Summer Program in Trier, Germany, through Georgetown University!

German Students of CSB-SJU,

If you are unsure about your ability to study abroad in Salzburg for a semester (it doesn’t fit into your schedule, too long to be away, etc.), consider a shorter term of studying abroad like the one I, Kristine Bornus, attended in Trier, Germany. The program that I went on lasted for five weeks and was through Georgetown University. During the program, I attended two classes at the Universität Trier, lived with a host family, and attended group excursions to Bernkastel, Burg Eltz, Heidelberg, Köln, and Luxenberg. The group was expected to speak German for the entirety of the five weeks, to both group members and in class, which is not as intimidating as it sounds because you will be surprised at how fast you get used to it. My classes were relatively intense, you are squeezing a semester’s worth of material into five weeks, but I found that my Professor was relatively laid back and was willing to make accommodations if the homework load was too intense for us.

My favorite part of the trip was getting to know the Georgetown students, and to experience the nightlife of Trier and evening excursions with them. These included public viewings of soccer games (so fun!), dinners, just hanging out, and visits to the club Forum. It was a great opportunity to get to know a new group of people and to really be immersed in the German culture, which is far different than the culture you would experience on a family vacation of Germany!

Another great part of the trip was living with a host family. My host mother would make my roommate and I breakfast every morning and talk with us while we ate (this was a great warm up for the German speaking of the day because my host parents did not speak English). I found my host parents to be welcoming and accepting, but they were also always eager to ask me my opinion...
on American policies (Be careful what you say!). Being respectful, polite, and sociable helped to grow my relationship with my host parents and often resulted in rewards in the form of cake. If I agreed to have a piece of cake, it usually resulted with me receiving a plate with two pieces of cake. Not sure how this worked out but no complaints here!

If money is an issue, I found that it was relatively easy to stay within the budget I had planned out for the trip. Food in the Mesa, cafeteria, of the University was only €2.30 and incredibly filling. My breakfasts and sometimes dinners were provided for me, so my only real expenses were for extra things like souvenirs. One warning is that buying alcohol adds up, so watch how much you are spending on it. Getting around is also free because at the beginning of the trip Georgetown provides you with bus passes for the five weeks that you are there.

The trip was fun, I got an experience of what it would be like to be a German student, and was able to finish my German minor with the completion of the summer program. If studying abroad for a semester isn't right for you, and it's not for everyone, please consider this program. You won't regret it!

Here's a link to Georgetown's website in case you want more information:  
http://studyabroad.georgetown.edu/