



VCU

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

The Bauhaus

Learn Urban and Regional Studies and Planning in Germany through the Bauhaus Exchange! Most people have heard the name “Bauhaus” but few people know much about it. The Bauhaus is an avant garde school of applied arts and industry created in Weimar Germany in 1919. The Bauhaus and its professors and students had more influence on 20th century architecture and possibly planning practice than any other single institution in the world. Everything from tableware, to furniture, to buildings, to the way architects and planners work in teams, was influenced by the Bauhaus. In fact, it is almost impossible to go through a day in a modern city without being touched in some way by something created or inspired by the Bauhaus!

Exchange Program

In 2010, VCU signed an agreement with Bauhaus University for an annual exchange of undergraduate students studying Urban and Regional Studies and graduate students in Urban and Regional Planning or Public Policy with an urban concentration. VCU students who go to the Bauhaus typically take the “summer semester” of urban studies courses, which begins about April 1 and ends about July 30. The courses are taught in English, but VCU students also takes one month of intensive German language instruction in March, so that they can more fully appreciate and enjoy life in the town of Weimar and throughout Germany.

Credit for the courses taken at the Bauhaus transfer to VCU. The cost for VCU students is the same as going to VCU for the spring semester. In fact, students pay their regular spring tuition to VCU, but only take courses at the Bauhaus. The cost of living in Weimar is comparable to living costs in Richmond and students can travel throughout the region at reduced cost. The only extra cost is the airfare to Weimar and back to Richmond.

Weimar and the German region of Thuringia

Weimar is a small town, but for centuries it has been known as the seat of German classicism, because brilliant poets, philosophers and musicians, such as Goethe, Schiller, Liszt and Nietzsche, lived and worked there. Weimar and the surrounding region of Thuringia is very beautiful and it is dotted with beautiful cities and towns that are all a short train ride away. A two-hour train ride brings you to the fascinating and dynamic German capital, Berlin. If you like history, architecture, the outdoors and learning about other cultures, then a semester at the Bauhaus is highly recommended!

Studying cities and planning from the perspective of another culture and living in another culture can help you see the entire subject in ways you had not considered before. If you want to be an effective practitioner in today’s global society, it is necessary to have an international perspective and to have some understanding of how things are done elsewhere.

When to Apply

The VCU-Bauhaus University Exchange Program is directed by John Accordino, Ph.D., FAICP, dean of the Wilder School and professor of Urban and Regional Planning. Watch for orientation sessions in November and January each year. Applications are due each year on March 1 for study the following year.

For more information, contact Dr. Accordino at jaccordi@vcu.edu.