

## THE PROGRAM

## FURTHER INFORMATION

# AGTV-BJR STUDENT EXCHANGE

AN APPROXIMATE 10-WEEK  
RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
WITH BAVARIA IN GERMANY

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This is an approximate 10-week reciprocal student exchange program organised by the AGTV and BJR with the support of host families, schools and group leaders who travel with students. It complies with the guidelines and conditions of a registered Student Exchange Organisation.

Students live with their host family as a member of the family and must be enrolled and attend school.

Bavarian students arrive in February to live with a host family and are enrolled at their exchange partner's school. There is an optional study tour organised by the AGTV for the Bavarians. They return to Germany in April.

Victorian students must travel as a group in November to live with their host family and attend school in Bavaria with an optional study tour to Berlin. Students return to Australia at the end of January or early in February.

The AGTV and BJR and group leaders monitor and support students and their families during the exchange periods.

Schools share responsibility for supporting students on the exchange.

The AGTV requires students and their parents to attend pre-hosting and pre-departure meetings.

The AGTV selects a travel agent to organise group travel for the students and group leaders.

Visit the AGTV website for more information under **Students: AGTV-BJR Student Exchange** and download the *Expression of Interest* form for the current year.



<https://agtv.vic.edu.au/students/agtv-bjr-student-exchange/>

or contact the AGTV Coordinator  
[bjr@agtv.vic.edu.au](mailto:bjr@agtv.vic.edu.au)

## agtv.vic.edu.au

Supporting teaching and learning since 1979



**Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc.**

Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc.  
A0024716J  
ABN 69 688 318 657

The AGTV Inc. is committed to child safety and has zero tolerance of child abuse.

INFORMATION UPDATED FEBRUARY 2024



Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc.

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Bayerischer Jugendring  
Association of German  
Teachers of Victoria Inc.

The Bayerischer Jugendring (Bavarian Youth Council or BJR) is a public body commissioned by the Bavarian State Ministry of Education and the Arts with responsibility for international student exchanges in Bavaria. Bavaria is the largest state in Germany.

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV) is a not-for-profit association and a registered Student Exchange Organisation (SEO) with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

The AGTV has organised the AGTV-BJR student exchange program since its inception in 1988.

The AGTV acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia as custodians of the land on which the exchange takes place.

## THE EXCHANGE

### TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE

Students apply to participate in one year to begin the exchange the following year. The German students arrive in February for approximately 10 weeks and the Australians fly to Germany in November of the same year.

### WHO CAN APPLY

Students learning German in an AGTV member school may apply when they are in Year 9 or 10 for travel in the following year.

The family and school must agree to participate within the guidelines of the AGTV-BJR exchange.

NB: The Bavarian State Government requires Victorian students to be vaccinated against measles.

### HOW TO APPLY

Students download an *Expression of Interest* form from the AGTV website to complete and forward by 31 March.

Students are sent a comprehensive application form which must be submitted with the administration fee and Working With Children Checks by 7 May.

Schools are required to formally agree to participate and endorse applications by 7 June. The school must have a current membership of the AGTV.

Students are matched according to their interests. Families are notified in September about the outcome of the matching process.

## COSTS TO AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

An administration fee of \$850 is payable upon application including a non-refundable processing fee of \$70. If the student is not matched, \$780 will be refunded.

The AGTV facilitates group travel through a travel agent and appoints group leaders. The cost to each family for the return airfare, travel insurance, airport taxes and shared contribution towards group leader travel vary from year to year. It may be between \$3000 and \$4000 dollars.

Families provide pocket money for their own child when they are in Germany. An optional group study tour to Berlin for Australian students is organised by the BJR in Munich. The cost TBC, it was around \$1000 plus pocket money.

Families care for their host student in Australia as if they were a member of the family.

NB: Schools must not charge fees when enrolling students but may require students to wear uniform. Bavarian students must be officially enrolled at the school with the correct visa.

### BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Evaluations of each exchange group confirm that the exchange is challenging but overwhelmingly rewarding for students in developing friendships, resilience, intercultural understanding and German language skills. Christmas and New Year in Germany and the Berlin study tour are often the highlights for Australian students.

