



European Solidarity Corps with ijgd in Berlin 2024/25

You are...

- ✓ between 18 and 30 years old
- ✓ living in the EU or in one of the ESC partner countries
- ✓ having 12 month time from beginning of September
- ✓ excited to get fully engaged in a social project
- ✓ feeling ready for a big city like Berlin?

ijgd and the ESC offers...

- ☺ support during your stay in Berlin
- ☺ pocket money + food allowance up to 520,- € a month + insurance
- ☺ a private room in a shared flat with other volunteers in Berlin
- ☺ public transportation card for Berlin
- ☺ a language class : German/ German Sign Language
- ☺ seminar days in Berlin and Germany

Get ready for...

- an intensive preparation before departure
- green traveling to Berlin by bus and train
- sharing accommodation in one of 4 ijgd simple flats
- jump out of your comfort zone
- big city life and cold and grey winters in Berlin
- probably one of the greatest experiences ☺

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about the ESC with ijgd in Berlin

ijgd WHO?

- **ijgd** - Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste
- ... is one of the biggest and oldest organisation for volunteering in Germany, with more than 4.000 volunteers each year in various programs - 2024 we celebrate 75 years!
- ... is the coordinating organisation of the ESC project "European Solidarity. ESC with ijgd in Social Projects in Berlin" and active in ESC hosting for nearly 20 years
 - ijgd hosts yearly 18-20 participants in Berlin, accommodated in 4 simple flats
 - ijgd collaborates with about 15 social organisations in Berlin and several support organisations in Europe

WHEN: Arrival & Departure

- Generally the ESC starts in September and it is mandatory to participate for 12 months
- Arrival days: Saturday 31.08.2024 & Sunday 01.09.2024
 - ➔ An arrival on these days is necessary to participate to the program
 - ➔ We start with the Welcoming Meeting and a Seminar on Monday 02.09.2024
- You will have generally 24 days holidays per year
 - In projects with closing time (like e.g. schools or kindergarten), your holiday should be taken according to those (mainly effects Christmas and Summer)
- Departure day: Sunday 24.08.2025
- Please use the greenest option to arrive and depart, for example by bus or train!
 - If so, we can refund up to 2 travel days, where you will also get pocket money
 - ijgd and your sending organisation can help you finding connections

WHAT: Our Projects

- Volunteering is about supporting the projects, their teams and educators
- The ESC is a full-time volunteering program: depending on the project 30-35h a week.
- ijgd cooperates with about 15 hosting projects in Berlin, each deals with a different target group and has a specific structure:
 - In **kindergarten**, you can work with babies and children up to 6 years, there might be a strict daily structure as well as free play or weekly routines
 - In **schools**, you support 6-14 years old pupils during their morning classes and get active in the afternoon program with sport, creativity or also in free play
 - In the **circus**, you can support the team with their classes, activities and events.
 - In **flat-shares**, you support adult people with disabilities in their daily routines, from cooking common lunch to participating or initiating leisure activities
- For Kindergarten, school and circus projects, you will need to provide a proof of your measles vaccination
 - ➔ **Read the project descriptions carefully and find the project that fits you the most!**

HOW MUCH: Expenses & Insurance

- You will get pocket money and food allowance of up to 520,- € per each full month
- We take a deposit of 150 € upon arrival, which is paid back if the room and flat is left in an adequate state (e.g. clean, no trash)
- Public transportation card for Berlin and the nearby region (VBB) is provided by ijgd
- Travel costs are refunded up to a lump-sum, calculated by an EU-tool, depending on the distance to your current registered address in your home country and Berlin
 - We strongly recommend using green transportation as train or bus
- Insurance: The blue European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will be your main insurance
 - The program provides a health and liability insurance by "Henner", to those who are not entitled to an EHIC

WHERE: Living in Berlin

- You live with 3-5 ESC-flatmates in a simple "student-WG", sharing kitchen and bathroom.
- Each of our 4 flats has a different layout.
- You will have a private room. The rooms vary in size from about 8 to 20 m²
- The flats are provided by ijgd are having basic equipment, sufficient for one year and fully cleaned before your arrival
 - Blankets and pillows are provided
 - Please bring bed linen and towel
- Smoking in the flat is strictly prohibited and on balconies only permitted with the consent of all flatmates
- You and your flatmates are responsible for the caring use of the flats and good relationship with the neighbours, as it is essential for the whole project and its future
- The flats are located in the centred districts of Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Wedding in Berlin
- You might have up to 30-50 minutes of commuting for one way

TOGETHER: Be Part of and learn from an International Volunteer Group



- We see the ESC as a voluntary service within a group of volunteers. You will share your experiences with 18-20 other ESC-volunteers in Berlin through the year
- ijgd Berlin has projects for Deaf and hearing volunteers. For seminars and group activities we will have Sign Language interpreters
- there will be contact to other ijgd-(ex)-volunteers, both German and International
- as a group you will have the option to organise common activities by yourselves

DEUTSCH?: About the Languages

- You should feel comfortable and confident in speaking/signing, writing and understanding a certain level of either German, English or German/International Sign Language
 - Language knowledge is officially not a requirement for the ESC
 - For most projects, basic knowledge of German is recommended
 - For the Project at Sinneswandel, knowledge of German/ International Sign Language is required.
- You can attend an online language course provided by the EU platform “EU Academy”
- ijgd organises an extra language course of German and German Sign Language
 - ➔ For an easier adaptation, we strongly recommend starting learning the language before departure! Why not right now? ;-)

LEARNING: Support & Seminars

- The ijgd team supports you during the year and you will have a tutor in your project
- Your sending organisation will be supporting you through the year and be your contact
- ijgd organises a Welcome and Kick-Off seminar upon arrival at the ijgd office
- 2 trainings, organised in behalf of the German National Agency “Jugend für Europa” are mandatory in the ESC, where you will also meet ESC volunteers in Germany:
 - 1 On-Arrival Training in October/November (10 days)
 - 1 Mid-Term Training in February/March (5 days)

WHAT’S NEXT: Preparation

- If an ESC in Berlin starting in September, sounds, then your next steps will be:
 - 1. Find a suiting volunteering project for you
 - 2. Fill out the ijgd application form,
 - 3. Attach a CV in German or English. If you like, you can add a photo
 - 4. Send everything per Mail to: esc-applications.berlin@ijgd.de
 - 5. In case of available projects: ijgd invites you to an online Info meeting and interview. **Save the date for the Info meeting: 10.04 from 10:00 to 12:00!**
 - 6. After the meeting with us, address a short motivation letter to the project, to present yourself
 - 7. Your project might wish for an online meeting as well
 - 8. Your ESC starts with the final approval by the project
- ijgd will keep you updated with info-mails about the further process and invite for an online pre departure meeting
- Your Support Organisation in your home country is responsible for your preparation before departure. You will get an info-kit and have a pre-departure seminar/meeting

See you in Berlin!

