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This Walker Is Walking

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Emily Walker Germany NGU
This walker is walking 4/5/16



Old American Sector Boundary

This Walker is Walking...to class everyday. The campus is a wonderful 40 minute walk from the dorms. While there are busses that can be taken to or from, walking gives me more time to talk to other students, get familiar with the area, get lost in a neighbourhood and learn German words that occurs in everyday life around a city. Classes start much later here than in the United States. My first class wasn't until March 22nd, but not all classes have regular meetings, yesterday (April 4th) was my first German class. Classes here meet once every week or every other week, meaning much less class time than at Linfield. The German system is 100% based off of a final test which provides incentives for many of the German students to not come to class after the first lecture when we receive our scripts (specifically chosen text from either textbooks or articles) that will be used for the entire semester. This means there is not much interaction between the German students and the Internationals in class.

Easter weekend, a group of 9 International students grabbed our bags, packed two rental cars and drove to Salzburg, Hallstatt, and Innsbruck, Austria. We learned the importance of early planning and confirmation emails, as we discovered our hostel had cancelled on us as we drove into Salzburg the first day- resulting in scrambling to find somewhere to accommodate us with no notice. Nevertheless, we found an awesome Bed & Breakfast about an hour outside of Salzburg in a small village. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we got to drive through the Alps, see more than just big cities, and learn more about each other through hours in the car and seeing how one another from different cultures handled stressors, dilemmas and the joys of traveling. In each city we spent the day walking (again, its the best mode of transportation in Europe), checking out Cafes, finding the best viewpoints and visiting the celebrated museums and city centres.

In my class "Germany in the Heart of Europe," a course offered to all international students, we looked at the aftermath of WWII and how Berlin became divided and viewed by the rest of Germany before the destruction of the wall. This last weekend, Sarah and I, along with two other students from NGU, were lucky enough to be heading to Berlin! With plans to visit a former Linfield student that we all had as a mutual friend- amazing as we all knew her from different places! Berlin, bigger than the whole state of Oregon, is a bustling, open-minded, historically filled town. Standing under a sign saying "You are now leaving the American Sector" put the class discussion from earlier in the week into perspective. Within a city block you can be in what was American Territory, Russian Territory, looking at the broken, graffitied wall, East and West Berlin.

Emily Walker