Since 1964 Indiana high school students travel to Krefeld, Germany, to spend an unforgettable seven weeks surrounded by all things German. Named the greenest city in Germany, not too large nor too small, with the right mix of culture and fun, Krefeld offers an ideal environment to young Americans who look to immerse themselves into German life. Visitors not only have the experience of a lifetime but also contribute to U.S.-German understanding of a more interconnected world. While in Krefeld, students live in German host families, study German in a structured, academic environment through morning classes and afternoon activities as well as participate in numerous excursions.

**German Immersion**
- Seven weeks in June/July
- 100-percent Language Commitment of speaking German
- Living with a Krefeld host family
- Intensive academic classes, including grammar, conversation, literature, culture, phonetics, music and theatre
- Excursions: Rhine trip, Cologne and Aachen
- Mayor reception and multiple special events
- Trip: three days Berlin
- Excursions with instructors and/or host families possible

**Food**
German breakfasts include the world’s most famous bread, typically fresh yeast roles from the bakery, a selection of cheese and meat, jams, butter and honey. Some host families also offer cereals and milk or prepared eggs. Most visitors who have tasted German bread are never the same and will miss their favorite bread forever.

For most families, dinner is the main meal of the day. Students typically receive lunch packets and participate in meals with their host family. Most dishes are cooked from scratch and may include a combination of potatoes, meats, pastas, salads and vegetables.

**Going out**
Krefeld’s restaurant scene is eclectic and offers numerous choices from typical German to ethnic foods. During free times, students will be able to sample their way through Krefeld’s eateries as the school is located downtown, only minutes from restaurants and shopping. The famous Doener is one of the students’ favorite meals.

For those in need of sweets, Germany’s ice cream parlors are heavily influenced by Italian artisans of ice cream. One famous dish is spaghetti ice cream, a concoction of vanilla ice cream shaped like noodles with strawberry sauce and white chocolate over whipped cream. Cafés offer a wide selection of cakes and pastries, coffees and cold drinks.
Krefeld
Krefeld, first mentioned in 1105, is situated in the mid-western region on Germany’s longest and busiest river Rhine and near the industrial cities of Duesseldorf and Cologne. Krefeld, the city of velvet and silk became famous for its production of cloth and fine silks. Today, ties are still manufactured in town. Krefeld’s 235,000 citizens have many choices spending their free time. Multiple green spaces, parks, a huge public indoor and outdoor pool and a network of bike trails invite to get active. At the Elfrather Lake, visitors can hike, bike, surf and sail. Throughout the year, Krefeld showcases many cultural venues and events, ranging from the Kaiser-Wilhelm art museum to the German Textile museum to music offerings in the Jazzkeller Krefeld or live music and theatre in the “Kufa.”

The 12th century Castle Linn, named after Otto von Linn, is one of the most picturesque medieval attractions in the area. As one of the largest water castles along the Rhine, it is surrounded by a mote and tells a rich history of attacks, wars and takeovers. The castle with its towers and high walls contains a museum and is surrounded by a beautiful park, complete with a hunting castle. While parts of the historic Krefeld were destroyed during British bomb raids and subsequent firestorms in 1943, some historic architecture escaped unscathed. On the south and west side of town, residual homes from the 19th and 20th century show their ornate trim and siding to passersby. A fully restored 16th century mill, old churches and the city palais, build in 1794, now functioning as city hall, provide a taste of history throughout town.

Cologne and Aachen
Though IUPHFL students participate in a stringent academic schedule of the German language, they get to enjoy not only Krefeld, but visit Europe’s tallest cathedral, the Cologne Dom and the Altstadt nearby. In Aachen they see the old Muenster and historic downtown. New since 2011 is the Rhine tour, a boat trip on Germany’s longest river. Like pearls, old castles and ruins line the steep hills, far above many historic villages. Students learn about the legend of Lorelei who sat upon a rock and with her singing lured and distracted boat captains until they lost their way and capsized.

Berlin
Certainly one of the highlights of the Germany trip is a three-day excursion of Berlin. As the old and new capital of Germany, Berlin offers an amazing glimpse of history and modern marvels, offering students a deeper sense of Germany history. Students visit the “wall,” the Holocaust memorial as well as Hohenschönhausen museum and memorial, the government spy organization of the former East-German government. Evening entertainment is also provided as students visit attractions like the famous Blue Man show.

Host Family Experience
Nothing tells more about German life and teaches the language better than living with a German family. In Krefeld, host families have cared for IUPHFL students for nearly fifty years. They welcome students as their own, provide breakfasts, snacks and dinners and often take students on additional excursions. They pick up and drop off and treat students like their own children.

Thus many students return to the U.S. full of new impressions, outstanding language proficiencies and many new and dear friends. Often, students remain in touch with their host families for a lifetime, having forged new friendships across the ocean. For most students the IUPHFL experience is truly life changing.