FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN



Background

- Founded in 1948.
- There was a need for a university that allowed free academic exchange.



Keep an eye out for Ampelmann (traffic light man). Only cross when green!

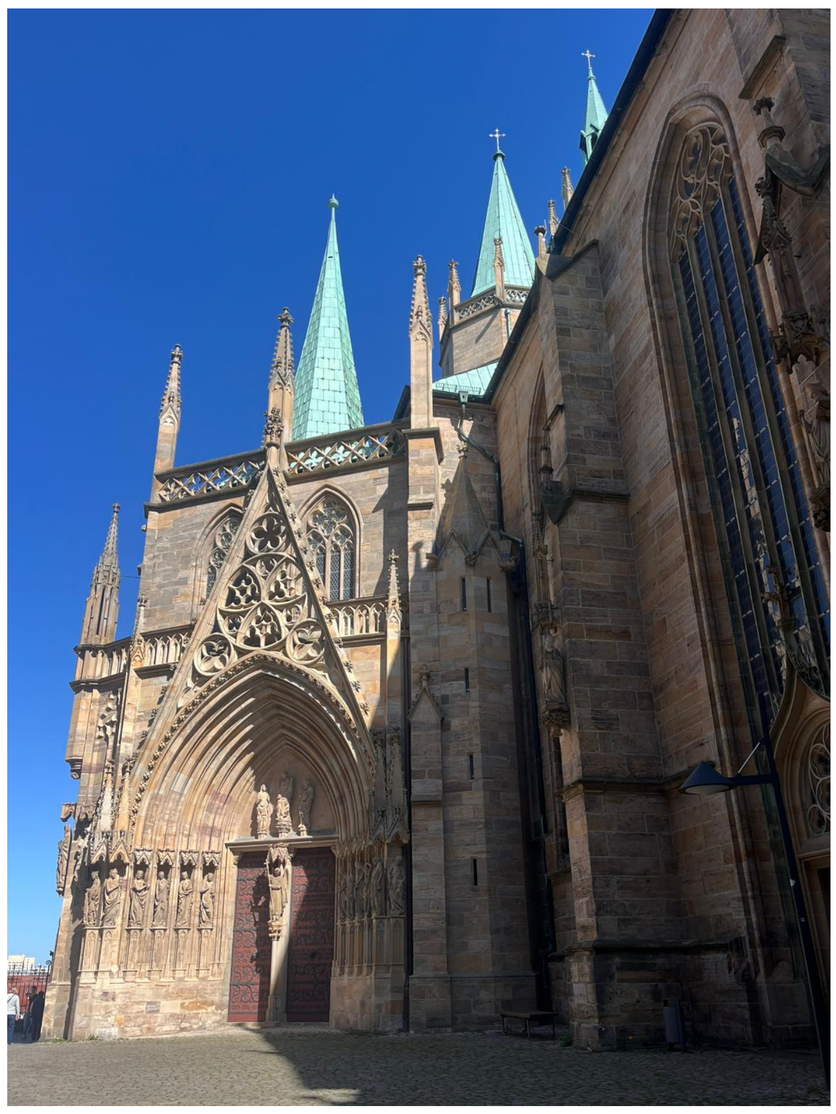
📍 Berlin-Dahlem

🗓️ 01.10 – 31.03 Winter Semester

🗓️ 01.04 – 30.09 Summer Semester

How studying at Freie Universität Berlin works

- Sign up individually to each class. Allowed to change within the first two weeks of the semester. Make sure there are no timetable clashes.
- Divided into Vorlesungen (lectures) and Übungen (exercises). Attendance not mandatory for Vorlesungen but it is usually mandatory for Übungen (pass requirement for module: active participation).
- Labs usually during the lecture free period. Sign up semester before (unlikely lab in the winter semester). Labs in the summer semester usually happen over the course of three weeks in September.
- Exams (Klausur) at the end of each semester. There is no study period. If ill or unable to attend an exam: Nachklausur. Usually a month apart.



📍 Erfurter Dom

Classes I took

- Organic Chemistry I and II
- Atomic Bonding and Structure
- Radiochemistry
- General and inorganic chemistry
- Physics for scientists
- Maths for chemists.



Buddy Bear

Courses for international students about Berlin and German culture, offered in either English or German.
- "Berlin and its theaters"
- Culture and Art in the GDR
- Censorship and Freedom of Thought

In my summer semester I also joined a German language class. Freie Universität has German language classes for all levels. I highly recommend taking these classes as you get to meet a lot of people and you learn about German culture alongside the language.

My experience in Berlin

Accommodation: Lived pretty far from the centre.

- Buses are included in Semester Ticket and are 24h and come often but it will take over an hour to get into the city
- Only exchange students in building.
- There is no SU. There are sports available but limited spots and first come first serve basis.

My experience: I enjoyed exploring Berlin and seeing the famous monuments. Lots of pretty parks, especially in spring. I recommend going to lakes in the summer. There are a lot of interesting food places in the centre.
I also travelled to Erfurt. Very pretty place especially in spring.

My advice: You need to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and put yourself out there. Berliners are not super friendly so hard to connect to people.