

2026

FUNDED SUMMER IN BERLIN



Thanks to generous support primarily from the German-American Scholarship Association (formerly: the Germanistic Society of America), the Max Kade Foundation, Columbia College, and with help from Barnard College, General Studies, SEAS, and the Department of Germanic Languages, we have been able to fund up to 10 summer language scholarships to CC, BC, SEAS and GS undergraduates for the past 21 years and we hope to do the same for the summer 2026.

The Scholarship is for students who have completed at least two semesters or equivalent of German language instruction in our German language program by May 26. Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, German language aptitude, and future plans for continuing with German. Each scholarship includes a travel grant, tuition for a six-week/ one month-long German language course (120 contact hours (one instructional unit=45 minutes; 7 ECTS credits) either in term II or III and lodging at the summer program of the FU University. Please note, that we currently have 5 housing spots for each of the sessions, but this might be subject to change based on availability in Term II. For more information on the courses, please go to: http://www.fubis.org/5_geb/_uebersicht/index.html

Eligibility: Stipend is open to CC, BC, SEAS and GS undergraduates who have maintained an overall 3.0 GPA and who by May 2026 will have completed the equivalent of two semesters (no fewer than 6 points) of German language courses in Columbia/Barnard's German language program OR have placed into a German Course [1102 and above] and have completed one semester at Columbia/Barnard with a grade of "B" or higher. Only students who will return to Columbia/Barnard for a minimum of one semester are eligible for the scholarship. The Columbia/Barnard German credit-points must have been earned in some combination of:

UN1101-UN1102 (Elementary German I and II), and/or UN2101 and UN2102 (Intermediate German I and II or 1 Conversation Course) **OR:** Placement + UN1102/Placement + UN2102.

Please note: Students who successfully complete an FU course with corresponding certificate and score accordingly (place at the next higher level) on Columbia's Fall 2026 placement exam become eligible to receive 3-4 academic credit points upon completion of the next higher level CU/Barnard language/literature course in German with a grade of "B+" or higher. ALL stipend awardees must complete the FALL 2026 placement exam in order to continue in Columbia/Barnard German courses. Awardees must submit a brief statement summarizing their Fubis experience along with some photos. These will be shared with donors and used for future fundraising.

Testimonials from Fubis 2025 Students

"I grew so much during my time in Berlin, from my first day struggling to understand the German directions to my dorm, to my last day confidently saying goodbye to my friends and professors in German. This growth extended far beyond just my German ability. My time at FUBiS pushed me to be intentional about making friends and exploring the incredible city around me."

"When I heard about Fubis, I knew that I had to apply. Not only because of the wonderful academic and cross-cultural opportunity, but also because affordable study-abroad programs for low-income students are few and far between. Fubis was exactly what I was looking for!"

"The locus of the whole program was, of course, the classroom and the Universität. The classroom environment was diverse and enriching, with plenty of personal attention from my instructor. While I can't say it wasn't challenging, I feel that the amount of effort and time spent in the classroom really shows in my German grammar and vocabulary, most of all in my academic German abilities. "

"One of my favorite parts about the experience was the location of the university and the dorms. They are in the very outer edges of the city in the southwest, which means that a number of lakes and rivers are in literal walking distance. One of my favorite things to do was to walk down the river right next to our housing and read on one of the benches; oftentimes, there was absolutely no-one in the area, so I had the beautiful nature all to myself. Coming from school in New York City, this was such a welcome relief from the Crowds. But if you like crowds (and I do), have no fear! The city itself, which is about a forty minute bus ride away (which isn't that bad, it's basically the same as from campus to downtown Manhattan. Just have something to do on the way!) is amazing for reasons I probably don't even have to say. Berlin really lives up to the hype."

"Beyond the classroom, I also enjoyed the class-specific excursions. For one excursion, we visited a church, a synagogue, and a mosque in different areas of the city in a day. By wandering through the different neighborhoods, I learned more about how the religious sites go beyond beliefs but also reflect urban life that shapes the diversity of Berlin today and how they bring different people together."

"My time in the FUBiS program was without a doubt the single most impactful aspect of my college experience thus far. As a student in the B2-level class, much of the curriculum I studied focused on developing the skills necessary to communicate effectively and live in Germany. This included refining my knowledge of existing grammatical structures, studying more advanced techniques and writing styles, and reading, listening, and speaking German in prepared and impromptu situations. When I entered the program, I would often translate spoken German into English mentally before I could respond. By the end of the 6 weeks, following along and contributing in class, which was taught fully in German, felt effortless."

"I participated in FUBiS term III, so I was in Berlin for four weeks. I stayed at the Studierendenwerk Dorms in Lichterfelde. I really enjoyed being in a dorm with other FUBiS students, because it made the transition to Berlin less intimidating and created a comfortable atmosphere. Plus, I was so excited to get the opportunity to meet people from all around the world! [...] Overall, I can't think of a better way I could have spent a month of my summer."



Fubis Term II - Our Group 1: Azelia Twining, Connor Wright, Chris O'Connel, and Blaise Dalton



Fubis Term III - Our Group 2: Alex Rosen, Jessie Rollins, Puck Carlson, Aria (Yiran) Gong