

Summers in Bamberg are international

Each year, the Summer University brings students and teachers of German Language and Literature from around the world to Bamberg

By Andrea Bartl

They discuss German literature in Bamberg. Under the tutelage of notable artists, they create plays, their own poetic works or even Franconian folk dances. They tour „literary“ sites like Weimar and Munich. They attend readings and lectures. Together they prepare their countries' typical cuisines, and in all of these things, they take pleasure in honing their proficiency in the German language. Many of them will gladly return ...



Each year in August, approximately 100 students and teachers of German Language and Literature, from around 25 countries and all continents, come to Bamberg. The occasion is the International Summer University which, in 2010, is being offered for the 32nd time. Participants attend seminars offered on German literature, language and culture. One distinctive feature of the diverse course offering – which has varying emphases – is its focus on literature. In addition to literature seminars, there are also important courses focusing on culture and geography and on the improvement of language skills. Workshops also offer participants practical preparation for future careers in translation or teaching German as a foreign language.

Intercultural Understanding

The important social function of such a course offering can be illustrated by an exchange that took place as part of the Summer University in 2008: Students

from Georgia and Russia were sitting peacefully together in Bamberg and discussing a pacifistic, German-language poem from the post-war period while, all around the city of Gori, battles between Georgian and Russian soldiers were raging. Thankfully, political tragedies like the South Ossetian War as the backdrop for discussions on German literature are a rare exception. The Rule however, is that constructive cultural encounters – built on the foundation of mutual interest in German language and literature – take place each year in August at the Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg. The International Summer University is organised by the Bamberg department of German Language and Literature and by the Otto-Friedrich-Universität's International Office.

Weitere Informationen:

www.uni-bamberg.de/isu

