

YOUTH YEAR GERMANY



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IFX 
INTERNATIONAL FUTBOL X-CHANGE

PLAY SOCCER ABROAD!

➤ IFX welcomes you to our organization and we are looking forward to working with you during IFX experience. Your journey abroad will be challenging, yet rewarding in many ways. In order to prepare you for your program, please read through the IFX Program guide to learn about our different processes and for tips on different things while living abroad.

This guide discusses all aspects of your upcoming program including important information about the program region, the school, club placement process, and more. Please read thoroughly through this program guide and should any further questions arise, please let us know.



Germany is a country that has been at the heart of Europe for centuries, and from the unique culture shaped from historical influences, amazing cuisine and architecture, there is so much to enjoy during your program stay here. Germany is also a very practical country to stay, as the transport system is modern and many of the people speak English, which help to make this a fairly easy country to explore.

Germany has a lot of beauty to offers, from a stunning road trip through Bavaria, world-famous for the series of beautiful castles that you will see along the way, until the opportunity to immerse yourself in the Black Forest. The area provides beautiful surroundings for hiking and mountain biking in the spring and summer, while skiing is a big business for the region in the winter.

As one of the safest countries in Europe, crime in Germany is at a very low level, and there is a low risk for visitors when it comes to pickpockets. Germans are polite and generous, and are also great hosts, and most will try to help if they spot you are in any difficulty.

When it comes to museums, Berlin is a must-see destination. Museum Island, a strip of land in the Spree River, host many of the most impressive museums in the country. The Pergamon Museum has some impressive buildings that have been carefully deconstructed, shipped to Berlin from around the world, and then rebuilt here.

Germany is recognized world-wide for outstanding quality and diversity of beers. Not surprise that Oktober Fest is celebrated across Germany but the biggest celebration of all is found in Munich. There are hundreds of different beers to try, and a wonderful camaraderie shared by all.

Germany is home to some of the finest professional European clubs and players. Their extensive league system is comprised of multiple professional and semi-professional clubs that compete for promotion and relegation from one league to the next, year after year. With many clubs well over 100 years old, the expertise in German coaching and club management provides youth unlimited opportunity for growth and player development. Germany's youth Bundesliga, Regionalliga, and Oberliga (top 3 national youth leagues) are comprised of Germany's top youth talent, many of whom will enjoy a professional career in the future.





HIGH SCHOOL



The German school system is divided into three types of schools that prepare students toward a vocational or academic future. IFX students will attend what is called the Gymnasium, a nine-year secondary school that provides a comprehensive general education for students who wish to continue their studies at the university level. Roughly 30% of German students attend the Gymnasium schools. School subjects include language, literature and art, the social sciences, mathematics, science, and technology. Students are required to take classes in each of these categories.

Although students do not need a visa to study in Germany, they are required to apply for a residence permit for the duration of their stay. Students will be assisted in this process by a local representative.

Life in a German School FAQ

- + Subjects are taught in the teachers' own classroom; the students move from class to class.
- + No security guards
- + Students sit at tables, usually 2 per table
- + No uniforms or dress codes (other than basic rules of decency)
- + School starts between 7:30 and 8:30
- + Classes are 45 minutes
- + Students may have gaps between periods (sometimes 45 minutes) without any kind of supervision
- + Short breaks (5-10 minutes) between classes
- + Lunch breaks vary
- + Subjects are taught 2-3 times per week, main subjects 4-6 times per week
- + 2 foreign languages are mandatory
- + Exams are essay based (very rarely multiple choice)
- + Exams in grades 11-13 can last up to 4 periods
- + Students over 16 are usually allowed to leave the school premises during breaks
- + Cleaning the classroom and the green areas is often the task of the students
- + Extracurricular activities not common
- + No school radio stations or TV stations
- + Grade system: 1 – 6 (1 = excellent; 6 insufficient); 5 is a failing grade
- + Starting in 11th grade: point system with a maximum of 15 points
- + 12 weeks of vacation + public holidays
- + Report cards: twice a year, after each semester



> CLUB TRIALS & EVALUATION PERIOD

During the first week after arrival, participants begin trials with IFX partner clubs to be evaluated by both the IFX staff as well as by the partner clubs. Training schedules for participants during the evaluation period can not be provided in advance but participants will be notified by the IFX representative generally the day prior or in the morning/early afternoon about their training for that evening. Participants may undergo several weeks of trials before a club ultimately decides to offer a spot on their team. In most cases, participants are placed within 2-4 weeks with a club. In some cases, it can be much quicker, or a bit longer, but the average is 2-4 weeks.

IFX places participants with clubs that are a good fit for their level. This means that we strive to place them with a club that will provide them with a challenging training and playing environment in order for them to improve all aspects of their game. On the other hand, participants are not placed with clubs where the participant is over their head and not have a realistic chance of getting playing time, or becoming a disruption to the partner club's training.



HOST FAMILIES



IFX players can choose to live with a carefully selected host family for the duration of their program. All host families are handpicked and many have hosted international students before. Our program partners carry out a strict host family screening process, to assure the suitability of the families and the welfare of the students, and provides 24 hour emergency service. Both families and students receive a profile on each other, as well as personal information to ensure a comfortable and well matched visit.

Host families often have the responsibility of providing the participant with the experience of being "of" the host country. That can mean exploring attributes of the local culture, such as holidays, traditions, and religious celebrations. That can also mean showing typical day-to-day routines.

European families can be distinguished by their love for outdoor activities. Swimming, bicycling, fishing or trekking throughout beautiful landscapes surely will be activities you could enjoy with your new host family.



TRANSPORTATION



During the IFX participant's evaluation and trial period, IFX will assist participants with logistics of getting to/from training. Once a participant is placed with a club, they will be responsible to get to and from training with public transportation. IFX will provide guidance to each participant on how to go about obtaining a monthly transportation train/bus pass that enables the participants to travel unlimited on public transportation throughout the region. The cost ranges generally from 50 – 75 Euros per month depending upon the region and country.

Participants are not permitted to drive vehicles while in the IFX program and will be subject to program dismissal should they be found driving a vehicle.



> IFX CONTACT INFORMATION



IFX Main Office

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Emergency Numbers:

Youth Year & Pro Year Spain IFX Programs:

Provided on your host family contact sheet

England and Spain Programs:

Provided on your host family contact sheet
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In an emergency, call the police or appropriate authority:

GERMANY
Dial 112

SPAIN
Dial 112

ITALY
Dial 112

ENGLAND
Dial 999 or 112

