



overview of

Orientation & Language & Thinking Program

Overview

- Orientation Website and Schedule Review
- Weeks of Welcome
- Language & Thinking Program
- Questions



Orientation

Overview of Orientation

8 August

Arrivals Day
Welcome from Student Life
Dinner with Orientation
Leaders & Residential
Assistants

9 August

Welcome from University
Leadership
Campus Tour
Overview of Campus Life
Welcome from Director of
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Social event with RAs

10 August

Day trip to nearby lake

11 August

L&T Excursion to Mauerpark
Flea Market
Building meetings with RAs

12 August

Academic Orientation
Bureaucracy 101
Health and Wellness in
Germany
Germany 101
Tour of Athletic Center

Orientation Website

8-12 August 2024

Orientation Schedule for First Years

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface with the title "Orientation Schedule (L&T)". At the top, it displays "Today" with navigation arrows, "Monday, June 10", and view options for "Week", "Month", and "Agenda". Below this, a message reads "Showing events after 5/1. [Look for earlier events](#)". The calendar lists events for two days:

Day	Time	Event
Thursday, August 8	9:00am	New Student Arrivals
	5:30pm	Welcome from Student Life
	6:00pm	Dinner with Orientation Leaders
Friday, August 9	8:00am	Breakfast (on campus students)
	9:00am	Optional: Drop in at Student Life
	10:00am	Welcome from University Leadership
	10:00am	Class Photo

At the bottom of the calendar view, 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

Orientation Website

Orientation Leader Groups

Find your Orientation Leader group below:



Alejandro



Annika



Camas



Davit



Katya



Nora



Tahmina



Taycia

Weekend Excursions

Sunday 11 August: Mauerpark, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Explore Mauerpark, a park made from the former part of the Berlin Wall. Every Sunday there is a flea market where you can purchase anything from vintage goods to snacks from around the world.

Saturday 17 August: Berlin Walking Tour, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Join the Orientation Leaders on a walk around Berlin. You will visit all of the key sites, including the Reichstag, the TV Tower, Checkpoint Charlie, Brandenburger Tor, and the Eastside Gallery.

Saturday 17 August: English Bookstore Tour, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Check out several of the English bookstores in Berlin, and learn your way around the city.

Sunday 18 August: Picnic at Tempelhofer Feld meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Visit the old airport grounds, which is now a favorite park in Berlin. BYO picnic and blanket.

Saturday 24 August: Lange Nacht der Museen, meet at 6pm in W15 Cafe*

Visit over 70 of Berlin's museums that stay open until 2am once a year.

Sunday 25 August: Day trip to Potsdam, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Join the OLs on a trip to Potsdam, a city in Brandenburg. You can explore the Sanssouci Palace grounds, view the amazing architecture, and more!

Saturday 31 August: Futurium, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Visit to Futurium and check out Interactive exhibits on vital issues for the future, like climate, housing, food & technology. Free entry.

Sunday 1 September: Teufelsberg Hike, meet at 11am in W15 Cafe

Join the OLs for a hike to Teufelsberg, an abandoned listening station used during the Cold War that is now covered with graffiti. Entrance fee not included.

Weekend Excursions



Orientation Excursions Sign Ups

Each weekend you are invited to join one of the Orientation Leaders on an excursion to explore Berlin. They are optional, but a great way to get to know other BCB students and see a new part of Berlin.

m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

First Name *

Your answer

Last Name *

Your answer

BCB Email Address *

Your answer

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.

WEEKS OF WELCOME
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WEEKS OF WELCOME

WELCOME RECEPTION

Monday September 2, 6:30pm
Cafeteria Garden

Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.




Bard College Berlin
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

WEEKS OF WELCOME
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BERLIN WEEKEND

6-8 September

Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.



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YOUR LIFE IN BERLIN

Monday September 9, 5:30-7:30pm
W15 Cafe

Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.



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WEEKS OF WELCOME
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Welcome to the

LEARNING COMMONS

Monday September 9, 5:30-7:30pm
Learning Commons

Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.



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WEEKS OF WELCOME
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INVOLVEMENT FAIR

Tuesday September 10, 12:30-1:30pm
Cafeteria Garden

Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.



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WEEKS OF WELCOME
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Student Life Committee invites you to the first fall

COMMUNITY FORUM

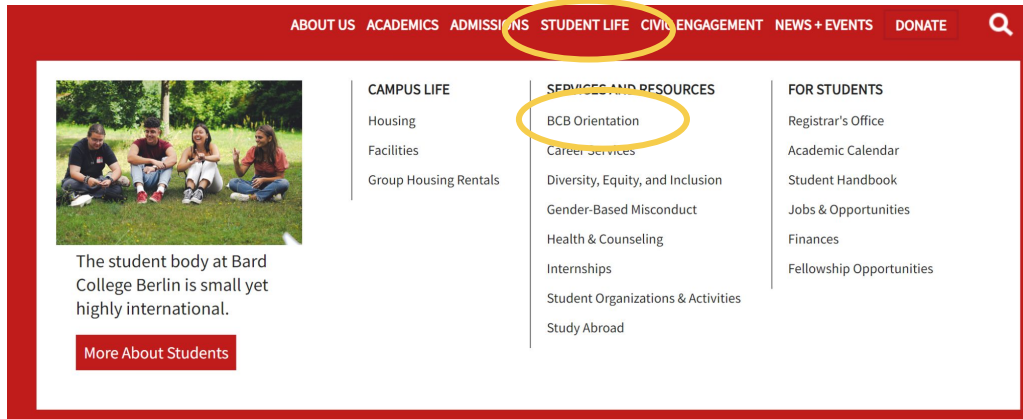
Thursday September 26, 12:30-1:30pm
W15 Cafe


Scan the QR code for full list of Weeks of Welcome events.



Bard College Berlin
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Websites




ABOUT US ACADEMICS ADMISSIONS **STUDENT LIFE** CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NEWS + EVENTS DONATE 

CAMPUS LIFE
Housing
Facilities
Group Housing Rentals

SERVICES AND RESOURCES
BCB Orientation
Career Services
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Gender-Based Misconduct
Health & Counseling
Internships
Student Organizations & Activities
Study Abroad

FOR STUDENTS
Registrar's Office
Academic Calendar
Student Handbook
Jobs & Opportunities
Finances
Fellowship Opportunities



The student body at Bard College Berlin is small yet highly international.

[More About Students](#)

At the start of each semester, Student Life staff organize a mandatory Orientation for all incoming students. Orientation typically lasts 2-3 days and also includes trips or excursions around Berlin. Students use this time to settle in, connect with peers and familiarize themselves with the institution.

[First Year Orientation: 8-12 August](#) [Transfer and Exchange Student Orientation: 28 August - 1 September](#)

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](#)



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Orientation session in the Lecture Hall

Orientation Checklist

In mid-July, your student will receive an email with more detailed information about orientation and arrivals, including some final to do items:

- ❑ Subscribe to the [Orientation Google Calendar](#)
- ❑ Sign up for [weekend excursions](#)
- ❑ Set up WhatsApp
- ❑ Complete [Arrivals Form](#)



Language & Thinking Program

Language & Thinking

- The Language & Thinking Program is a 2 ½ week, writing-intensive preparatory program for all incoming first-year students. Successful completion of the program is mandatory for matriculation.
- Participants are expected to read two longer texts over the summer: Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* and any translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*. These texts can be found online.
- The theme of the program is “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action,” the title of one of the readings by Audre Lorde.

Language & Thinking

- Participants will be assigned to a group of approximately 10, led by an instructor.
- Two 90-minute Language and Thinking sessions take place on most mornings, and additional events occur in the afternoons, including visits to the library and Learning Commons, film screenings, and excursions to sites in Berlin.

Language & Thinking

- Unlike regular seminars or lectures, the program uses a Writing to Learn pedagogical approach, which means that the sessions involve sequenced in-class writing exercises that are shared with the group. The idea behind this approach is that writing is a means by which we figure out new ideas (in contrast to the assumption that writing is a final step of recording a fully formed idea we already possess).

For many people, writing—and specifically academic writing—is something done infrequently (before deadlines) and in isolation. The program aims to instill positive writing habits: a regular writing practice, a sense of a community of writers, and early feedback.

- The sequenced writing exercises focus on specific elements of the writing process. These include reading strategies, formulating observations, noticing details, generating connections between received knowledge and new ideas, finding arguments in a text, developing one's own analysis, revision, citation, and giving feedback. The program focuses most strongly on the early phases of writing, specifically generating ideas and refining them.

Language & Thinking

- In addition to analytical writing, participants might also do some creative writing, performances, or sketches. The goal is to experience how these modes can be ways of formulating and exploring ideas.
- Unlike typical college courses, the program does not have a syllabus that can be reviewed ahead of time. Each day, participants will be given reading assignments for the next day, and sometimes writing or revising assignments will be given overnight. The readings come from the Language and Thinking Anthology, which will be distributed in paper form in the first session. Each group will read a selection of texts from the anthology unique to that group.

Language & Thinking

- The program culminates in a writing portfolio and written reflection. In the last two days, each group makes a short film.
- There is no grade for the program, but passing the program is required. Attending all of the sessions and doing the assignments are the requirements for passing. In cases where participants do not pass, the reason is usually lack of attendance or not submitting writing assignments.
- We look closely at the writing during the program to see if students might need additional writing support, such as courses or sections focusing on the needs of those writing in English as a foreign language, or regular meetings with staff or tutors from the Learning Commons.

For Parents, What to Expect

- Reports of being very tired!
- Surprise at the unusual format of in-class writing rather than discussion.
- Often, a quickly-formed, close bond with other group members.

Questions?

Bank Accounts

If your student does not yet have an account with an IBAN, they will likely want to set one up.

Depending on some factors, students have had success with setting up accounts with N26, Wise, and bunq.

If you need an address to set up an account, please use the main BCB address:
Platanenstrasse 24, 13156 Berlin

SIM Cards

Detailed information is on the FAQs page

- In-store
- Pre-paid
- eSIM
- Contract

Health Insurance

Students should complete the Health Insurance Enrollment Process form in their Enrollment Portal and follow the relevant instructions

Questions can be sent to healthinsurance@berlin.bard.edu

Vaccinations

BCB requires students to have received the following vaccinations:

- two MMR vaccines on or after their first birthday or provide proof of immunity with quantitative titers;
- three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, doses given at 0, 1, 6 months or provide proof of immunity with quantitative titers;
- the Meningococcal Vaccine (ACWY)



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