
For Further Information:

Study Away Office

UNVH 006 836-6368

TDD 1-800-735-2966

Email: pap752t@smsu.edu

Study Away Web Site:

[www.smsu.edu/ucollege/
studyaway/programs.html](http://www.smsu.edu/ucollege/studyaway/programs.html)

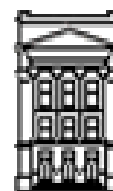
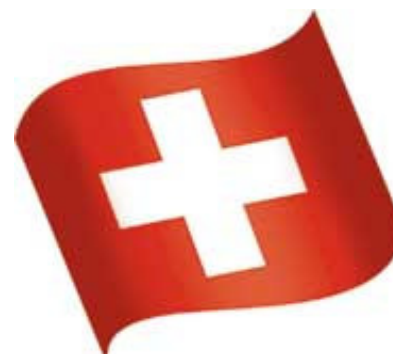
University of Bern

Web Site:

www.int.unibe.ch

Southwest Missouri State University is a community of people with respect for diversity. The University emphasizes the dignity and equality common to all persons and adheres to a strict nondiscrimination policy regarding the treatment of individual faculty, staff and students. In addition, in accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University. The University maintains a grievance procedure incorporating due process available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. Southwest Missouri State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Inquiries concerning the grievance procedure, Affirmative Action Program, or compliance with federal and state laws and guidelines should be addressed to Jana Long, Equal Opportunity Officer, Office of Human Resources, 118 Carrington Hall, 901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65804, (417) 836-6616.

SMSU
University of Bern
Switzerland
Exchange



Southwest Missouri State
U N I V E R S I T Y

About the Program

The instructional language at the University of Bern is German. If students wish to improve their German, classes can be booked at the university. However, there are no classes for beginners. During winter term students have the opportunity to attend courses in Bernese dialect (Swiss German). The University of Bern is linked to two universities in French-speaking Switzerland, the University of Fribourg and the University of Neuchâtel. Students wishing to attend classes in French at these two universities can commute by train between Bern and Fribourg and Neuchâtel, respectively.

The Department of Applied Linguistics (AAL) also offers various classes in foreign languages and provides liaison services for tandem language-learning partnerships.

Program Dates

The University of Bern is on a semester schedule. The first semester (winter term) runs from the end of October to early February. The second semester (summer term) runs from the end of March through June. Because of the different dates of semester endings, the SMSU exchange is either for an academic year or for the summer term during our spring semester.

Lodging

Residence hall accommodations are available. Independent accommodation or flat shares (four person apartments) are available. The Office of International Relations will assist foreign students in their search for appropriate housing.

Students make their own meal arrangements. Students can cook their meals, or go to one of the campus' cafés, restaurants, or snack bars. Campus cafeterias are open Monday through Friday, between 7:30am-5:30pm.

Program Fees

Please check current budget sheet for specific details (available from Study Away Office).

Financial Aid and Funding

Financial aid or scholarship funds received through SMSU may be applied to this program. In addition, students may apply for a Study Away Loan to help pay for expenses. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for further information.

Refund Policy

If a student withdraws prior to fee due date, a full refund will be made less the \$100 application fee. If a student is forced to withdraw from the program after the fee due date for a *bona fide* medical reason, a full refund of all payments will be made less the \$100 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is necessary in making claims for a refund.

Students withdrawing voluntarily after the fee due date receive no refund of fees paid. *Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. All notification of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Study Away Office.*

Persons with disabilities may request accommodations through the Disability Services office. Accommodations that are not already in place at some sites may be possible to arrange, but only with sufficient advance notice. SMSU cannot alter systems, architecture, transportation or laws in other countries, or duplicate SMSU's campus.

Application Deadline

Application deadline for the academic year is April 15. Application deadline for the summer term is October 15. NOTE:

Students will not be selected for this program on a first come, first served basis. All students who apply before the application deadline will be considered in the selection process.

Application Procedure

1. Complete the SMSU application package.
2. Attach a nonrefundable check of \$100 payable to SMSU.
3. Take the completed application to the Study Away Office for processing.
4. Participants in the program will be selected shortly after the application deadline. All applicants will be notified of their status at that time.

Eligibility

Requirements for eligibility:

- ✓ G.P.A. preference will be given to students with a 3.0 or higher
- ✓ an essay of at least 500 words (2-5 pages in length) discussing the student's reason for study in Bern
- ✓ two written references from SMSU faculty members who have had the student in a class
- ✓ a written assessment from MCL faculty of the student's proficiency in German or French
- ✓ an interview with the Dean of the University College
- ✓ students must complete 30 semester hours at SMSU before the exchange begins and be in good standing

Necessary Documents

Students participating in the SMSU-Switzerland Exchange Program are required to have a valid passport before leaving. A student visa is also required, and may be obtained through the nearest Swiss Consulate (for residents of Missouri, the nearest Swiss Consulate is located in Chicago). The International Relations Office at the University of Bern will provide the necessary letter of acceptance. Also, evidence of American health insurance that includes a provision for medical evaluation or repatriation of remains must be provided to the Study Away Office.

Awarding of Credit

All credits are awarded by the University of Bern and are fully transferable back to SMSU. **Arrangements for credit transfer should be made with your academic advisor, department heads, and the study away office before leaving SMSU.** By carefully following the requirements outlined in the *Study Away Academic Report* form (available in the Study Away office), you will receive credit for the work you satisfactorily completed at the University of Bern.

Before leaving Bern at the end of the exchange program, you *must* arrange for an official copy of your transcript to be mailed directly to:

**University College/Study Away
Southwest Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65804
U.S.A.**

About the University

Preserving valuable traditions while responding to new challenges is the mission of the public University of the State of Bern. The historic roots of the University go back to the “higher school” seminary which was founded in 1528 for the purpose of educating the clergy of the Reformed Church.

Initially, the subjects of Hebrew, Greek, and philosophy were taught along with theology. In the 18th century, law, mathematics, and the natural sciences were added. In 1805, following the Restoration, an Academy composed of faculties in theology, law, medicine, and philosophy was founded. In 1834 the University of Bern in its present form was constituted. A faculty of Old Catholic Theology was added in 1874, which has since been integrated into the faculty of Old Catholic and Protestant Theology.

The University moved into spacious new quarters on the “Grosse Schanze” (“Big Entrenchment”) in 1903, the site of the main building today. The faculty of Humanities was relocated to the former Chocolate Factory Tobler (producer of the famous **Toblerone** chocolate) in 1992.

The University of Bern has been host to many distinguished teachers and researchers. Among them was **Albert Einstein** who, as a patent office employee and University lecturer and researcher, lived and worked in Bern from 1902 to 1909, during which he wrote and worked on papers that would lead to the famous theory of relativity.

The University of Bern today has a modestly-sized campus, with a personal, friendly atmosphere. Typical for a European metropolitan university, the buildings of the University of Bern are somewhat spread out, but easily accessible by foot, bike, or public transport. The student body consists of more than 10,000 students, almost half of them female, and a teaching staff of well over

1,000. Although the official language is German, students and teachers speak at least two languages, German and French.

About Bern

Bern, the capital of Switzerland since 1848 and the capital of the State (Canton) of Bern since 1353, when Bern joined the Swiss confederation, was founded by Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen in 1191. Legend has it that the city’s name was derived from the first animal the Duke shot while hunting in the area—a bear, and to this day Grizzly Bears are still kept in the famous bear pit (“Barengraben”) of Bern. The historic city center is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage landmark. The exteriors of the splendid medieval houses have been carefully preserved. The interiors have been adapted over the centuries to suit the needs of current residents, businesses, and shops. The landmark building of the old city center is the 300-foot tall Gothic cathedral (“Münster”). On the historic arcades you will find all kinds of shops, restaurants, bars and cafes, cinemas, galleries, theatres and discos. The range of cultural venues keeps increasing; new in-places appear on the scene all the time. In the summer Bern is an outdoor city; as people enjoy open-air concerts in the historic center and the numerous parks, and swimming in the Aare river which surrounds the city on three sides. Several tall bridges connect the old city to Bern’s surrounding neighborhoods and suburbs. In recent studies, Bern has rated as one of the five most livable cities in the world. As the capital, Bern is also the seat of foreign embassies and consulates from countries all over the world. Its central location makes Bern a perfect starting point for winter and summer excursions into the Alps and the Bernese Oberland. The city lies about 1,500 feet above sea level, has a population of some 150,000, and enjoys a relatively moderate climate.