



Welcome to Bard College Berlin

What to Expect

Your student may struggle with any of the following:

- Homesickness
- Connecting to peers/new friend groups
- Living with a roommate
- “Fitting in”

For students from another city or country:

- Adjusting to life in a new city or country
- Navigating daily life in an unfamiliar language
- Living in an urban environment

Sense of Belonging

“In terms of college, sense of belonging refers to students’ perceived **social support on campus**, a feeling or sensation of **connectedness**, and the **experience of mattering** or feeling cared about, accepted, respected, valued by, and **important to the campus community** or others on campus such as faculty, staff, and peers” (Strayhorn, 2019).

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Environment, Time, Social Identities

Mattering

Persistence & Success

Establishing Sense of Belonging at BCB

- Pre-arrival
 - Sharing resources and information so students feel confident and prepared to transition to college
 - Connecting with current BCB students to answer questions and feel connected to their peers
- Orientation and Language & Thinking program
 - Small orientation groups
 - Weekend excursions
 - Immersive L&T program
 - RA programming
- First weeks of university
 - Involvement Fair
 - Weeks of Welcome programming
- Throughout the year
 - Events, trips, lecture series, etc
 - Care Team
 - RA check ins

Overview of Student Life

- Feeling connected and settled in Berlin
- Navigating health insurance and finding healthcare in Berlin
- Understanding and navigating required German paperwork and governmental requirements
- Assistance finding on-campus jobs and internships
- Accessing resources for academic and residential accommodations
- Support navigating residential issues including roommate disagreements, feelings of homesickness or lack of connection the BCB community
- Access to our on-campus mental health counselor
- Resources needed around issues of equity and access
- Connecting to other BCB resources if they don't know where to start

Office of Student Life



Dr. Maria Anderson-Long
Head of Student Life
Responsible for Student Life; Oversees Orientation, student jobs, Care Team, student support

Zoltan Helmich
Director of Housing and Residential Life
Oversees the residence halls, room assignments, supervises the RAs, and general on-campus student support



Atticus Kleen,
Health and Wellness Officer
Oversees health insurance, finding doctors, mental health counseling, and more

Ashley Morrison
Residential Life Coordinator
Oversees on-campus programming, student clubs, Student Life Committee



Office of Student Life



Amber Kepple Jones
Study Abroad Officer
Oversees study abroad programs, residence permit applications, and supports orientation

Judith Weber
Internship and Career Networking Officer
Connects students to internships and supports their career development



Jen Vander Heide
Learning Commons Coordinator
Oversees the Learning Commons, Academic Tutoring, and academic workshops

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Responsible for DEI trainings, initiatives, support, and policies and procedures for the College

Orientation Overview

Orientation is designed to welcome your student to BCB and provide them with the information they need to settle into campus and get set up in Berlin.

11 August

OL Group Meeting

Welcome to BCB

Health and Safety

Campus Tour

Scavenger Hunt

12-13 August

Trip to Liepnitzsee

Tour of Fitness Center

Residence Hall Meetings

14 August

Academic Orientation

Germany 101

City Registration

Intro to the Learning
Commons

L&T Welcome Dinner

Post-L&T

Meeting with Academic
Advisor

German Language
Placement Exam

Civic Engagement
Programming

Orientation Overview

10-14 August 2023

Orientation Schedule for First Years

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar agenda for the Orientation Schedule (L&T). The view is set to 'Today' on Thursday, August 10. The agenda lists the following events:

Day	Time	Event
Thursday, August 10	9:00am	Arrivals Day
Thursday, August 10	5:30pm	Welcome from Student Life
Thursday, August 10	6:00pm	Dinner with Orientation Leaders
Thursday, August 10	8:00pm	Trivia Night
Friday, August 11	8:00am	Breakfast
Friday, August 11	9:00am	Optional drop in at Student Life for questions
Friday, August 11	10:00am	Class Photo

At the bottom of the calendar interface, there is a '+ Google Calendar' button.

Orientation Schedule Google Calendar

Be sure to add the Orientation Google Calendar to your BCB account.

This is the best way to stay up to date on any last minute scheduling changes. You can also receive calendar reminders for events. The addresses of each session are added so you'll never get lost!

[Subscribe to the Orientation Calendar here](#)

Weeks of Welcome

During Weeks of Welcome, Student Life and other departments are hosting a variety of free events to introduce campus resources, help students connect with one another, and explore Berlin.



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TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday 10 August, 8pm
W15 Cafe



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BINGO NIGHT

Thursday 31 August, 8pm
W15 Cafe



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BERLIN WEEKEND

8-10 September
Check your email for details

Weeks of Welcome

The events during the first week of classes are aimed at providing students with more information about various services offered at BCB and other practical aspects of settling into their life in Berlin.

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INTRO TO STW*

Tuesday 5 September, 12:30pm
P98a, Lecture Hall

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HOW TO FIND A HAUSARZT

Wednesday 6 September, 12:30pm
P98a, Lecture Hall

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GERMANY, LAND OF INSURANCE

Thursday 7 September, 12:30pm

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Friday 8 September, 12:30pm
P98a, Lecture Hall

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INVOLVEMENT FAIR

Tuesday 12 September, 12:30-1:30pm
Cafeteria Garden

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OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Wednesday 13 September, 12:30pm

L&T Excursions

Each weekend between orientation and the start of classes, there are free excursions around Berlin that students are encouraged to join.

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L&T Excursion:

POTSDAM TRIP

Saturday 19 August, 11am
Meet at W15 Cafe

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L&T Excursion:

MAUERPARK FLEAMARKET

Sunday 20 August, 11am
Meet at W15 Cafe

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L&T Excursion:

LAKE TRIP

Saturday 12 August, 10am
Meet at Cafeteria

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L&T Excursion:

LAKE TRIP, HUMBOLDT FORUM, BERLIN WALKING TOUR

Saturday 2 September, 11am
Meet at W15 Cafe

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L&T Excursion:

LANGE NACHT DER MUSEEN

Saturday 26 August, 6pm
Meet at W15 Cafe

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L&T Excursion:

FUTURIUM MUSEUM

Sunday 27 August, 11am
Meet at W15 Cafe

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L&T Excursion:

BERLIN TOUR

Saturday 26 August, 11am
Meet at W15 Cafe

Frequently Asked Questions

About Orientation

Orientation equips students for a successful academic career at Bard College Berlin. The Orientation provides students with information on class registration and degree requirements and gives them the opportunity to connect with both their Academic Advisor and current students. In small group sessions students are supported in obtaining mandatory health insurance, residence permits and the city registration (*Anmeldung*). Additional sessions include a campus tour, learning about campus policies, and meeting key staff.

Questions are asked and answered during Orientation. Some of those have been also answered in the [Student Handbook](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

[Information for International Students](#)

[SIM Cards](#)

[Bank Accounts](#)

[Bank Account Options](#)

[How to Open an Account](#)

[Other Information](#)

[Health Insurance](#)

[Residence Permits](#)

[Information for All Students](#)

[Roommates and Housing](#)

[Accommodations](#)

[L&T](#)

[Vaccination Requirements](#)

Thank you!
Questions?