

VCU School of World Studies

GERMAN

Studying German

In today's global environment, the knowledge of other languages and cultures is an absolute necessity. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe today and is a vital language of commerce, industry and research for the European Union and beyond. The German cultural heritage is uniquely rich, particularly in the areas of art, music, literature and philosophy. A knowledge of German can be a key asset in a number of professions, including business, government and foreign service, international relations, education, and scientific careers.

The curriculum

The German curriculum at Virginia Commonwealth University offers a rich array of courses in language skills, literature and culture allowing students to fully develop their skills in oral and written communication in German. German majors learn about cultural and political history, read masterpieces of German writing, view outstanding films of the last 100 years, gain insight into current social, political and artistic developments in German-speaking countries, and work with media such as television and contemporary music. Special emphasis is placed on investigating the place of German-speaking countries in the changing landscape of Europe and on understanding the effects of developments such as globalization, immigration and environmental change. Students also have the opportunity to learn the language and practices of the German-speaking business community.

The student experience

Students learn both in and outside of the classroom — rich electronic resources supplement classroom instruction. A summer study abroad program in Austria provides a valuable opportunity to deepen language skills and cultural knowledge. Students also often study abroad for a semester or year. On campus, the School of World Studies and the German Club sponsor a wide range of extracurricular activities including a German-speaking Stammtisch, lectures, excursions and parties. Classes are small and instruction is personalized to meet the student's individual needs.

The setting

With two main campuses in the heart of Richmond, the state capital of Virginia, VCU is ideally located to provide a dynamic and diverse urban environment for studies. VCU is nationally ranked by the Carnegie Foundation as a top research university and enrolls nearly 30,000 students in 181 programs in the arts, sciences and humanities within 15 schools and the core College of Humanities and Sciences.

More information

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