Summer School 2018, Module 1:  
The strengths and weaknesses of the German economy. A practical approach.

Content:
This module is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview on the state of the art of the German economic system and how Germany has managed to emerge as a winner from the current European crisis without neglecting future opportunities and threats.

The course covers the following topics:
- Strengths of the German economy (export world champion)
- German “Mittelstand” and its business culture
- Vocational training
- Recent reforms of the labour market and welfare system and its consequences
- Differences between East and West
- Importance of foreign work force
- Benefits from the Euro crisis
- Current issues and future challenges

Lectures are combined with excursions to companies and/or public institutions such as the German Federal Bank including discussions with experts in their field. Cultural activities complement the learning experience in order to provide students with deep insights into the local culture.

Learning outcomes:
Understand the German economy and the country’s position within Europe. Being able to critically reflect on current and future topics from a German/European point of view and thus being able to reflect on other countries’ perspectives in general.

Prerequisites: none  
Contact hours: 37  
ECTS: 4  
Form of assessment: Class participation (40 %), Written exam 60 min. (60 %)  
Duration of module: June 24, 2018 - July 3, 2018  
Lecturer: Dipl.-Hdl. Alexander Pfisterer  
Language: English  
Range of application: Graduate and advanced undergraduate students