Heidelberg, Germany

The University
Heidelberg University was founded in 1386 by Elector Ruprecht I of the Palatinate. It is the oldest university in Germany. Its 600-year history is littered with both triumph and disaster. By the second half of the 16th century, the university had become one of the most important centers of the Reformation and of Calvinism. However, wars in the 17th century led to the destruction of first the university library – the unique Bibliotheca Palatina - and later of all the other buildings.

In 1803, Elector Karl Friedrich von Baden revised the university’s statutes and laid the foundation for what would become one of the outstanding academic centers of the late 19th century. The name of the university – Ruprecht-Karls-Universität – thus commemorates its two founders.

Today the university has more than 27,000 students, including about 5,600 international students, and is an important centre of modern research and teaching in Germany. The 12 university faculties encompass a wide variety of subjects in the humanities, sciences and medicine. Engineering and agriculture are not offered at Heidelberg.

The City
Heidelberg, Germany’s oldest university town, is situated in a lovely setting on the banks of the River Neckar, where it spreads out into the broad plain of the Rhine River. Undamaged during WWII, Heidelberg has remained an attractive place for tourists and students from all over the world. About 135,000 people live in the city.

Academic Calendar
Fall Semester: Classes begin October 6, 2008 and end January 31, 2009.
Winter holiday break is from December 22, 2008 until January 6, 2009
Spring Semester 2009 classes begin March 30, 2009 and end July 11, 2009

Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5.

What could I study?
Exchange students may take any course for which they have the appropriate academic background. The majors offered at this university cover a wide range of academic
Students planning on taking regular courses with the German students may take a preparatory German language course prior to the beginning of the semester.

This destination can be an ideal one for students with German minors and majors. Exchange students may choose to take regular courses or to remain exclusively in German language courses for non-native speakers. More information on the German language courses is available in English at [http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/central/isz/E_index.html](http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/central/isz/E_index.html)

**What about academic credit?**

Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU. Most courses in Germany meet for only two hours per week. For that reason, OU students usually take 6 courses there each semester. The number of courses taken in the Intensive German language curriculum could be different.

**Where would I live?**

Student residences of the University of Heidelberg are administered by the Studentenwerk, an independent organization providing the student population with various services. The Auslandsamt works with the Studentenwerk to reserve rooms for exchange students. Students must indicate on their "Application for Admission as an Exchange Student" whether or not they would like to be housed in a hall of residence (Studentenwohnheim).

Residences managed by the Studentenwerk are very well equipped. Students usually stay in flats, single rooms or they share flats. Detailed information on the services offered by the Studentenwerk and student residences in particular is available on the Internet on the Studentenwerk homepage [http://www.studentwerk.uni-heidelberg.de](http://www.studentwerk.uni-heidelberg.de) ("Studentisches Wohnen"). The Studentenwerk cannot take preferences for specific residences into consideration when allocating rooms. Rooms are reserved for six months starting 1 October or 1 April.
How much does it cost?

**Costs at OU:** All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study abroad fee.

Like many university towns, Heidelberg is expensive - on average, the cost of living and studying in Heidelberg comes to about 600 Euro per month. Rent in a student residence is on average about 180-250 Euro per month. Rents in the private sector can be much higher. Students should also be aware that a relatively large sum of money is needed at the beginning of their stay, because rental deposit, first month's rent, Semesterticket, and social fee (Studentenwerksbeitrag) must all be paid within a few days of each other at the beginning of the semester.

**How do I apply?**

Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.

For more information please contact:

[ea@ou.edu](mailto:ea@ou.edu)