



# Youth Year IFX Germany



# The Program

Through its partnership with International Futbol X-Change (IFX), **adidas International Training Program** (adidas ITP) is proud to offer qualified players a unique training experience in Germany.

The **Youth Year IFX** is a uniquely structured international soccer program and is very different from the standard international soccer academy. Not only does the program give qualified players access to an extensive club network, but it also allows them to experience soccer and life in another country. Students will have the opportunity to be immersed in German culture by living with a host family, attending a local public high school, and training with a competitive German soccer club.

The training period is an opportunity for players to experience intensive training routines, develop a quicker sense of pace and decision making, enhance their overall technical and tactical ability, and showcase their talent to German clubs. Players are placed within a competitive German football club fit to their level, which is intended to challenge them while also allowing them to apply their physical strength and technical foundation.

The program is available for players (ages 15 through 18) who are currently competing at a competitive level of soccer and it can last for a whole academic year (August to July), a fall semester (August to January), or a spring semester (January to July). Don't miss this unique chance to experience soccer in Germany!



# The Program



The Youth Year IFX provides its participants with valuable international soccer experience, as well as insight into the German culture. It is an unforgettable life experience which provides a new perspective on the different walks of life that share a passion for the same beautiful game. This is a unique chance to live "Fußball" in one of the world's most passionate soccer countries, with some of the world's most passionate fans. Soccer is a universal language and adidas ITP gives you the opportunity to share its global appeal.



# Soccer in Germany - "Fußball"

As one of the world's soccer superpowers, Germany is home to some of the finest professional European clubs and players. Their extensive league system is comprised of multiple professional and semi-professional clubs that compete for promotion and relegation from one league to the next, year after year. This intensely competitive system has enabled the development of a stable economic soccer environment, for both professional and amateur clubs to enjoy professionally maintained facilities.

Germany has consistently developed some of the top soccer talent throughout the world due to their knowledge and passion for the sport. With many clubs well over 100 years old, the expertise in German coaching and club management provides the youth with unlimited opportunities for growth and player development. Germany's Bundesliga, Regionalligas, and Oberligas (top 3 national youth leagues) are comprised of Germany's top youth talent, many of whom will enjoy a professional career in the future. Amateur and professional clubs alike all field their own youth teams, using their facilities and resources to mold their players into potential future members of their professional teams. The youth are regarded as the most valuable asset of German clubs.

It is typical in Germany that even the smallest of clubs will have their own home including a clubhouse, stadium pitch, practice pitches, and perhaps even a fitness facility. With top notch facilities, beautifully maintained grass fields, and perhaps the most efficient, intense, and tactically superior style, a player has no choice but to improve when in Germany.



# The Program includes...

- Round-trip airfare from an international airport near your home (in the continental U.S.)
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Homestay accommodation including meals with host family
- Placement in a local high school
- Placement in a competitive German soccer club
- Weekly soccer training
- Participation in soccer club tournaments, league matches, training camps and training sessions
- Soccer league fees and club gear (shoes not included)
- Student health and accident insurance
- Assistance with student visa application process
- Pre-departure orientations
- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Supervision and ongoing support regarding soccer program and cultural adjustment
- Post-program support for college recruitment process including letters of recommendation



# Academics and Leisure Activities

The German school system is divided into three types of schools that prepare students toward a vocational or academic future.

Youth Year IFX participants will attend what is called the *Gymnasium*, a nine-year secondary school that provides a comprehensive general education for students who wish to continue their studies at the university level. Roughly 30% of German students attend the *Gymnasium* schools.

Students are required to take classes in each of the following subjects:

- Language
- Literature and art
- Social sciences
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology

## Leisure Activities:

Outside of your soccer training, Germany offers many wonderful activities to enjoy during your free time. Germans typically are very active and enjoy biking, hiking, swimming, and of course *Fußball*. Music, the arts, and theater are strongly supported in Germany, with many opportunities for attending local concerts, street festivals, and plays. Weekend activities aside from soccer matches may include hiking, biking through the countryside, swimming, and socializing with friends.



# Additional Information

## Accommodation:

Players are placed with carefully selected host families throughout Germany.

## Transportation:

Transportation costs are the student's responsibility, including daily transportation to and from school, if necessary. However, public transportation is very accessible throughout Germany.

## Facilities:

It is typical in Germany that even the smallest of clubs will have their own home including a clubhouse, stadium pitch, practice pitches, and perhaps even a fitness facility. In the summer and fall months, German clubs typically train on natural and well-maintained grass pitches. In colder months, clubs often train on either artificial surfaces or "Hardplatz," a mixture of earth and sand, which is more suitable for winter weather. Players must come prepared to train on all kinds of surfaces.

## Passport and Visa:

All applicants must have a valid and current passport. Although students do not require a visa to study in Germany, they require a residence permit for the duration of their stay. Students will be assisted in this process by a local representative.

## Orientation:

Students are given an orientation upon arrival in Germany. Ongoing program support is provided by an in-country program representative.



# GERMANY



Situated in the heart of Europe, Germany astounds its visitors. In Germany, you will discover medieval castles, charming villages, crystal-clear lakes and snow-capped mountains, harvest festivals and the world-famous Oktoberfest. From the Holy Roman Empire to Nazism and the Berlin Wall, no other nation has molded Europe the way Germany has - for better or worse. Learn about German history, politics, language, and culture through interaction with your host family, friends, and locals.



# Terms & Conditions

## Program Dates:

- Program available for the academic year (August - July), fall semester (August - January), and spring semester (January - July)
- Please note: All dates are approximations and vary from year to year

## Player Requirements:

- 15-18 years old at the start of the program
- Currently competing at a competitive level of soccer
- 2.5 GPA or higher (4.0 scale)
- Flexible and mature personality, desire to be challenged, open-mindedness and tolerance of cultural differences
- Recommended: one year of high school German language study, or demonstrated equivalent comprehension

## Application Procedure:

- Submit an online application form
- Application includes a letter to a potential host family written in German
- Due to limited capacity, students are encouraged to apply well in advance of the application deadlines
- Application Deadline:
  - March 31 for the academic year and fall semester
  - October 1 for the spring semester
  - Late applications considered on a case by case basis

## Payment Policy:

- Total price: \$13,950 USD for the academic year, \$12,700 USD for the fall or spring semester
- Program fee does not include passport and visa application fees (as applicable), personal expenses (toiletries, clothing, internet, calling card, activities), school expenses (uniform/lunches, if required, supplies, bus pass), and any other items not specified.

*You could be next...*



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