

Spotlight



Spending Time Abroad – Some Options

Ein Auslandsaufenthalt ist eine gute Möglichkeit, nach der Schule Zeit in einem anderen Land zu verbringen und über die üblichen Urlaubserlebnisse hinaus Erfahrungen zu sammeln. Am besten informieren Sie sich jetzt schon, welche Möglichkeiten sich Ihnen bieten.

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A **u Pair** As an au pair, you can spend 6–12 months living with a host family and looking after their children. In return, the host family provides accommodation and meals, and usually gives you some pocket money. The most popular destinations are the USA, China and Western Europe. Spending time as an au pair is a good way to experience life in another country whilst living in the safe environment of a host family. To get a job as an au pair, you must be able to prove competence in the language of your destination, as well as have some experience in childcare. There are agencies that can help you find a host family, but you should make sure the agency you work with is certified, to avoid any nasty surprises!

Internships Doing an internship, or work placement, allows you to gain practical experience, and you can combine it with spending time anywhere in the world. Especially as a university student, you may be required to complete an internship to gain insight into a certain professional field. Internships may last anywhere from a few weeks to a full year. You usually don't get paid for your work, but there are plenty of scholarships available, and you can work in any field you like — education, international organizations, medicine, engineering, etc. The website auslandsstipendien.de is a good starting point for getting some ideas, as well as finding scholarships.

Work and Travel This option allows you to combine exploring another country with gaining work experience. You can travel around your chosen country

and finance your trip by doing temporary jobs, for example, as a waiter, harvest hand or nanny. Since it can be difficult to apply for jobs and find accommodation before you reach your destination, there are organizations that will help you sort out the basics before your arrival and provide you with an adviser for the duration of your stay. The most popular destinations for work and travel are Australia and New Zealand.

Study Abroad If you are enrolled at a German university, you have lots of options for completing some of your degree at a university in another country. The normal length of a stay is either one semester (5 months) or one academic year (10 months). Usually, your home institution will accredit any classes you take abroad, and there are a lot of programmes to help you cover your costs. For example,

Erasmus is a popular exchange programme for universities within Europe which gives you a scholarship and lets you off paying any tuition fees abroad. The German Academic Exchange Service has a list of other scholarships and programmes on their website.

Summer Schools A summer school course is like an intensive university seminar which lasts 6–10 weeks and is usually offered in the summer. The UK is a popular European destination for summer schools. The key advantages of a summer school are that you can get a taste of university life, try out different teaching methods and learn new things whilst improving your foreign language skills. The amount of preparation required is

relatively small, though you will usually have to fund a summer school trip yourself. That said, there are scholarships and sponsoring opportunities if you look hard enough! As a first step, you should check out the websites of universities in the country you would like to travel to, and see what they offer!

Language Courses If you want to improve your foreign language skills, many universities offer intensive language courses that may interest you. For English language courses, popular destinations include the UK, Malta and Ireland. Again, you can usually find more information on the universities' homepages, or through organizations like the German Academic Exchange Service.

There are also plenty of private language schools around the world that offer similar courses of varying duration. Note, though, that you might need to provide a certificate of your existing language skills before you can be accepted on a language course.

enrol
– sich immatrikulieren

German Academic Exchange Service
– Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)

let sb. off sth.
– jmdm. etwas erlassen

that said
– gleichwohl

tuition fees
– Studiengebühren





LANGUAGE

Going abroad: important words

Practise the language you need for a trip abroad, whether you are working or studying.

SCHWER

1. Vocabulary

S

Find the translations in the text for the following German words. An example has been done for you.

- a. befristet *temporary*
- b. Berater
.....
- c. Dauer
.....
- d. Erntehelfer
.....
- e. finanzieren
.....
- (2 translations)
- f. Gastgeber
.....
- g. geprüft
.....
- h. Kinderbetreuung
.....
- i. Kindermädchen
.....
- j. Praktikum
.....
- k. Sprachkurs
.....
- l. Stipendium
.....
- m. Vorbereitung
.....
- n. Zeugnis
.....
- o. Zielland
.....
- p. zur Verfügung stellen
.....

2. Vocabulary

S

Use the words you found in the text to fill in the blanks in these sentences. Each word may be used only once.

I can't afford an expensive trip abroad, so I'm looking for a(n) to help my I want to improve my English before I go to university.

I love being outdoors, so I'm excited about my job on a farm as a(n)

I've found a job as a(n) so I can gain experience in before I apply to be an au pair with a(n) family.

Through a(n) agency, I've found an excellent to help me with the of my stay abroad.

I've always wanted to visit New Zealand. It really is my dream

3. Reading Comprehension

1

Complete the table with information from the text about the various options for spending time abroad. Boxes with — will remain blank.

Option	Typical Duration	Popular Destinations	Example Activities	How to Find Out More
Au Pair				
Internship		—		
Work and Travel	—			
Study Abroad			—	
Summer School				
Language Course				

Notes for Teachers

Language Level: B2–C1 on CEFR.
Specific lexis for talking about the topic of spending time abroad is practised at the B2+ level.

Language Practice: vocabulary; reading comprehension; various functions of modal verbs

Content Aim: To introduce the idea of going abroad after finishing school and to encourage comparative discussion about the various options for spending time abroad.

Procedure: Best done over two lessons.

Reading	10 min.	Can also be done at home. Could be done as a jigsaw-reading task.
Vocabulary 1 & 2	20 min.	You may want to check the answers to exercise 1 before moving on to exercise 2.
		Check answers in the plenum & use answers to highlight key facts about your various options.



Answers

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Option	Typical Duration	Popular Destinations	Example Activities	How to Find Out More
Au Pair	6-12 months	USA, China, Western Europe	Childcare Education, medicine, international organizations, engineering	www.austauschstipendien.de
Internship	Few weeks - full year	-----	Education, medicine, international organizations, engineering	www.austauschstipendien.de
Work and Travel	-----	Australia, New Zealand	Harvest hand, nanny, waiter	Work and travel organizations (DAAD) website
Study Abroad	1 semester (5 months) - 1 academic year (10 months)	Europe	-----	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) website
Summer School	6-10 weeks	UK	Taste university life	Universities, websites
Languages Course	Variety	UK, Malta, Ireland	Language classes	Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Universities, websites, German Academy
Vocabulary: International Students	International Students	International Students	International Students	International Students

In fünf Schritten zum Studium, Praktikum oder Sprachkurs im Ausland: „studieren weltweit – ERLEBE ES!“ liefert die wichtigsten Informationen, Organisations- und Planungshilfen für einen Auslandsaufenthalt während des Studiums. Schau dir die Infos jetzt schon an und lass dich von Correspongents - Studierende, die weltweit live von ihren Aufenthalten berichten und Tipps geben - inspirieren!

Hol dir die Infos und Inspiration auf studieren-weltweit.de und auf [instagram.com/studierenweltweit](https://www.instagram.com/studierenweltweit/), [facebook.com/studierenweltweit](https://www.facebook.com/studierenweltweit), twitter.com/studieren_ww.
Informationen zu allen englischsprachigen Ländern dieser Welt findest du außerdem unter:
daad.de/laenderinformationen.



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