



Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

**AMERICAN
STUDIES
LEIPZIG**

THE LEIPZIG MODEL FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies Leipzig combines humanities and social science approaches to explore the society, culture, history, literature, and politics of the United States in their international and intercultural contexts.

Our BA program immerses you in the full diversity of subjects that make American Studies **such a vibrant and exciting field of studies**. Our curriculum is designed both to provide you with a broad overview of topics and methods in American Studies, and to allow you to build your own profile by specializing early on in your student career.

Our teaching combines classroom interaction, project-driven learning and professional training. We integrate **your constant and active participation** in the BA program as an essential part of what makes the program excel and distinguished.

The **Leipzig Model for American Studies** thereby prepares you for personal and professional advancement by encouraging expertise about a critical region in the world, international and intercultural skills, and a well-founded confidence to engage professional learning and development beyond the university.

The Leipzig BA in American Studies is a fully accredited program per the E.U. Bologna Criteria.

INTERNATIONAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY, INTEGRATIVE

The BA in American Studies builds on three essential categories of knowledge about the United States. You are required to take a least one module in each category to encourage interdisciplinary and integrated learning. These categories are:

Society, History, & Politics - explores the themes in American history that have shaped the country until now, looks at how the country practices politics and why, and examines the incredible diversity, tensions, and contradictions of American society.

Literature & Culture - presents you with the skills and knowledge that enable you to read, understand, and critically reflect the many different texts that are "American culture" – from novels to poetry, from films to song lyrics, from cookbooks to mail-order catalogues.

Language & Society - involves the study of the American English language, and how language is part of our daily world: how it is acquired, how it is produced, and how it shapes society and culture.

After being introduced to these three cornerstones of American Studies, you may pursue deeper knowledge about one or more of these aspects of American life depending on your personal and professional interests and goals.



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SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

American Studies Leipzig is one of the most distinguished programs in Germany.

In the last five years alone, it has been awarded three **prestigious international professorships**: the Fulbright-Leipzig Chair for American Studies, the DAAD-Chair for American and International Studies, and the Picador Chair for Literature.

The Institute for American Studies is also **a leader in advanced research**, with nine interdisciplinary projects underway. The German Science Foundation currently funds the multi-year project, "American Identity Construction in a Transatlantic Context."

DEDICATED SCHOLARS AND STAFF

With nine faculty members and an energetic staff, American Studies Leipzig provides a dedicated team to help guide you during the entire course of your studies. We like to say that scholars, staff, and students together are indispensable for each other. Together, we make up what we call the **American Studies Community**.

TEN REASONS

... to earn a BA in American Studies at the University of Leipzig

There are actually a lot more reasons to earn a BA in American Studies in Leipzig, but those familiar with American culture appreciate how American society enjoys “Top Ten Lists”! And now for the list ...

- **Unique and Fully-Accredited-Program** focusing on the Society, History, and Culture of a Region Critical for World Affairs
- **Advanced English** is Used Throughout the BA Program for Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- American Studies Leipzig is Placed in a **Transatlantic and Global Context**, thus Empowering Students to Acquire International Knowledge and Skills that are in High Demand
- **Fully Integrated Program** Project-Driven Learning, Professional Skills Development and Undergraduate Research
- Institute for American Studies at Leipzig Enjoys an **International Reputation** for Scholarly Excellence
- You Are a Key Part of a **Dynamic Scholarly Community**



INTERNATIONAL SKILLS & GLOBAL REACH

TEN REASONS

- You Are Part of a **Large International Community**
Integrated within the University of Leipzig
- The University of Leipzig is **one of Europe's Most Distinguished Universities**
(Celebrating 600 Years of Existence in 2009)
- Leipzig is **one of Central Europe's Most Cosmopolitan Cities**
- There is a **Rich Cultural, Economic, and Diplomatic American Presence in Leipzig**, including Festivals like Hip-Hop, Honky-Tonk and Poetry Slams; Companies like Amazon, DHL, and Price-Waterhouse- Cooper; and the Consulate for the United States representing all of Mitteldeutschland

To learn more about the special uniqueness and advantages of the American Studies BA in Leipzig, we encourage you to **visit our website**, including the section entitled **Prospective Students** where we seek to address your special issues.

americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/prospectivestudents

HOW DO I APPLY?

Full details on how to apply for the BA in American Studies can be found on our web site very easily.

Simply go to **americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de** and click on the section for **Prospective Students** and there you will see a category called **Applying and Admissions**. All the information that you need is right there.

We strongly encourage you to contact the Institute with any questions that you might have. We will be very happy to help you. **Our Advising Team** is listed at the end of the brochure.

AREA EXPERTISE & TRANSCULTURAL LITERACY



WHAT CAN I REALLY DO WITH AMERICAN STUDIES?

The knowledge and skills that you acquire in American Studies prepare you for careers in media enterprises (newspapers, radio, tv, internet), diverse sectors of the service economy (e.g., consulting, public relations, journalism, business, international studies), companies large and small engaged internationally, education institutions, government offices, foundations, non-profit groups doing international work (e.g., environmental, cultural and education exchange, development work), high-tech companies, and cultural organizations (e.g., museums, theatres, film).

Of the top twelve skills sought by employers, American Studies teaches and prepares you for ten of them (ASL cannot help you with science and math). These skills are:

- Applying Knowledge to Real World Settings
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Proficiency in a Foreign Language
- Critical Thinking and Analytic Reasoning
- Ability to Solve Complex Problems
- Understanding Cultural Values and Traditions
- Understanding Global Issues and their Impact
- Civic Knowledge and Community Engagement
- Ability to Be Innovative and Creative
- Teamwork and Collaboration

(List is summarized from the 2007 Report by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, "College Learning for the New Global Century")

STUDENT VOICES (BA CLASS OF 2006)

Nicole Weise

The American Studies program in Leipzig is great. You get the chance to attend tons of interesting events. It is therefore easy to feel as a part of the community right from the beginning.

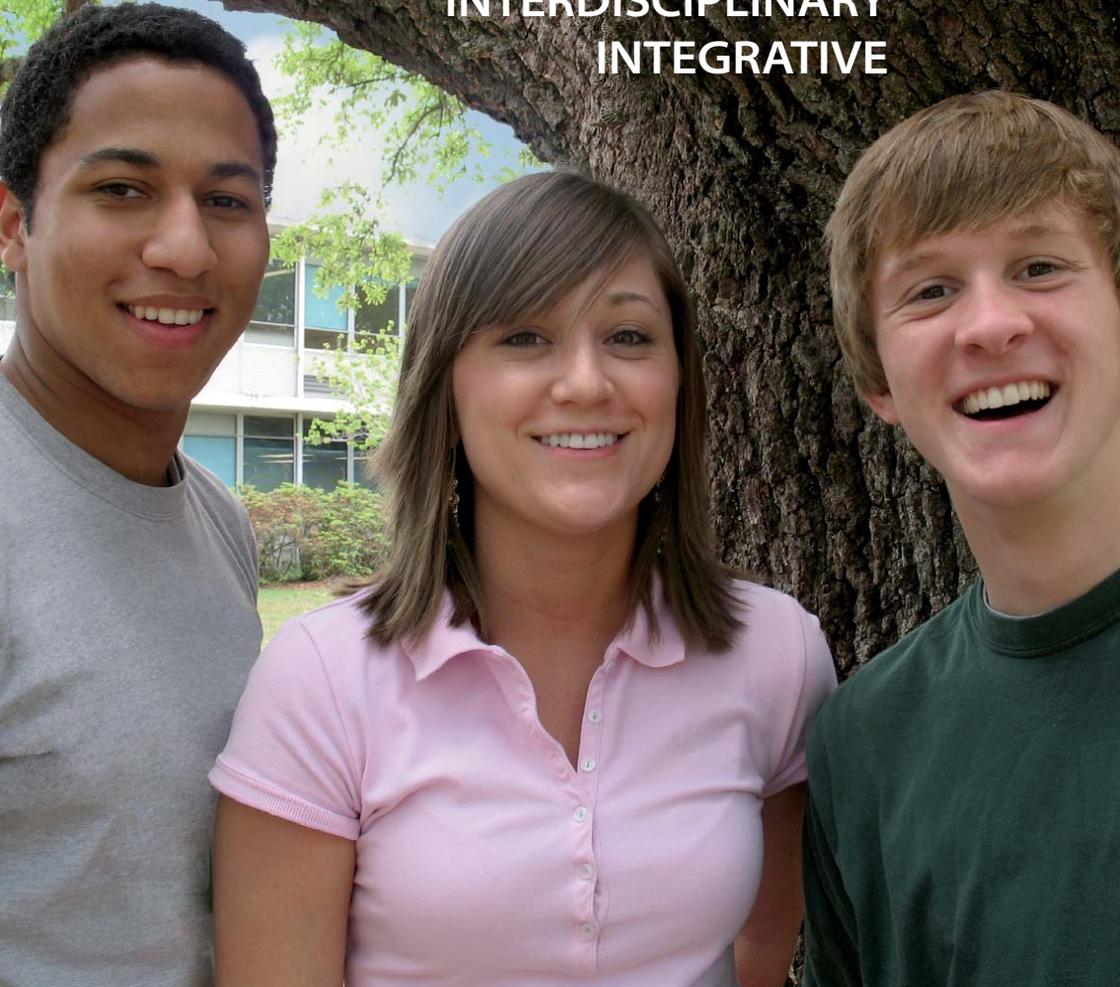
Stefan Schubert

The learning at American Studies is more practical and research oriented. You find this spirit among the faculty who are always open to talk with students about their courses or other student issues. There is a relaxed atmosphere in the seminars that helps make them productive and enjoyable. Guest professors from the United States help create a genuine “American Spirit” at the Institute. I also really liked the extra events like the roundtable with the American Ambassador.

Anne Seyffert

I really like the fact that students who choose American Studies are guaranteed to get the courses for their major. The staff is also very supportive so that we do not experience any waiting or pressure to sign up for classes. The faculty and staff are basically always there to answer our questions, and that from the beginning of the program. And the Professional Skills Module “iTASK” helped me a lot. It helped me find the professional career that I want to pursue, and how to go about doing that.

**INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
INTEGRATIVE**



YOUR ADVISING TEAM

We encourage you to contact any member of our Advising Team to receive answers to any of your questions!



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**PREPARING YOU FOR
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
ADVANCEMENT**



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