



German – American Lacrosse Exchange

Specifics- One Semester, or one year

Lacrosse is still very new in Germany. Much of our growth comes in 2 unique ways.

Germans as Exchange Students in the US. Many of our existing teams gain new players every summer, when Germans who did a year abroad (usually in the US), return to Germany having learned a “new” sport while in their US High Schools. They are delighted to find lacrosse teams in Germany, and are surprised, as they had never heard of lacrosse before they left. Around 30% of German High School students do a year abroad, this is among the highest rates in the world. The problem here is that when a German who already plays lacrosse signs up for an exchange program, they are randomly assigned a high school and could end up at a school without lacrosse.

Americans as Exchange Students in Germany. Occasionally, an American who is an exchange student in Germany will find one of our teams and join them. Their experience adds to the learning curve of Germans in their new sport. The problem here, is that there are so few German teams, that many American exchange students who come to Germany will find no lacrosse team in their city.

We have discovered a solution!

We have partnered with a not-for-profit company which seeks to maximize the Lacrosse aspect of Foreign Exchange programs.

We hope to send our German Lacrosse players to American High Schools with established programs, and Germans who want to learn the sport to other American High Schools with Lacrosse teams. We are seeking host families and host lacrosse programs in the US for our players. Perhaps in addition, we hope to find willing American Lacrosse players to serve as Lacrosse Ambassadors to German cities which have lacrosse programs! Eventually the program will expand to additional countries.

The US students can be 14 years old or older, and will reap many benefits.

- NO GERMAN LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE IS NECESSARY, although they will learn German while in Germany. It is important to note that English is now required in school for all Germans, so most Germans speak English.
- Helping to grow the sport of Lacrosse in Germany and Europe
- Playing under American Coaches with Collegiate Lacrosse Coaching experience in cities throughout Germany
- Making new friends, experiencing a new culture, and learning a new language
- Travel around Europe with the team playing Lacrosse teams across Germany, Poland, Denmark, Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic
- A year abroad is excellent material for College Applications
- Coach Kee Joe Song at Robert Morris University said specifically that when they look at players who are interested in their program, one of their “worries” is that some college freshmen get “homesick” and do not finish their first year. Spending a year in Germany can help alleviate this concern for College Coaches.
- Undersized upperclassmen, talented freshmen who won’t make varsity but need to develop, and players of German decent or who are otherwise interested in German culture or the German language would be perfect candidates.
- Players who are thinking of doing a PG year to gain size or education could use a year abroad as an alternative

Because the program is non-profit, there is no cost to the exchange student other than the extreme basics –

- Plane ticket
- The cost of obtaining a visa
- Your player’s host families will be German Lacrosse families who have sent their sons or daughters to the US for exchange. As part of their commitment to this program, they will host US players once their son or daughter has returned, assuring a “host brother” or “host sister” with lacrosse as a common bond. Because of this, you will have no costs for room and board, for education, nor for insurance (Germany has free health care)

For High Schools willing to host a German student, there are also benefits –

- Exposure for your players to lacrosse in Europe, as well as to students of a different culture.
- A sense of accomplishment in knowing that they are helping to grow the sport in Germany
- The excitement and pride in having a “twin program” in Germany
- Permanent relationships between US and German Lacrosse players that can have enormous benefits throughout life
- The admiration and appreciation of the German Lacrosse Community

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