

# The Blue Bear

Newsletter #3  
September 2021



Dear Duke in Berlin friends near and far,

Here in Berlin, we are all extremely happy that our program has been off to a good start! Our “kleine aber feine” group of eight students has been studious in their seminars and true explorers in this magical city. As September is winding down, and the leaves are starting to change colors, we wanted to give you a little glimpse into our life here in Berlin. We hope you'll enjoy reading the two impressions by Dan Garcia and Lilly Kelemen below. Stay tuned for more about our adventures in the October newsletter. We would also love to have any former Duke-in-Berliners come visit us here or send us an update on life.

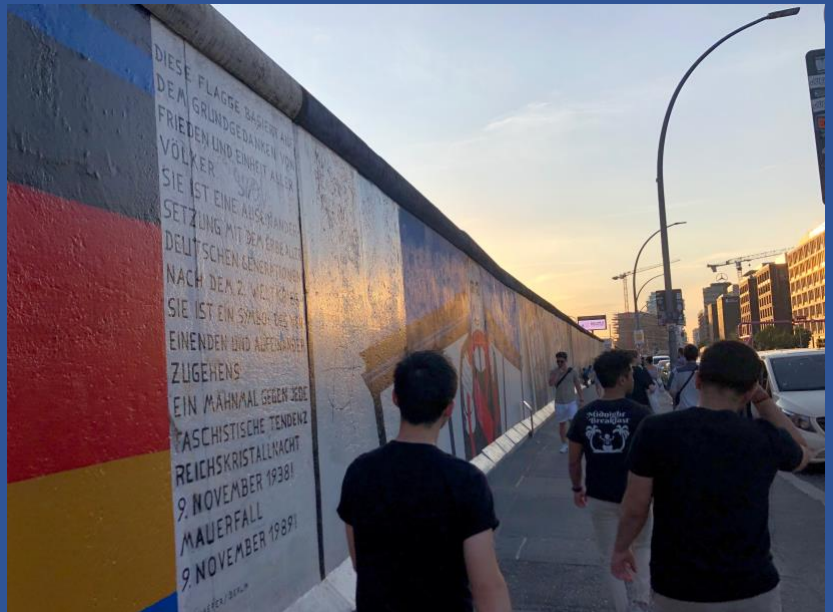
Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Tin Wegel (Resident Director, on the far left in the photo on top)

Lina Raith (Program Assistant, third from the left in the photo on top)

“Although I already had high expectations for Berlin, I was still surprised by how much history is embedded within the city. Berlin has been through an incredible amount of upheaval and change within the last century, and just walking through the city you can see how different forces have influenced architecture, food, and neighborhoods. Berlin is a vividly multicultural city with people from all around the world, and I really underestimated how big this city really is (biggest in the EU) - there’s always something to see or do.

This semester our cohort is pretty small, which is allowing us to grow really close as a group and explore the city together. The integration of what we are learning in class with weekly excursions helps us better understand the history of Germany and how past events are shaping the country today. The classes within the program – environmental policy, economics, and art and architecture – are immediately relevant as soon as you walk





outside the classroom doors. Many of the topics we learn about in class become night-long topics of debate and discussion. I like to think of Duke in Berlin as a program that makes an entire city an interactive classroom that's also really fun to just walk around in and explore."

Dan Garcia, Class of '22 (sixth from the right in the photo on top)

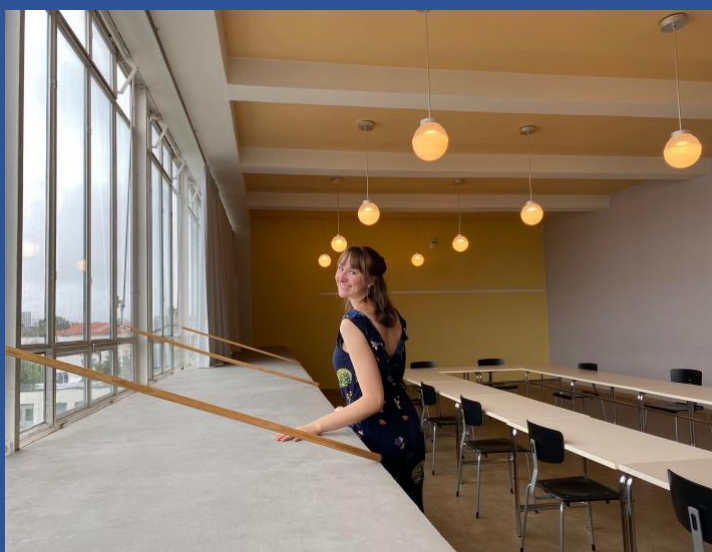
neuroscience, and I am minoring in education – and now possibly German! I think it's important to mention my major and minor(s) – though I run the risk of sounding like every college tour guide to ever exist – to show that really anyone can study abroad with the Duke in Berlin program! In our fall 2021 group, we have a philosophy student, a global health major, a Pratt engineer, an economist, and two computer scientists. The program is truly versatile; despite not majoring in anything near the classes I'm currently taking in Berlin, I feel like I am expanding my academic horizons and growing a deeper understanding of what I hope to do in the future.

My favorite weekend excursion so far has been Dessau (about 80 miles southwest of Berlin). Dessau is home to the Bauhaus, arguably the most important turning point for modern art and design. The Bauhaus was, and still is, a school of art and design founded by Walter Gropius. At the Bauhaus, students lived and took workshops to master their craft (whether it be weaving, textile work, woodworking, sculpting, architecture or other crafts). The Bauhaus was targeted by the Nazis due to its emphasis on freedom of expression and openness to all economic classes. As a result, the Bauhaus relocated from Weimar to Dessau, where it currently stands.



At home in Cleveland, Ohio, my dad is a professor of art history and graphic design at the University of Akron. He loves teaching about the Bauhaus and he "redet wie ein Wasserfall darüber" (speaks like a waterfall about it)! Seeing the Bauhaus in person allowed me to experience firsthand how the Bauhaus is not only a cornerstone of art, but also of contemporary pedagogy and social structure. I highly recommend the Duke in Berlin program to anyone who hopes to know more about art and its relationship to the society we live in; this excursion is only one example of how we've explored this idea."

Lilly Kelemen, Class of '23 (seen here to the left)



Feel free to email us at [duke@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:duke@zedat.fu-berlin.de) with any questions about the program or to get in contact with one of our current Duke-in-Berliners.