discover that you really love a book you weren't too sure about at first.

Here are some of our suggestions:

MEDIEVAL

Parzival by Wolfram von Eschenbach

Das Nibelungenlied (Anonymous)

Poetry by Hartmann von Aue, Wolfram von Eschenbach, and Walter von der Vogelweide

REFORMATION / HUMANISM

Tischreden by Martin Luther

Der Ackermann aus Böhmen by Johannes von Tepl

Das Narrenschiff by Sebastian Brandt

Plays by Hans Sachs

BAROQUE

Simplicissimus by Grimmelshausen

Absurda Comica oder Herr Peter Squenz by Andreas Gryphius

ENLIGHTENMENT

Nathan der Weise by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing

Emilia Galotti by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing

Minna von Barnhelm by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing

STURM UND DRANG/CLASSICISM

Die Leiden des Jungen Werther by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Die Räuber by Friedrich von Schiller

Faust I by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Wilhelm Tell by Friedrich von Schiller

Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Poetry by Friedrich Hölderlin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and Friedrich von Schiller

ROMANTICISM

Heinrich von Ofterdingen by Novalis

Der blonde Eckbert by Ludwig Tieck

Das Erdbeben in Chile by Heinrich von Kleist

Der Sandmann by E.T.A. Hoffmann

Kinder- und Hausmärchen by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm

MID- 19TH CENTURY

Die Judenbuche by Annette von Droste-Hülshoff

Der arme Spielmann by Franz Grillparzer

Bunte Steine by Adalbert Stifter (*Granit, Bergkristall*, and the “Vorrede” to the collection)

Woyzeck by Georg Büchner

Poetry by Heinrich Heine

REALISM / NATURALISM / LATE 19TH CENTURY

Maria Magdalena by Friedrich Hebbel

Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe by Gottfried Keller

Der Schimmelreiter by Theodor Storm

Effi Briest by Theodor Fontane

Bahnwärter Thiel by Gerhart Hauptmann

Das Gemeindekind by Maria von Ebner Eschenbach

EARLY 20TH CENTURY / MODERNISM

Die Verwandlung by Franz Kafka

Das Urteil by Franz Kafka

Das Schloß by Franz Kafka

Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder by Bertolt Brecht

Die Dreigroschenoper by Bertolt Brecht

Der kaukasische Kreidekreis by Bertolt Brecht

Der Tod in Venedig by Thomas Mann

Der Zauberberg by Thomas Mann

Buddenbrooks by Thomas Mann

Der Steppenwolf by Hermann Hesse

Das siebte Kreuz by Anna Seghers

Poetry by Rainer Maria Rilke, Christian Morgenstern, Stefan George, and Bertolt Brecht

"Todesfuge" by Paul Celan

POST-WAR TO PRESENT

Draußen vor der Tür by Wolfgang Borchert

Biedermann und die Brandstifter by Max Frisch

Homo faber by Max Frisch

Der Besuch der alten Dame by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Der Richter und sein Henker by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Katz und Maus by Günter Grass

Die Blechtrommel by Günter Grass

Und sagte kein einziges Wort by Heinrich Böll

Der geteilte Himmel by Christa Wolf

Nachgetragene Liebe by Peter Härtling

Jakob der Lügner by Jurek Becker

Bronsteins Kinder by Jurek Becker

Frost by Thomas Bernhard

Sansibar oder der letzte Grund by Alfred Andersch

Poetry by Nelly Sachs, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Wolf Biermann, and Ernst Jandl

The German Curriculum

Four Year Plan for the German major who places into FLGR 204:

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First year	204	220 271
Second year	(351 or 353) (305 or 306)	(341 or 352) 271 390
Third year (Tübingen!)	German electives	
Fourth year	493 (351 or 353) (305 or 306)	(341 or 352) 271 390

Four Year Plan for the German major who places into FLGR 203:

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First year	203	204
Second year	(305 or 306)	220 271
Third year (Tübingen!)	German electives (including any course substitution for a course in the 351, 352, 353 series).	
Fourth year	(351 or 353) 493	(341 or 352) 271 390

- *Courses in **bold-face type** are required for the German major.*
- *If two courses are listed in parentheses like this: (341 or 352) it means that one of the two courses will be offered in that particular semester. If 341 is offered in the spring of your sophomore year, you can be sure that 352 will be offered in the spring of your senior year. But they will not both be offered in both semesters.*
- *We know that you also need to take general education courses, courses for your minor, and other elective courses; please meet with your German advisor to make a four-year plan that includes them along with study abroad.*

FLGR 220: Approaches to German Studies. 3 cr.

An introduction to the strategies of reading, interpreting, and writing about German texts. Reading and discussion of works from a variety of genres with particular attention to textual analysis. Prerequisite: FLGR 204.

FLGR 271: German Drama Practicum. 1 - 3 cr. (normally 1 cr.)

Rehearsal and performance of a play or an excerpt from a play in German. No prior acting experience required. Prerequisite: FLGR 204. May be used to fulfill the Humanities: Fine and Performing Arts component of the General Education Requirements. May be repeated.

FLGR 305: German in the Professions. 4 cr.

A study of German language as used in the world of business and technology, including basic commercial and technical vocabulary, workplace correspondence, and professional presentation. Advanced communication skills are developed. Prerequisite: FLGR 204.

FLGR 306: German in the Media. 4 cr.

A study of German language and contemporary society through the media, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, film, and the internet. Advanced communication skills are developed. Prerequisite: FLGR 204.

FLGR 341: History of the German Language. 3 cr.

A historical study of the development of the German language. Students are introduced to the basics of linguistics, to linguistic change from Indo-European to the present, and to contemporary dialect variation in German. Prerequisite: FLGR 220.

FLGR 351: German Studies: The Middle Ages and Humanism. 3 cr.

A study of German-language literature and culture from the emergence of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation to Luther and the early modern era. Intellectual and aesthetic works (e.g. architecture, art, drama, music, philosophy, poetry, prose fiction) are examined in cultural-historical context. Prerequisite: FLGR 220.

FLGR 352: German Studies: Enlightenment and Revolution. 3 cr.

A study of German-language literature and culture from the beginnings of the modern era to the failed revolution of 1848. Intellectual and aesthetic works (e.g. architecture, art, drama, music, philosophy, poetry, prose fiction) are examined in cultural-historical context. Prerequisite: FLGR 220.

FLGR 353: German Studies: Constructing a Modern Nation. 3 cr.

A study of German-language literature and culture from the emergence of the first unified German nation-state in the nineteenth century to the present. Intellectual and aesthetic works (e.g. architecture, art, drama, music, philosophy, poetry, prose fiction) are examined in cultural-historical context. Prerequisite: FLGR 220.

FLGR 390: Seminar in German. 3 cr.

A study of selected themes or issues in German literature, language, or civilization. May be repeated for credit if the topic varies. Prerequisite: one course from the following: FLGR 351, 352, or 353.

FLGR 493: Senior Seminar. 3 cr.

A senior-level capstone course which integrates knowledge and skills from previous German courses. Language skills (speaking, listening, writing, reading) are refined as depth and nuance are added to the understanding of German history, literature, culture and contemporary events. Prerequisites: senior standing and consent of the Chair of the Department.

Combining German with Secondary Education (and Tübingen)

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First year	Core 5 ED 203 3 PE 100 1 Quan. Anal. 3 - 4 German 204 4 TOTAL = 16 - 17 cr.	Core 5 Psych 110/111 4 Comm 243 3 Natural Science 3 - 4 German 220 3 TOTAL = 18 - 19 cr.
Second year	ED Block 1 (CP 1) 6 Theology 200 3 German (351 or 353) 3 German (305 or 306) 4 TOTAL = 16 cr.	ED Block 2 8 ED Media Block 6 German (341 or 352) 3 TOTAL = 17 cr.
Third year (Tübingen!)	Two Social Science courses 6 Upper-level Theology course 3 Two Humanities courses 6 German electives 6 (minimum of two; must include substitute for 352 if not taken sophomore year) Additional electives 3 - 18 (minimum of one) TOTAL FOR YEAR = 24 - 39 cr.	
Fourth year	ED Block 3 (CP 2) 9 German 493 3 German (351 or 353) 3 TOTAL = 15 cr.	ED Block 4 (CP 3) 14 TOTAL = 14 cr.

Combining German with Pre-Medical Studies (and Tübingen*)

Most pre-med students major in Biology or Chemistry. It is *easy* to combine a major in German with either of these majors, but it is *difficult* to add the junior year in Tübingen. The reason is simple: most students take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) in the spring of the junior year (the Tübingen year).

But if you are eager to . . .

- prepare for medical school *and*
- study abroad in Tübingen for the whole junior year

. . . then here are some possibilities to consider:

1. Medical schools do not require that you major in Biology or Chemistry. But to do well on the MCAT exams you must take these courses:

- Biology 171 and 172 (Diversity of Life; 4 cr. each)
- Chemistry 121 and 122 (General Chemistry; 4 cr. each)
- Chemistry 221 and 222 (Organic Chemistry; 4 cr. each)
- Physics 111 and 112 (Essentials of Physics; 4 cr. each)
(or 141 and 142 if you are strong in Physics)
- Math 124 (Finite Math; 4 cr.)
(or Math 131 if you are strong in Math)

(NOTE: "general wisdom" suggests that you should have a B grade or higher in Chemistry 221 and 222 to be accepted into a medical school.)

2. The MCAT is administered internationally. In 2009 the MCAT was administered in April and June (and August) in Germany and France. If you are able to take the courses listed above during the freshman and sophomore years, you could take the MCAT while in Tübingen. Remember that you could take key science textbooks with you to review for the test while in Germany.

3. Then to enhance your preparation for medical school you could add Chemistry 315 (Biochemistry), Biology 270 (Genetics), and Biology 380 (Human Physiology) in the senior year.

Another option is to go to Tübingen, delay the MCAT until the spring of your senior year, and then take one year off after graduation before going to medical school.

IF you have spent junior year in Tübingen we can most likely arrange a post-graduation, year-long internship in a Tübingen clinic for that in-between year -- yes, we have contacts!

* Study in Reutlingen is for one semester only and may be an option for you. Remember, though, that the Reutlingen program is conducted in English and is normally not the best choice for advanced students of German.

Library Resources in the Christopher Center (CCLIR)

1. Books

If you're looking for a book, use the Galileo catalog on the library website or browse the relevant sections in the library. There are several places to look for German-related books:

- 1) The DDs—German history (3rd floor)
- 2) The PTs—German literature (4th floor)
- 3) The PNs—Language (4th floor)
- 4) The Ns—Art history (4th floor)
- 5) The MLs—Music history (4th floor)

See also the reference section, under the same call numbers as above (1st floor)

Here are a few titles you might start with:

Brockhaus, Deutsche Geschichte in Schlaglichtern. Ed. Helmut Müller.
Leipzig: Brockhaus, 2007.
DD89 .B76 2007

Encyclopedia of Contemporary German Culture. Ed. John Sandford.
London: Routledge, 1999.
DD290.26 .E53 (Reference)

Metzler Literatur Lexikon: Begriffe und Definitionen. Ed. Günter and Irmgard Schweikle
Stuttgart: Metzler, 1990.
PN41 .M43 1990

The Oxford Companion to German Literature. Henry and Mary Garland.
Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997.
PT41 .G3 1997

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms. Chris Baldick.
Oxford: Oxford UP, 1990.
PN41 .C67 1990

2. Articles

If you're looking for an article on a literary topic, use the Modern Language Association (MLA) database, available through the library homepage.

We have several of the top journals in print at the CCLIR:

German Quarterly
Germanic Review
Monatshefte

Many other articles are available electronically or through Interlibrary Loan.

Language Resource Center (LRC)

The Language Resource Center is located in Meier Hall 144 and 145. The LRC provides services and resources for German students of all levels, including:

- a computer lab where, in addition to all the standard computing features, you can use German spell- and grammar-check, record audio samples, play German CD-ROMs, or listen to German music CDs
- a film lending library with a wide variety of German DVDs that can be checked out overnight or watched in the LRC
- a small library of dictionaries, textbooks, and other books in German
- a study lounge where you can study, hang out, read *The Economist* or *FOCUS* magazine, play German games, read German books, or watch satellite TV from Germany (Channel 84: ProSieben, Channel 85: Deutsche Welle)
- free tutoring
- the Language Cafe, where you can enjoy a fresh-brewed cup of coffee and support micro-lending in the developing world at the same time

For a list of the films available and a link to the satellite TV schedule, visit the LRC website: <http://www.valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/lrc/index.php>

Classic Film Suggestions:

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919)
Nosferatu (1922)
The Blue Angel (1930)
M (1931)
The Murderers are Among Us (1946)

Modern Film Suggestions:

Ali: Fear Eats the Soul (1971)
Jacob the Liar (1974)
Effi Briest (1974)
The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum (1975)
The Tin Drum (1979)
Nosferatu, Phantom der Nacht (1979)
Das Boot (1981)
Wings of Desire (1987)
The Promise (1995)
Run Lola Run (1999)
Dog Days (2001)
Mostly Martha (2002)
Nowhere in Africa (2002)
Good-bye, Lenin! (2003)
Free Radicals (2003)
Downfall (2005)
Schultze Gets the Blues (2005)
The Lives of Others (2007)

Honorary Societies and Departmental Honors Work

Delta Phi Alpha (www.deltaphialpha.org)

Founded in 1927, Delta Phi Alpha is the national German Honorary Society. Chapters are located at 236 universities and colleges throughout the country.

The Honor Society "seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship. The Society aims to promote the study of the German language, literature and civilization and endeavors to emphasize those aspects of German life and culture which are of universal value and which contribute to man's eternal search for peace and truth."

If your overall GPA and German GPA are high enough and if you have taken an appropriate array of courses in German, you will be invited to join the Valpo chapter of Delta Phi Alpha. As a member you are eligible to apply for a Delta Phi Alpha Scholarship and will be awarded an honor cord to wear at graduation.

The two study abroad scholarships supported by national Delta Phi Alpha are described under "Scholarships to Help You Study Abroad."

Departmental Honors

If you have completed all or virtually all courses in the German program and yearn to tackle a research project that deepens your understanding of a topic in German you may wish to apply for departmental Honors Work. The process for applying for Honors Work is described in the university catalog. Your project proposal must be prepared by early April of the junior year, and you must then register each semester of the senior year for 3 credits of Honors Work and (at most) 12 additional credits of regular classes. If you are interested in Honors Work in German you should begin discussing your ideas for a project with one (or more) of the German professors early in the junior year.

Phi Beta Kappa (www.pbk.org)

The oldest (founded in 1776) and most prestigious of honorary societies, Phi Beta Kappa initiates students in the liberal arts and sciences who have excelled in both the humanities (including foreign language study at advanced levels) and the sciences (including mathematics). German majors who maintain an extremely high grade point average and enroll in rigorous courses in mathematics and the sciences have a good chance to be selected for membership.

Study Abroad Programs

There are three options for study abroad in Germany: one year in Tübingen, one semester in Reutlingen, or Rottenburg am Neckar

Tübingen

For serious students of German, Tübingen is the clear choice. Students spend an entire academic year in Germany, studying as regular full-time students at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität.

The requirements to study in Tübingen are the following:

- You must have completed at least German 204, but most successful applicants have completed higher-level courses.
- You must be a junior. A GPA of 3.0 is required.
- You must be approved by the German section and by International Programs.

There are three components of study:

- 1) *Language and Orientation Program (September - mid- October)*: A program sponsored by Tübingen University. The program prepares you for life at a German university. Completion of this program allows you to earn three elective credits towards a German major or minor.
- 2) *Wintersemester (mid-October – mid-February)*: Register for courses sponsored by the foreign student office (Internationale Sprachprogramme) and/or for regular lectures and seminars at the university. Select your courses based on your major, minor or general education requirements at VU and plan carefully with your advisor ahead of time.
- 3) *Sommersemester (mid-April – mid-July)*: As in the Wintersemester.

Reutlingen

The Reutlingen program is available for students unable to dedicate a year to study in Germany. Twenty VU students take courses on the campus of the Hochschule Reutlingen taught by the VU resident director and German professors.

Requirements to study in Reutlingen are:

- No previous study of German is required (repeat German 204 for 4 German elective credits).
- You must be a sophomore, junior, or senior. A GPA of 3.0 is generally required.

Courses include: 1) German 204, 2) German Life and Culture, 3) Art 311, 4) Economics 290, 5) a course in the VU director's academic area. Except for 204, courses are taught in English.

Rottenburg am Neckar

Students with a double major in German and music (organ) can study in the spring of the junior year at our partner in Rottenburg am Neckar (Hochschule für Kirchenmusik). Your semester will be filled with singing, organ lessons, and music!

Note: You should consult with one of the German professors as early as possible about your study abroad plans. Freshman year is not too early to begin thinking about studying in Germany. Every year there are information meetings on both the Tübingen and Reutlingen programs. For more information, visit the study abroad website (<http://www.valpo.edu/studyabroad/>) or International Programs, upstairs in the Harre Union.

Living in the Kade-Duesenberg German House

The Basics:

Valpo sophomore, junior, and senior students may live in the Kade-Duesenberg German House and Cultural Center. German majors and minors who are serious about their goal to achieve fluency in German should consider living in the German House during the sophomore and senior years with the junior year devoted to study abroad.

Apply in January for the following academic year; you will be informed of your selection status in February before the regular room selection process begins.

The Process

1. As soon as possible take a tour of the residential section of the Kade-Duesenberg German House and Cultural Center (the second floor). Valpo's German Club meets there so you'll have a chance to see what the rooms, suites, and common areas look like.
2. Come to the annual information meeting in December; you'll hear about this meeting in your German class. If you still haven't toured the German House this will be a chance.
3. Complete the application form in January. It has three main sections: a basic facts and figures section, an essay that explains why you wish to live in the German House, and your grade transcript. The essay is written in English because the selection committee includes faculty and/or staff who do not speak German.
4. Have your current RA fill out the recommendation form. The selection committee wants to know how well you contribute to good community living at Valpo.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can live in the Kade-Duesenberg German House and Cultural Center?

Any Valpo sophomore, junior or senior who has taken German 204 or the equivalent can live in the German House. Applications are submitted in the January before the academic year in question.

How long can I live in the German House?

Students who wish to live in the German House a second or third year simply reapply.

I'll be abroad for part of the year. Can I apply for just one semester?

Yes. Students who are studying abroad are especially encouraged to apply to live in the German House -- either in preparation for their time abroad or as a way of easing back into American campus life. There is space on the application form for you to indicate your intent to apply for the fall or the spring semester only.

What happens if I apply to live in the German House but am not selected?

Space in the German House is limited to 13 students, one of whom is the RA; this means that not every applicant can always be accommodated. Applications are reviewed by a committee of faculty and staff and selections are made based on language ability and willingness to participate

in community life. Seniority and gender balance may also be considered. Applicants are informed whether or not they have been selected well in advance of the campus-wide room selection process so that students who are not selected to live in the German House have time to find a roommate and join the regular room selection process at no disadvantage.

Who is the Resident Assistant?

Each year there is a new resident assistant. The RA is normally an exchange student from Tübingen who takes regular VU courses while serving also as RA at the German House.

What are the rooms like?

The rooms in the German House are singles and doubles within same-gender suites. Each suite has its own bathroom so that only two, three, or four students share a bathroom. Each suite has moveable furniture -- beds that can be bunked, wardrobes, dressers, desks and study chairs; telephones with voicemail services provided by the university; wiring for cable television; wiring for computer connections-one port per person; and access to the balconies that run the length of the house.

What are the shared areas of the German House like?

The shared areas of the German House include a great room with fireplace, comfortable seating, and a large table for communal meals; a large kitchen; a TV lounge with German (and American) cable television; a study room with university computers and a printer; a laundry room; and a guest restroom. For students who have cars on campus there is a small parking lot available in front of the house.

What makes the German House different from the other residence halls?

There are two main differences. First, German House residents pledge to speak only German in the public areas of the house. Second, residents share meal planning and preparation on weekday evenings, Sunday through Thursday. This shared mealtime (and planning time for it) is the main time period for community interaction in German.

Are there any work-study jobs associated with living in the German House?

Yes. German House residents may apply for work-study positions as student building managers in the Cultural Center downstairs and as teachers in the "Kinder lernen Deutsch" program. Other German-related jobs on campus include student aides for faculty members and Language Resource Center aides / tutors.

What does it cost to live in the German House?

In the 2010/2011 academic year the charge is \$3,110 per semester for a double room and \$4,665 per semester for a single room.

Do I have to purchase a full-price meal card? After all, we are doing our own cooking four nights each week.

No, your meal card buy-in is at a lower rate. In the 2009/2010 academic year the charge was \$320 per semester for sophomores and juniors; seniors are not required to purchase a meal card.

See www.valpo.edu/germanhouse for more information.

Campus Employment Opportunities

Student Building Managers

Every year three or four students who live in the German House are employed as student building managers. These students are responsible for opening the Cultural Center (the downstairs, non-residential part of the German House) in the morning, being sure that the classrooms are ready for use, moving classroom furniture as needed, assisting in clerical tasks, preparing for *Kaffeestunde* and other events, staffing the reception desk, and closing at roughly 5:00 pm.

The positions normally each fill 8 - 10 hours per week at an hourly wage slightly over minimum wage. Schedules are set around your class responsibilities.

Language Resource Center: Student Aide / Tutor

The director of the Language Resource Center employs one German student each year to assist in staffing the LRC and to provide tutoring for beginning German students (as needed). The director normally asks the German faculty for recommendations and hopes to find someone who is potentially a good tutor and also has some computer skills.

Student Aide to a German Professor

Each German professor may request the assistance of a student for about 2 - 4 hours per week. That assistance might involve library research, grading assistance, or other clerical tasks.

Teaching

There are two teaching opportunities for German students, both of which involve late Monday afternoons with elementary-school children. The teaching is not about conjugating verbs or learning plurals, but about fun and games in German. Teachers in both programs are expected to participate in a Sunday afternoon workshop at the beginning of September. There are always at least two teachers (you) in each class.

Kinder lernen Deutsch

Children from 1st to 3rd grade participate in this program that meets at the Kade-Duesenberg German House and Cultural Center. Your hourly wage is slightly over minimum wage. First-graders are in one class; 2nd and 3rd-graders are in another.

Bridges to World Languages

Children in the 4th and 5th grades participate in this program that meets at one or more of the elementary schools in the Valparaiso Community Schools district. You are officially an employee of the VCS district. You and your teaching partner must drive to the school where you teach. French and Spanish students teach in this program too.

Scholarships to Help You Study Abroad

Delta Phi Alpha (<http://www.deltaphialpha.org/seniorscholarship.htm>)

One **senior** German major nationwide is selected to receive the senior scholarship for research and study abroad in a German-speaking country. This student will be recognized by Delta Phi Alpha with a cash prize of \$2500. The graduating senior must agree to apply for the DAAD grant if named the recipient of the prize and intend to proceed directly to graduate work upon returning to the U.S. Deadline: normally in late October.

A **sophomore or junior** is selected to receive a prize of \$1500 to help defray costs of study abroad in a German-speaking country. Applicants, who must be members of Delta Phi Alpha, should present a plan for study abroad with the application. Deadline: normally in late October.

RISE (www.daad.de/rise/en)

If you are majoring in biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, or engineering (along with your German studies) you may apply for a summer internship working as an assistant for an advanced doctoral student in Germany.

The internship is supported so that you will have health insurance and living expenses covered while in Germany. You will have to pay for airfare to Germany. Applications are normally due in January for the following summer.

DAAD Undergraduate Scholarships (<http://www.daad.org/?p=47220>)

Highly qualified sophomores or juniors seeking to fund a 4 - 10 month stay in Germany should consider applying for a DAAD scholarship. Sophomores planning to study in Tübingen or juniors in VIEP-German are good candidates for this scholarship. The application process is complicated, so begin work *well* before the late January deadline.

Baden-Württemberg Landesstipendium

The German state of Baden-Württemberg annually awards scholarships to American students who will be studying in that state; Valpo students headed to Tübingen should apply. Typically the award includes an invitation to live in a special dormitory (Prinz Karl) along with a generous monthly stipend (normally for five months only).

Valpo's Director of Study Abroad Programs must nominate you for this scholarship, so be in touch with the director if you plan to study in Tübingen. The deadline is in the late winter.

Henry and June Giebel Study Abroad Scholarships

(<http://www.valpo.edu/germanhouse/scholarships/giebelscholarships.php>)

If you are accepted to study in Tübingen, in Rottenburg am Neckar, or as a VIEP-German student in Reutlingen, you will automatically be considered for a Henry and June Giebel Study Abroad Scholarship. The award can vary from year to year, but will roughly cover your housing expenses (not food) while you are in Germany.

Between University and "Settling Down": Post-Graduation Opportunities Abroad

If you hope to return to Europe and aren't ready to start applying for permanent positions, consider applying for a research or work year.

Prof. Schaefer (History) coordinates Valpo's annual applications for three major programs of interest for students of German. If you are interested in any of these three opportunities you should speak with Prof. Schaefer (and with your German professors) late in the junior year or *immediately* upon returning to campus in the senior year. The two opportunities in Germany have a very early fall deadline.

1. Fulbright Research Fellowships (Fulbright Full Grants):

For exceptional students who wish to conduct independent research at a German university (10 months beginning in September after graduation). The application is complex and requires that you describe your research project and prepare a personal statement. The application process also involves an on-campus interview and ranking procedure before the application is sent by Prof. Schaefer to the Fulbright Commission. This fellowship is particularly appropriate for students who are considering graduate work in German (or in a German-related field like history).

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/program_country.html?id=41#full

2. English Teaching Assistantships in Germany

In cooperation with the *Pädagogischer Austauschdienst* (PAD) and the 16 German states Fulbright also sponsors Teaching Assistantships. Grantees are placed as teaching assistants in English classes at all types of German schools; your assignment is simply to help English teachers in the classroom (September - late June).

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/program_country.html?id=41#pad

3. ... or in Austria (English Language Teaching Assistantship Program)

This program is similar to the one in Germany. But the deadline is not until February of your senior year, so you have a chance to make a decision about whether to apply much later.

http://www.fulbright.at/us_citizens/teaching_intro.php

Cooperative Education Positions in Aalen or Reutlingen

For some 20 years Valpo students or recent graduates have taken one-year cooperative-education positions in the respective *Offices of International Programs* at the universities in Aalen and Reutlingen. The position is clerical in nature, but also involves considerable interaction with students from all over the world who are studying in Aalen or Reutlingen. A two-page description of each position is available from Prof. DeMaris; you should speak with her if you would like to be considered for one of these positions.

Starting the Job Search

Career Center

The most important thing you can do is to take advantage of the services provided by the Career Center (in the Harre Union). There you can get assistance:

- Composing resumes and cover letters
- Preparing personal statements
- Strategizing about the job search
- Attending workshops and other programs
- Getting career counseling
- Learning about open positions

Don't be discouraged if employers who come to campus seem only to be looking for nursing, accounting, or engineering majors. Arranging interviews is only *one* aspect of the services that the Career Center provides.

Library Assistance

Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the United States. 10th edition, 2000.

Reference Room of the CCLIR: HG 4057 .A155 2000

(This same reference work updated to 2006 is available online; you must go to the Law School Library to access it, though.)

Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries. 15th edition, 1999.

Reference Room of the CCLIR: HG 4538.A1 D5

Use these two volumes to help you think beyond the obvious German companies that operate in the United States. Did you know that there are over 90 German companies that operate just in Indiana? Go to: <www.locationindiana.com/about-indiana/maps.asp> to download a "Foreign Investment Map" (667 pdf, KB) to see all the locations of German companies in Indiana. As you plan your courses at Valpo think about what skills you might develop that might make a good speaker of German (like you!) even more attractive to a German company.

Job Club

The German Program periodically (normally annually) hosts an evening called "Job Club." A Valpo German-major alumna or alumnus visits campus and talks with current students about her/his career and how German helped to make that career possible. Job Club is a casual evening event with opportunity to interact with the alum.

Alumni Profiles

Graduates of VU's German program have gone on to use their German skills in many ways in the workplace and beyond. To read the full profiles and see photos of the graduates, go to <http://www.valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/german/profiles.php>.

Marie Geishecker earned a B.A. in German and International Economics & Cultural Affairs in May 2005. She completed a post-graduate cooperative-education placement in Aalen, Germany one year later and now serves as a Legal Assistant at Thiedmann & Edler in downtown Chicago where she is called to use German daily.

" When I was growing up I was blessed with just a few years with my great grandmother. She was raised in a German orphanage and taught me little things to say in the only language she used when she was a child..."

John Hasler earned his B.A. in International Economics and Cultural Affairs and German at Valparaiso University in 2001. He earned a Fulbright Research Scholarship to study at the Universität Rostock, Germany in 2001 and a Masters of European Studies at the Universität Bonn, Germany in 2003. He currently is on staff at National Community Church in Washington, DC, working in discipleship, urban outreach and global development.

" I'll never forget that fall day in 1996, as I sat in the VUCA auditorium, listening to Dr. Duvick explain the philosophy behind the IECA program during my very first visit to the Valpo Campus. I remember leaving that seminar knowing that this would be the program to which I would aspire, not to mention sign up for that junior year in Tübingen, Germany..."

Peter Krenzke earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 2008 with a major in German in Valpo's International Engineering Program in German (VIEP-German). He is currently an Associate Engineer at Caterpillar, Inc.

" Studying German has opened up numerous opportunities for me. As a mechanical engineering major in the Valparaiso University International Engineering Program in German (VIEP-German) I had the opportunity to spend a year studying, traveling, and working in Germany..." "