

Canadian Summer School in Germany

CONFIRMATION OF TOTAL PROGRAM COST



I, _____ (print name),

hereby confirm that I have read the CSSG “Costs” page at www.cssg.ca and understand that the total program cost includes:

***Tuition and fees for 6 credits:** \$1,672.

(CSSG 4847/5847 German Immersion Community Service Learning is a 3-credit course and therefore tuition for this course is \$836.) There is no differential for international students.

***CSSG Program fee:** Approx. \$2,800–\$2,900. This amount is an estimate and depends on the exchange rate and will be set at the end of January. (In 2016, 2017, and 2018 the final program fee was \$2,800.) The deposit of \$500 that is paid on application to the program is included in this amount). Please see the “Cost” page at www.cssg.ca for details as to what is covered by this fee. **Note: This program fee does NOT include TUITION or airfare between Canada and Germany.**

***Saint Mary’s University Application fee:** \$40 (for “Visiting Students”)

It is my responsibility to ensure that the tuition and program fees are fully paid before or by the set deadlines. I understand that failure to pay the fees on time may result in my exclusion from the program and/or my transcript being withheld.

The program fee as set in your acceptance letter issued in early February as well as the tuition fee that appears on your Saint Mary’s Banner account will be final.

Date _____ Signature _____

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Language Agreement



I, _____ (print name), agree to speak only German during all CSSG activities, including before and after class, in the *Mensa*, at youth hostels, on the bus during excursions, and in the presence of the CSSG Team and with host family members.

I understand that if a CSSG instructor hears me speaking a language other than German, the incident will be noted and I will receive a *yellow card*.

Students receiving no yellow cards throughout the program will receive a prize recognizing their achievement.

Students who consistently speak German outside the class may be voted by their peers and receive a *green card* in recognition of their effort.

The consequence of three yellow cards is a *red card*. A red card issued results in exclusion from a CSSG excursion. If a red card is issued after the final excursion, I will receive a 5% deduction (from the participation portion) in my final grade.

* Under exceptional circumstances (i.e., medical and other emergencies), CSSG instructors will allow students to speak English.

Date _____ Signature _____

Behaviour Agreement



Please initial before each statement to signify that you have read each and agree to act accordingly.

_____ I understand that my behaviour has an impact on the future of the Canadian Summer School in Germany program. (Disrespectful student behaviour has forced a youth hostel to refuse to accept the CSSG students in the future. Such behaviour has also forced CSSG to lose host families. On the other hand, respectful student behaviour is one of the reasons why the program has been successful for so long!)

_____ I agree to respect all rules in the youth hostels where we stay as a group.

_____ I understand that the CSSG requires my residence in Germany for the entirety of the program. I agree that I will be resident in Kassel with a host family and in youth hostels in cities the CSSG visits. I agree to remain in Germany on holidays and weekends during the program and if I should travel and stay overnight outside of Kassel on holidays and weekends I will complete a “Temporary Absence Form” provided by the CSSG Director in order to indicate the purpose of my travel, my itinerary, and the address of my overnight accommodation. (I understand that travel to other European destinations is best arranged before and/or after the duration of the CSSG.)

_____ I agree to respect the formal and informal household norms and rules of my host family.

_____ I understand that I am responsible for abiding by German laws, which may be different from those in Canada. Differences include appropriate use of the internet (in host families and at the University of Kassel).

_____ I understand that illegal music downloads or file sharing are prosecuted more efficiently than in Canada. I agree that I will be solely responsible for any fines that my host family or the CSSG program might incur due to illegal downloads or file sharing on my part.

_____ I understand that I am responsible for dealing with the consequences of my failure to abide by German laws, which may include fines and/or imprisonment.

_____ I will not bring alcohol onto the bus or into the rooms in the youth hostel.

_____ I understand that the consumption of alcohol can negatively affect my decision making capabilities and therefore I will choose to drink alcohol responsibly. I also understand that if I should be irresponsible in my consumption of alcohol there will be consequences.

_____ I understand that the first offence of irresponsible alcohol consumption will receive the same consequences as if I were to receive a red card for speaking a language other than German. A red card issued results in exclusion from a CSSG excursion and/or a 5% deduction of my final grade.

_____ I understand that at the second offence of irresponsible alcohol consumption I will be sent home at my own cost and I will fail the course. (* The judgment of the CSSG Director in this matter is final).

_____ I understand that if I, through reckless behaviour, endanger myself or others, I can be sent home at my own cost and I will fail the course.

_____ I understand that the CSSG bus will leave at its scheduled time. I will be responsible for my own transportation if I miss a scheduled CSSG bus.

CSSG Behaviour Agreement Appendix

In the last few years, the inappropriate use of the internet has increasingly become a problem for CSSG. Even though the majority of the students adhere to the “Behaviour Agreement,” there have been several cases in which host families have gotten into serious trouble because students have used the internet in ways that are not in accordance with German law. In most of these cases, the trouble resulted from the significant differences between Germany and Canada when it comes to the prosecution of illegal downloads.

Copyright laws in Germany differ from those in Canada. While illegal downloads of media files (MP3s, movie files, etc.) in Canada are of course prohibited as well, you have to understand that Germany is very strict in the enforcement of copyright laws and consequently actively prosecutes illegal downloads. There is a rather large number of law firms in Germany that specialize in the prosecution of illegal downloads or the illegal distribution of copyrighted material. In addition, be aware that internet providers in Germany are obliged to provide information on internet activity if there is suspicion of illegal action.

Any download that has not been authorized by the artist, a music company, or a vendor like iTunes is considered illegal – in short, if you don’t pay for it, it is not legal. This is also true for the distribution of media files. For instance, the use of peer to peer file sharing programs (EMule, UTorrent, BitTorrent, etc.) is extremely risky because if you allow a user to access your music files, under German law this is considered illegal distribution of copyrighted material, even if you initially paid for the music files. You should also refrain from using movie streaming websites or browser extensions that allow you to save media files to your computer because their usage is considered a legal grey area.

To illustrate the above, consider the following scenarios that have been adapted from actual cases:

Scenario 1. While staying with his/her host family, a student used a file sharing program (uTorrent, BitTorrent, eMule, ...) to download the new record of his/her favourite band. Within a few days, the host family received a letter from a law firm asking the host family as the owner of the internet access to pay a fine of approximately 1.000 €. The letter included detailed information on internet activity (IP address, time of access, name of file, etc.) In order to avoid the fine, the family had to get – and pay – a lawyer which does not in all cases guarantee further prosecution.

Scenario 2. A student has a file sharing program installed on his/her laptop and thus allows users to access his/her files. While being in class, the student leaves his/her laptop connected to the internet at home. Soon after, the host family receives a letter from a law firm, again asking for a very high fine based on the prohibited distribution of copyrighted material.

Luckily, there are a number of legal alternatives. First of all, CDs are generally cheaper than in Canada. There are a number of big electronic stores like Saturn or Media Markt that have a lot of offers on new CDs and furthermore offer less recent music for very little money. If you don't buy CDs anymore, you can of course use iTunes in Germany as well. In addition, Saturn and Media Markt also offer MP3 downloads. As far as movies are concerned, while there is no Netflix in Germany, there is an equivalent website called Watchever offering a monthly streaming flat rate for less than 10€. You can easily cancel your subscription any month.

We are also fully aware that the vast majority of CSSG participants do not only adhere to the regulations stipulated in the behaviour agreements, but are also very responsible, considerate, and fun-loving individuals whose behaviour and warm personalities have won the hearts and opened the doors of many German host families for over 40 years! We want to work together to carry on this Legacy.

Date _____ Signature _____