



My Internship at the International Summer University of Kassel

Sabrina Black

Sabrina Black from Boston College, student of German and political science, is a participant of the USA Interns-Program by Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft. She is happy to give us a report of her internship at the International Summer University of Kassel during summer 2016

I arrived in Kassel a few days before the start of my internship at the beginning of June, 2016. I spent that time trying to get over my jetlag, acclimate to Germany, learn to use the public transportation, and get to know my host family, a retired couple with whom I was put in contact by my employer. In addition, I took this time to adjust to being immersed in German, a valuable opportunity for me as a German major, albeit a challenging one.



On a trip with my host family to Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe

I worked at the International Summer University (ISU) of the University of Kassel, a short-term international study abroad program. My job began several weeks before the program itself, and during that time, I was kept busy with a variety of preparations. I finalized

materials for the program and sent a lot of emails to arrange host families for about 50 students. I also did some proof-reading and editing, since the documents for the students had to be in English, and as a native English-speaker, I was best-suited for the job.



Yuliia and I at Sababurg

Nonetheless, I had plenty of opportunities to practice my German in the office and over lunch in the cafeteria with my colleagues.

Outside of work, I enjoyed watching the soccer Europameisterschaft with my host family and exploring Kassel. I went on a trip to the Hercules monument, a UNESCO world heritage site located in Kassel's Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe. My host family also shared a number of traditional German dishes with me, including plenty of Schnitzel.

Once the students arrived, my job was very busy and very worthwhile. In my capacity as an intern, I had many opportunities to interact with the students.

Since many of the students spoke little German, I helped them with any aspects of daily life with which they required assistance, such as buying SIM cards for their phones and figuring out the tram



Me with a group of students in Berlin

system. I continued to do translation work and assist professors who needed help with English. I was also responsible for the daily coffee break, another opportunity to meet the students.

Additionally, I accompanied a number of the students' activities, including German dancing and cooking classes in the evenings, as well as excursions to places such as the nearby Sababurg.

I was extremely lucky to have one of the students staying with my host family. Her name is Yuliia, and she comes from Ukraine. During my time living with her, I got to learn a great deal about life in Ukraine, as well as form a particularly close friendship.

The highlight of my experience at the ISU was accompanying the trip to Berlin. Acting as a chaperone, I had the opportunity to spend four days with the students in Berlin. We stayed in a hostel and spent our time visiting a number of tourist attractions, including the German Historical Museum, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, and the East Side Gallery. During the unscheduled evenings, I went with some of the students to see both an opera and a ballet. It was truly a great experience.

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