

Open Learning Initiative University Preparatory Program (OLive-UP) Scholarship

OLive-UP aims to help students develop the academic and language skills needed to succeed in English-language European BA programs in Humanities and Social Sciences as well as to offer them the chance to explore specific disciplinary fields for this study. This full-time one-year university preparatory program forms a track within Bard College Berlin's (BCB) [Academy Year Program](#). Students who successfully complete the program may apply for admission to and scholarships for the BCB BA degrees in [Humanities, the Arts and Social Thought](#) or [Economics, Politics and Social Thought](#), with credits earned during the Academy Year fully transferring. Students will also be supported in applications to other BA programs in Germany and Europe.

Award amount: Up to the full on-campus comprehensive fee and additional stipend for living expenses; awarded for the 1-year university preparatory program

Criteria

Applicants for OLive-UP must:

- Be refugees, asylum seekers or living in a refugee-like situation in Europe; one of the following criteria must be fulfilled:
 1. Background of (forced) migration or (internal) displacement or living under threatening circumstances due to economic, political or environmental reasons, discrimination, war or violent conflicts
 2. Refugee status, granted asylum, or recognition of displacement by a national government or an international organization

*Applicants should be aware that it is their responsibility to obtain legal entry to Germany in time to begin their program of study.
- Satisfy the following academic criteria:
 - Have a secondary school qualification or equivalent that permits university entrance by the time they enroll at BCB
 - Have no previous undergraduate degree or equivalent from another institution
- Have B2 English proficiency (upper intermediate proficiency according to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR))
- Demonstrate extreme financial need and lack of other support to start academic study

How to apply

1. Complete an application for admission for OLIVE UP within the BCB Academy Year program
Visit [Bard College Berlin Online Application Form for AY](#) to start your online application.
Please contact the Admissions Office or Xenia Muth at x.muth@berlin.bard.edu for questions regarding your application.

2. Within the online application or via email, submit the following documentation:

Motivation Statement

A brief essay about why you want to study in the OLIVE UP program and at Bard College Berlin, between 250 and 500 words in length; strong motivation statement will address:

- Why you want to study at Bard College Berlin?
- How will OLIVE UP help your academic aspirations and future plans?
- How the academic offerings at Bard College Berlin fit with your plans?

Essay

You may submit a writing sample in English from previous in-class assignments, if available. The writing sample may be on any topic, though we prefer to see examples of academic writing. If you do not have an essay in English, you can write a short essay on the question and text that you find here: [Alternative Essay Question](#)

School transcripts

Please submit copies of your school transcripts and diplomas. Feel free to include other educational certificates. Please be in touch with us if you are missing transcripts or certificates and we will work with you to find an individual solution. The Admissions Committee will accept documents in English or German. Upload the transcripts in your application or send them via email to admissions@berlin.bard.edu.

Letter of recommendation

Please submit one letter of recommendation as part of your application. Letters can be written by teachers from your previous schools or other educational programs such as language courses. Letters from current employers or supervisors can also be accepted, in case teachers are unavailable. The Admissions Committee will accept letters of recommendation in English or German.

Recommendations can be sent via email to admissions@berlin.bard.edu or added in the online application: you will be able to add your recommenders in the relevant section in the Bard College Berlin Online Form. When you send a request, the recommender will receive an email with instructions and a link to the application

system where they can enter their name and contact information, and submit their letter. Recommenders may upload a letter as a PDF or type a letter directly into the space provided.

English proficiency test

Applicants who are not native English speakers are asked to provide proof of English proficiency at the B2 level (upper intermediate proficiency according to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). You may provide:

- Proof of participation in a program where English is the primary language of instruction
- Proof of English language courses or certificates
- Proof of English proficiency test at the B2 level (for example Duolingo test with at least 90 points)

3. Please contact the Admissions Office or Xenia Muth at x.muth@berlin.bard.edu for questions regarding your application.