



Art Immersion - Berlin ART MATERIALS

Here is an encyclopedia of everything I can think of that students will need while traveling:

Backpack:

<https://arkadiasupply.co/products/sea-to-sky-pack#shopify-product-reviews>

Paint Colors for recommended **limited palette** (add what you like!):

Oil Painters:

1. **Cad Yellow Light (Gamblin)**
2. **Naphthol Red (Gamblin)**
3. **Ultramarine Blue (Rublev, or anything but Winton)**
4. **Lead White (Rublev, BlockX, Blue Ridge Oils, or RGH oils)**

Extra: I'll be including:

5. Maya Blue or Prussian Blue
6. French Raw Umber

*NOTE to oil painters: You may find you like Charvin paints, (their "best" or "finest" quality), which were made for en plein air painting. They're very fluffy in texture.

Need a discount code for Rublev? Use **10Studis17** at checkout.

www.naturalpigments.com

Acrylic Painters

Cad Yellow Light

Naphthol Red

Ultramarine Blue

Titanium White

NOTE: "Open" paints will feel more like oils, but will take 4-6 hours to dry. I think they'd be a great option if you want the feel of painting wet-into-wet. I'd personally add a couple of regular earth colors that dry quickly for underpaintings. The open and regular acrylics can be mixed without any problems.

Watercolorists (and, GOUACHE)

I recommend getting a small travel kit that includes a brush and making a test paint chart that fits into the kit, or can be taped to the bottom of the box.

https://www.amazon.com/Winsor-Newton-Cotman-Sketchers-14-Pieces/dp/B00004THXI/ref=asc_df_B00004THXI/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=167148482147&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=8503489471351202628&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=t&hvdvcmld=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9027581&hvtargid=pla-125519798235&psc=1

Bring a few brushes with you for various effects.

OTHER ITEMS:

Nitrile Gloves (For Oil, and Acrylics if you like)

Small trash bags/ziplock bags for disposal of rags/trash

Small travel-sized water spray bottle (acrylic painters and watercolorists)

Small travel-sized shampoo bottles for oil mediums and turps (oil painters)

Palette cups with/without clips (lids are OK too). (These are those metal cups for oil painters that deteriorate after a few months.)

Tape - for everything.

Ziplock bags - for safely packing your materials and trash

Pencil carrying case

****DO NOT TRAVEL with Turpentine or Odorless Mineral Spirits. If anyone needs them, I will purchase them on the first day at the art store and distribute them to your empty travel bottles.*

Mediums:

Oil Painters: ***IDEALLY, you are only using paint straight from the tube.*** However, if you want to use mediums I'm going to HIGHLY recommend using a mix of Linseed oil + Epoxide oil to help expedite your painting process. The Epoxide oil (from Natural Pigments website), acts as an alkyd to dry your paintings faster. I have used Oleogel (Rublev/Natural Pigments) in the past and my paintings have turned out a bit yellow from using too much. You can use it but only use a small amount.

Rags:

- A. Oil painters, I prefer blue, lint-free rags. (Tear them apart before traveling and roll them into a ziplock bag. Take out what you need each day)
- B. Acrylic painters, you can use white rags that can be washed out each night and hung to dry.
- C. Watercolorists, you can use tissue paper - the cheaper the better - no lotion added. Sometimes, you get this free on international flights!

Pochade Boxes (Travel Easels):

These typically do not include tripods

This is the one I have and I love it!

<https://www.prolificpainter.com/shop/easel/>

*This website also sells a "Forever Turp Jar" that works well, and re-usable trash bags (perfect for Amsterdam!).

Here is another one from the same company that is smaller:

<https://www.prolificpainter.com/shop/the-fly-on-the-wall/>

If you're all fancy pants, these are popular:

<https://www.stradaeasel.com>

On a budget? Maybe consider this one. It's not that much cheaper, but saves a few bucks:

<https://guerrillapainter.com/collections/9x12-laptop-box/products/9x12-laptop-box>

Tripods for Pochade Boxes:

Rangers 55" Ultra Compact Aluminum Tripod is the best one that I found while I was searching. This tripod fits into the recommended backpack. It's the lightest weight I was able to find and it folds down smaller than any other I've seen on the market. It includes a "ball head", necessary to attach most pochade boxes.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B011UO068S/ref=cm_cr_ar_p_mb_bdcrb_top?ie=UTF8

Wet Panel Carriers:

Where do you put wet paintings? In a carrier. These come in a variety of sizes. I own the 8" x 10" and I bought an adapter to make it 5" x 7", but at the end of the day, I just stuck with 8" x 10" panels. This is a personal decision. These holders can carry 3-6 wet paintings at a time. They are made of corrugated plastic and work very well. They do not fit in the backpack, but do have a strap.

BTW, after a long day painting, make sure to carefully take out your paintings and let them dry in the open air of wherever you are staying.

<https://www.raymarart.com/collections/wet-painting-carriers/products/wet-painting-carrier-flat-track?variant=8705714290742>

Painting Panels:

While you're on the wet panel carrier website, I recommend purchasing panels to use for painting. These will fit into the paint carrier and make life so much easier! I recommend their "**Feather Lite**" series. 1/16" MDF panels will be much lighter to carry than thicker ones. *I am currently trying out other brands of panels. I'll update these as I test them.*

Only get "Oil Primed" supports if you intend to paint in oil. Otherwise, the other ones are perfect!

The sizes you purchase should match your Wet Panel Carrier!

<https://www.raymarart.com/collections/archival-painting-panels>

Brushes:

I like a variety of brushes.

I'll bring 1-2 Hogshair bristle brushes (Stiff white bristles for sketching)

6-8 soft, natural hair bristle brushes

I have a mish-mosh of brush brands. I like cheap hogs-hair brushes (From anywhere - made in China) and expensive natural hair bristles (From Rosemary & Co and Trekkell, made in England)

<https://www.rosemaryandco.com>

I have also become a HUGE fan of brushes from Trekkell:

<https://www.trekell.com>

Palette knife

You just need one. I prefer a smaller triangle-looking one. The smaller ones seem to fit easier on travel pochade set-ups, where we don't have a ton of room to work.

Travel brush holder:

I have something like this, though I got it from a different source:

https://www.amazon.com/Langnickel-2-Inch-Zippered-Carrier-Handle/dp/B00541OTF2/ref=sr_1_11?keywords=paint+brush+case&qid=1639022371&sr=8-11

Sketchbooks:

Sketchbooks are personal. It takes a while to find one you can bond with. When you finally bond, buy several of them in case they stop manufacturing them. ;)

I like something that is spiral-bound so it lays completely flat while I work. This is my favorite one. The price varies greatly from each retailer. TX Art Supply typically has a great price. Note: The image on the cover may change each year.

https://shop.startsupply.com/products/canson-artist-series-cream-drawing-notebook?variant=31685390696531¤cy=USD&utm_medium=product_sync&utm_source=google&utm_content=sag_organic&utm_campaign=sag_organic&utm_campaign=gs-2021-03-23&utm_source=google&utm_medium=smart_campaign&gclid=CjwKCAiA78aNBhAlEiwA7B76p3rUjm6B6uXXd1lu9mHa6JxaZna46gDG2Fhr3GLUx0Kn2Q6c-hz_JRoCwkQQA_VD_BwE

If you plan on using water-media in your sketchbook, make sure you get one that has paper designed for watercolor so it will hold the moisture without melting your paper into pulp.

Watercolor Pads:

Painting in watercolor? Sketching in watercolor?

Texas Art Supply has GREAT cheap watercolor blocks that are glued on 2 sides of the block. Cheaper watercolor paper yields different results from the really expensive stuff.

Cold pressed, or hot pressed - completely up to you!

<https://www.texasart.com/group/10213/fluid-cold-press-watercolor-paper.html>

Pencils:

As much as I love Staedtler Lumograph Drawing and Sketching Pencils (2H, H, 4B, 6B), with a sharpener, sander and nylon retractable eraser (All available at Texas Art), I have found that I truly love Blackwing Palomino pencils which, with a singular pencil, can make marks as light as a 2B and as dark as a 6B. Since they're Japanese Graphite, they have more graphite per cubic whatever-unit-they-measure, than my beloved Staedtlers. They feel like drawing with a velvet marker. They also come with an eraser attached that actually works. They're just simply cool and make you look cool when you use them. This is probably what I'll be working with because I'm in love. I don't even get a kickback from the company, though I might be their biggest fan. Ever. (Don't forget to get their sharpener designed for super-sharp points.)

https://blackwing602.com/products/blackwing-palomino-orange-set-of-12?gclid=Cj0KCQiAzMGNBhCyARIsANpUkzMWldzU6llGMFncxxkf54qP-bKKNxZFZQzGEP9jEJ4hKFvF_ejpY2WwaAnScEALw_wcB

Silverpoint?

If you know what it is, yes. Bring it!

Can I paint in oil/acrylic some days and watercolor other days?

YES! You can use whatever you like on any given day, *with a couple of exceptions*.
I'll mark this info on the itinerary.

Make your travel so much easier!

Pack your paints and mediums in your check-in luggage!

You'll want to print out the following letter to include in your luggage. Tape lids shut and put them in Ziplock bags. Tape the letter on the ziplock bag containing your paints. I know you may not have Michael Harding paints, but the letter is still relevant. I've never had my paints confiscated, nor have I ever purchased Michael Harding paints...I just like his letter.

*Pro-tip: **If asked, ONLY refer to your paint as "artist colors"**. If you say "paint", TSA, or customs may consider your paints harmful, toxic, or containing mineral spirits and they'll end up in the trash.

<http://www.michaelharding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/IATA-2019-Transportation-Safety-Letter-Michael-Harding-Artist-Materials-1.pdf>

BTW, if anyone asks (doubt they will) please say you are an art student. The general public is not allowed to purchase lead white paint, but students still can.

Big Floppy Hat For Painting

The larger and more ridiculous-looking, the better. It not only shields you from the sun, it also helps detract people from wanting to interrupt you while you're painting/drawing in public. *Wearing a mask will likely be a great "leave me alone" statement too...

Painting Clothes or Apron

We're going to work. Dress accordingly. It may get sweaty and gross. There's no way of telling.

Layered Clothes - Be a transformer. The temperature in May and June in Berlin can be quite chilly. Thin, lightweight layers are very helpful!

Bug Spray & Sun Block

Painting outdoors is an adventure.

Snacks

Yes, Berlin will have plenty of food, but travel with some bars, or snacks just in case. Especially, when we're out on our painting trips.

Water bottle:

I love my bottle and use it everyday. It fits in the backpack and can also be used with a clip.

https://www.camelbak.com/recreation/shop/bottles/bpa-free-plastic/chute-mag-32oz-bottle-with-tritan-renew/CB-2469.html?dwvar_CB-2469_color=Cardinal

TSA Global Entry:

This won't make a huge difference *going* to Berlin, but makes the return SO MUCH FASTER.

You'll be set for TSA pre-check on the way out of the country so you can swoop through the long lines and you don't have to take off your shoes. It's pretty sweet.

Buying Global Entry does add a bit more to your overall travel cost, but it's good for 5 years. I based my decision on how much my time was worth vs. standing in a line with people constantly cutting in front so they wouldn't miss their flights. After waiting 2+ hours to get through customs to re-enter the US from Berlin, Global Entry was a no-brainer.

If you want it, carve out time in advance, because acquiring this magical card takes a trip to the airport for an in-person interview, then a 3-4 week decision process (If I remember correctly).

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry/how-apply>

Internet Access while overseas:

<http://www.skyroam.com/>

OR,

<https://www.onesimcard.com>

OR,

Check with your own carrier

OR,

Get a Solis orange puck

[https://soliswifi.co/collections/wifi-plans?](https://soliswifi.co/collections/wifi-plans?fbclid=IwAR3a6vYaCrX75TLALc1EXIOAtQOt5_RaRjQXITmaZpAj2eelGphcaA1XJIE)

[fbclid=IwAR3a6vYaCrX75TLALc1EXIOAtQOt5_RaRjQXITmaZpAj2eelGphcaA1XJIE](https://soliswifi.co/collections/wifi-plans?fbclid=IwAR3a6vYaCrX75TLALc1EXIOAtQOt5_RaRjQXITmaZpAj2eelGphcaA1XJIE)

Prescriptions:

Make sure you get your meds before you travel! Give your insurance and your pharmacy time to process refills. I had mediocre insurance and they were still able to give me 3 months of refills upfront because I was traveling overseas. The pharmacy will need at least 2 weeks notice to get this done for you. They'll have to contact your doctor and insurance company. It takes time, so be prepared.

While you're at it, make a little medical kit. Include stuff for headaches, minor wounds, sleeping aids, muscle pain, or whatever floats your boat to treat yourself to a comfy trip.

Earplugs.

Don't leave home without them. Take a pair - *everywhere*.

Neck Pillows, Turtle Scarves, Foot Swings, Blankets, Compression socks

Whatever makes you feel good on a long flight.

Liability Waiver(s)

It's not you, it's me. Sadly, I don't have money to cover you if you get hurt or catch Covid during our trip. ***Please make sure you purchase travel insurance.*** It often only costs an extra \$60-\$100 per person for coverage of all medical expenses and any loss/theft while you're traveling. This includes missed flights and lost luggage. Contact whoever you made flight arrangements with for more information. More than likely, insurance (At the time of writing this) does not cover Covid-related costs such as quarantine. Please read all fine print and investigate on your own.

Please make sure to sign the Liability Waiver and get it back to Bradley (Bradblanco@gmail.com) as soon as you can. Your handwriting needs to be legible. You can either hand the signed form to Bradley in person, or take a jpeg of your signed form using the camera on your phone and forward the image to him via email. *Please, do me a huge favor, and have anyone who will be with our group at any given time sign one too. (Spouses, kids, friends...They all need one if they hang out with our student group). Thanks!

Credit Cards

Let your credit card company know where and when you'll be traveling so they don't freeze your credit cards. Also, check to see what the fee is for taking cash out of an ATM overseas. Some banks don't charge a fee at all, while others live for taking advantage of you needing cash from an ATM.

Charge Cords

Not all are the same. Some are really fast, others work on solar power. Find one that works with your mobile device and bring it along!

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-fast-iphone-chargers>

European Power Cord Adapter

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07FJWLLDB/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_B50PMXCHDMJW4J4PZQ8P