

# Humanistische Lebenskunde

(Humanistic Life Skills)  
Registration in Berlin and Brandenburg



## **The Humanistische Verband (humanist association) in Berlin and Brandenburg**

We, the Humanistische Verband Deutschlands (HVD), are an ideological community equivalent to churches (as laid down in article 140 of the constitution) which represents interests of the undenominational. Based on tolerance, self-determination and solidarity, we advocate for a more humane society.

In Berlin and Brandenburg our operations include running more than twenty nursery schools, our own technical college for social education as well as teaching the subject of Humanistische Lebenskunde in public schools.

Our regional authority in Berlin and Brandenburg also organizes the JugendFEIERn (youth ceremony) and our youth department, the Jungen Humanist\_innen offers holiday trips and recreational activities for children and adolescents.

Furthermore we consult and offer guidance for people in need regarding various subjects such as pregnancy, conflicts within the family, necessary nursing of family-members and housing shortage or homelessness.

With over 12.000 members, approximately 1.200 full-time employees and 1.000 committed volunteers, we offer support, council and help no matter what nationality, ethnic background, gender and ideology.



**Humanistischer Verband Deutschlands,  
Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.  
Bereich Lebenskunde**  
Wallstraße 61–65, 10179 Berlin  
Tel: 030 613904-60, Fax: 030 613904-52  
info@lebenskunde.de, www.lebenskunde.de

## Registration

### Submit to school office.

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Name of parent/legal guardian

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Name of student

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Date of Birth

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Street address and

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Postal Code/City

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Telephone

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Name of School

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Class

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The Humanistische Verband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. uses this data only for organizational purposes of the Humanistische Lebenskundeunterrichts. In case you wish to stay informed about our activities, please check the box below to subscribe to our free newsletter:

Yes, please keep me informed.

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E-mail

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Date

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Students signature (from the age of 14)

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Parents signature

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### Themes from framework

»To decide oneself means taking responsibility«

The humanist view of life

»I like you«

Making friends

»Where are you from?«

Learning about other cultures

»Can flowers be happy?«

Philosophizing with children

»What is being celebrated there?«

Celebrations and customs

»You are seeing ghosts!«

Learning about skeptical thinking

»I have a bad conscience«

Norms, rules and responsibility

»Eco? - logical!«

Correlations between

humans, plants and animals

»Where cows are holy«

Learning about and comparing religions

»No means No!«

To respect oneself and others

»Peace is exhausting, War is deadly«

Maintaining peace, cause of wars

### What is Humanistischer Lebenskundeunterricht (humanistic life skill education)?

Humanistische Lebenskunde is taught at schools in Berlin and Brandenburg as a subject by choice equivalent to religious education. Berlin started its program in 1984, Brandenburg followed in 2007. The fundamental principles of Lebenskunde are based on humanism, scientific discoveries of mankind, nature and society as well as experiences of worldly-humanistic traditions. Our education is geared to humanist ideas and merits like self-determination, responsibility and tolerance. We want to actively resolve conflicts and thus support a more friendly coexistence of all people.

### What happens during Humanistischen Lebenskundeunterricht?

We center our curriculum on our students – their experiences, questions, interests, problems, feelings and their way of thinking are fundamental to our teaching. Our classes focus on topics like friendship, everyday life of children and adults, responsibility and support, childrens’ and human rights and the ever recurring question of the meaning of life itself. Our goal consists in encouraging and supporting our students to reflect on themselves and the world, in order to develop humanistic and non-religious standpoints.

### Who can participate?

The Humanistische Lebenskundeunterricht is basically available to all students. Students that have not yet reached the age of 14 will need a written registration signed by their parents, from the age of 14 students can declare themselves.

### Who is responsible for Humanistische Lebenskunde?

The Humanistische Verband Deutschland (HVD) and its Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. are responsible for the composition and execution of all classes. The HVD qualifies and assigns the teaching staff and executes the administrative supervision. The legal grounds for the voluntary school subject of Lebenskunde lay in §9 of the education act Brandenburg and in §13 of the education act Berlin. Lebenskunde is a non-graded subject which is usually taught during two hours per week. The full curriculum is published on our website: [www.lebenskunde.de](http://www.lebenskunde.de)

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