

# ESTIMATED STUDENT BUDGET 2011 - 2012

DEAR APPLICANT

This guide aims to help you and your family to calculate a realistic budget to cover the cost of education and living for one academic year at the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin. All costs are expressed in Euros per academic year. Many figures are estimates that will vary widely depending on individual needs and preferences. Accordingly, this document can only serve as a means of orientation and does not constitute a binding calculation.

Students whose families are not able to cover the full cost of study at ECLA are encouraged to seek financial assistance from ECLA and from other potential sources (foundations, governments, private sponsors). Financial aid from ECLA provides support toward the cost of the comprehensive fee, but it does not provide support toward other expenses. For further information about ECLA's need-based aid contact the Financial Aid Officer ([finaid@ecla.de](mailto:finaid@ecla.de)).

## CALCULATING STUDENT BUDGET

When calculating the student budget for the 2011-2012 academic year, please consider the following:

### ECLA COMPREHENSIVE FEE

This fee covers tuition, room, board and most other relevant items except for travel to/from Berlin and personal expenses. The total amount of the fee is 15,000 Euros for the 2011-2012 academic year.

#### Books and reading materials

Students can borrow all necessary reading materials from ECLA. This service is covered by the comprehensive fee. Borrowed books have to be returned to ECLA in the same condition as received, without any notes or highlighting.

#### Health Insurance

ECLA offers student health insurance through one of the best statutory health insurance providers, *Techniker Krankenkasse*, for its students as part of the comprehensive fee. Students can request to waive the health insurance coverage by TK. The ECLA comprehensive fee will then be reduced by relevant amounts. Please refer to the ECLA Student Health Insurance information sheet for the 2011-2012 academic year for further details and instructions.

#### Transportation Tickets

ECLA offers its students 4 single AB Zone tickets per week free of charge during academic terms. For students who would like to have more flexibility, ECLA offers partial reimbursement on monthly tickets: students can buy the 10am monthly ticket (51 Euros) or the student monthly ticket (52 Euros) and ECLA will reimburse 50 Euros.

### Museum tickets

All museum trips organized by ECLA as part of the academic programme are at no extra cost for students.

## COMPREHENSIVE FEE DOES NOT COVER:

### Visa Fees

All students from non-EU countries except for the countries listed below need a student visa in order to study in Germany and establish a place of residence in Berlin. Please inquire with the German consulate responsible for your area about the cost of the visa. This fee is not covered by the ECLA comprehensive fee.

Students from the following countries **do not require a visa** to study in Germany: Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea and USA.

### Residence Permit

Depending on your citizenship, you will need a permit to establish a place of residence in Berlin. This permit typically costs between 50 and 60 Euros and is not covered by the comprehensive fee.

### Health Services Fees

Please note that in addition to the health insurance that is covered by the ECLA comprehensive fee, there are certain fees you will have to pay directly to the medical service providers when you seek medical treatment. These fees are (for students covered by the student health insurance through TK or any other statutory health insurance provider in Germany):

Practice Charge (Praxisgebühr) – you will be charged 10 Euros for your first visit to a doctor and for your first visit to a dentist. Your subsequent visits to the same doctor or the same dentist in the same quarter will be free of charge. You may also subsequently visit other doctors in the same quarter without paying the practice charge again using a referral (Überweisung). You will also be charged this fee again if you go to the emergency room.

Prescription Charges – when buying prescription drugs, please note that there is a minimum charge of 5 Euros and a maximum charge of 10 Euros you have to co-pay.

Hospital Treatment – for each day in hospital (no more than 28 days per year) you will be charged 10 Euros.

### Security Deposit

ECLA requires a 50 Euro security deposit for keys, electronic chips, books and other items issued to students at the beginning of the academic year. This deposit is returned, if and when all borrowed items have been returned in appropriate condition. Should an item be lost, damaged or destroyed, the student is responsible for covering the full cost, including any costs in excess of the 50 Euros of the security deposit.

### Bike Deposit (optional)

If you are planning to use one of the ECLA bikes, please be prepared to bring an additional 50 Euro security deposit.

### Personal Expenses (e.g. phone charges, personal care items, entertainment)

Expenses in this category range widely depending on the individual student lifestyle. Students should budget for at least 10 Euros per week. With 30 term weeks in an academic year, the minimal annual cost thus amounts to 300 Euros. This budget will support a modest student lifestyle and may be covered or increased through part-time jobs on campus. Some examples of prices for expenses in this category are:

1 tube of toothpaste	1,29 Euro
1 toothbrush	0,29 to 1,99 Euro
1 bottle of shampoo (400ml)	1,75 to 3,95 Euro
1 pair of shoes	20,00 to 100,00 Euro
1 t-shirt	5,00 to 30,00 Euro
1 pair of jeans	20,00 to 100,00 Euro

Living costs in Berlin are relatively low compared to other large cities in Germany and living in Germany is in general not as expensive as in many other European countries. However, expenses for going out and entertainment run considerably higher as you can see on the example of prices listed below: 1 slice pizza in a cafe costs as much and sometimes more than a whole pizza purchased at a supermarket. A glass of any soft drink at a cafe or restaurant is 2 to 3 times more expensive than the same amount at a supermarket. A cinema ticket costs for students 5,50 Euros on weekdays and 6,50 Euros on weekends. Here are some examples:

1 cup of coffee (in a cafe)	1,80 to 3,50 Euro
1 glass of soft drink (in a cafe)	2,00 to 4,00 Euro
1 slice pizza (in a pizzeria)	1,80 to 6,00 Euro

Fortunately, many cultural events such as theatre performances and arts exhibitions are promoted through public subsidies, which allows for considerably low prices, especially, for students. Museums in Berlin also offer free admission to permanent exhibitions every Thursday afternoon for four hours before closing.

#### Prices

1 cinema ticket (reduced fare for students)	5,50 to 6,50 Euro
1 theatre ticket (reduced fare)	6,00 to 30,00 Euro
1 museum ticket (reduced fare)	2,00 to 8,00 Euro

A limited number of student jobs at 7 Euros per hour is offered by ECLA each term. Student employment can help cover *the personal expenses* in Berlin, but students may not rely on this income to contribute toward the comprehensive fee. During the academic term, students are allowed to work a maximum of 6 hours per week. Students may work longer hours when classes are not in session, provided that the student's employment supervisor can offer such additional hours. Please note that on-campus employment cannot be guaranteed.

### Transportation to/from Berlin

This expense depends not only on the place of residence, but also on good information and a timely booking. Flight rates on [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com), [www.germanwings.de](http://www.germanwings.de), [www.gexx.de](http://www.gexx.de), [www.airberlin.de](http://www.airberlin.de), [www.flydba.com](http://www.flydba.com), [www.tuifly.com/en/index.html](http://www.tuifly.com/en/index.html) can often compete with train or bus rates. It is advisable to reserve early, especially for the trips around Christmas and Easter (Winter and Spring Breaks at ECLA).

### Expenses For On Campus Stays Between Terms

Stays on campus during the winter and spring breaks (approximately three weeks each) are permitted. The BA students can stay on campus during the summer break as well. The cafeteria will be closed and no meals will be served during the breaks. ECLA does not charge an extra living fee for the students who stay on campus, but the cost of food and other items (see Personal Expenses above) will typically amount to no less than 40 Euros per week. Some examples of prices in this category are:

1 Broetchen (bread rolls)	0,35 Euro
1 packet of salami (200g)	1,09 Euro
1 L milk	0,90 Euro
1 kg apples	1,99 Euro
1 kg potatoes	0,99 Euro
500g noodles	0,79 Euro
500g rice	1,29 Euro
1 bottle of mineral water (0,75L)	0,80 Euro