

Dear prospective and returning students of Bard College Berlin,

As announced in May, Bard College Berlin will open in August 2020 with in-person instruction. We are looking forward to welcoming a robust group of new students and to seeing our returning students back on campus.

Our approach to liberal arts education centers on direct intellectual interaction and feedback. Thankfully, the current health situation in Berlin and Germany allows in-person instruction. As of July 20, there are 297 active cases of coronavirus in Berlin, a city of more than 3.6 million inhabitants, 20 of them serious, and the 7-day average of the replication rate (R_0) is 0.94. This means that that campus life can go forward safely in the fall semester as long we all respect a number of basic rules.

To this end, we are implementing a set of [Special Policies and Procedures During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#), effective July 25, 2020. Please read them carefully. These policies meet or exceed all regulations from the Berlin state government, the German federal government and the European Union. They will be reviewed throughout the semester and revised in accordance with any relevant changes in regulations or local circumstances, with students also being able to suggest modifications through the procedures of the Student Parliament.

According to current EU and German regulations, all returning and incoming students will be able to enter Germany. However, a number of students may experience delays of days or weeks until they are authorized to travel to Berlin. In addition, students from many countries will be obliged to quarantine for fourteen days upon arrival in Berlin. (Detailed guidance on quarantine procedures will be forthcoming from the Office of Student Life.)

Students who are delayed or quarantined can begin to follow courses by joining them remotely, following recorded sessions and completing course assignments. Please be reminded that such online attendance will not be possible for the entire semester but only for the period of the delay or quarantine. No course at Bard College Berlin can be completed from abroad.

As mentioned in previous communications, all payments for the semester must be made on time. Payments will be refunded only in cases where students are not able to return to Berlin during the fall semester for the aforementioned reasons or for other reasons that are demonstrably beyond their control.

I thank you in advance for conscientiously adhering to the Special Policies, and therefore protecting the continued health and the possibility of in-person education for all members of the college community.

Sincerely,



Florian Becker
Managing Director