

## DGAP Transatlantic Paper

### Appendix: Overview of US-German Exchange Programs

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#### American-German Young Leaders Conference

Sponsored and administered by the American Council on Germany (ACG), this program annually assembles a group of fifty young leaders ages 28–38 from both the US and Germany. Participants come from a variety of professional fields and spend one week together, delving into bilateral issues and the transatlantic relationship. The conference boasts a number of high profile alumni and aims to help identify and foster the next generation of decision makers by giving them a solid background in transatlantic issues and increasing their peer network. ACG also sponsors fellowships designed to further American-German relations among professionals from specific fields and in academia.

#### Atlantik-Brücke Young Leaders Program

Once affiliated with the ACG Young Leaders Conference, Atlantik-Brücke's Young Leaders Program is now an independent offering that brings together 25 Americans and 25 Germans each year. The one-week conference includes plenary sessions and working groups. Young leaders are nominated either by program alumni or Atlantik-Brücke members. The program is also financed by Atlantik-Brücke.

#### Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Institute

Open to over thirty countries in Europe and Eurasia (as well as the US), the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Initiative brings together up to ninety youths ages 16–18 for an intensive one-month program in the US. Fellows are

hosted at an American university; attend workshops, training sessions, and cultural events; and interact extensively with each other. These full scholarships are funded by the US Department of State.

### **Bundestag International Parliamentary Scholarships**

Targeted to people under thirty from the US, France, and Israel, as well as from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, these scholarships provide participants with a 15-week work placement in the office of a Member of the German Bundestag. The program is designed to increase cultural and political understanding between countries that shared the same values. The scholarships are financed by the German Bundestag and administered in collaboration with Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, and Technische Universität Berlin.

### **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)**

In many respects, this is the gold standard for American-German exchange programs. CBYX makes it possible for 250 high school students ages 16–18 from each country to study for a year in the partner country (fully funded) while living with a host family. The program is funded jointly by the German Bundestag and the US Congress. CBYX also offers a postsecondary program for youth ages 18–24 that involves language study and an internship in the host country, while a smaller number of Vocational Youth Exchange scholarships are offered to graduating seniors who have completed vocational training and would like to enhance their experience by going abroad for the year after high school. The program is administered by a number of non-profit and private companies on behalf of the US and German governments.

### **Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Staff Exchange Program**

A smaller exchange consisting of twenty participants (ten Americans and ten Germans) per year, this staff program aims to increase professional political understanding. Selected legislative staff spend two weeks in the partner country

learning about its political institutions and discussing relevant issues in the context of government service. Like CBYX, the Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Staff Exchange Program is financed by the US Congress and the German Bundestag.

#### Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program

Established by then-US Ambassador to Germany Dan Coats in 2003, the Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program gives teachers from the former German Democratic Republic the opportunity to spend two weeks in the US and develop a deeper and more personal understanding of American culture. The program aims to counteract long-lasting negative perceptions of the US in the former East Germany by “teaching the teachers,” who will then disseminate more accurate information about American culture to their students. Although it is administered by the US Embassy and Department of State, the program is financed by contributions from American and German businesses.

#### Federation of German-American Clubs Exchange Program

Founded in 1957, the exchange program allows up to 24 American and 30 German university students the opportunity to study for one year at one of approximately twenty partner universities in the host country. The program covers tuition for all students and provides a small stipend for the academic year. It boasts almost 2,500 alumni and is sponsored by its American partner universities (who provide the scholarship for German students) and the Federation of German-American Clubs (which provides the scholarship for American students). The Federation also sponsors a shorter two-week homestay exchange program for youth ages 14–18 each summer.

#### Fulbright Program

Designed to enable exchange between Americans and the rest of the world (with 4,500 grants sponsored annually), Fulbright grants can support an academic project in over 180 countries, although the program has a particularly rich history in Germany (represented by the German-American Fulbright Commission). It is

typically used to fund graduate study, language instruction assistantships for native speakers, and research conducted by academics – both for Americans going to Germany and Germans going to the US. The prestigious Fulbright program has existed since 1946 and is funded by the US Department of State.

### German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

A large funding organization that offers over two hundred programs, DAAD sponsors global international exchange that concentrates on promoting German language and culture. Scholarships are available for Germans to study abroad, as well as for non-Germans who wish to spend time in Germany. Programs range from teaching exchanges and teaching assistantships in a number of countries to help with direct enrollment at German universities. Financed primarily through the German Federal Government with some assistance from the European Union, DAAD also receives funding from private businesses and organizations in addition to foreign governments.

### German-American Internship Program

Offered by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), this program is intended for new graduates from certain professional fields (business, technical, engineering, architecture, design, journalism, and agriculture). Participants undertake a two- to twelve-month internship in the US in order to gain work experience, enhance their English skills, and familiarize themselves with American culture. Travel costs, language classes, and a partial stipend (if the internship is unpaid) are included. The program is administered by GIZ and financed by the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth. GIZ also offers a number of other global exchanges for Germans either during or just after completion of academic studies.

### German American Partnership Program (GAPP)

Designed as an exchange program based on relationships between American and German high schools, GAPP annually serves about eight hundred students. Students in partner schools develop relationships through continuing cultural study and eventually a small number of students undertake a reciprocal two- to three-week exchange at the host school while staying with a host family. Financial subsidies are given to participating schools and are financed primarily by the German Federal Foreign Office, with a smaller contribution from the US Department of State.

### German Chancellor Fellowship

Intended for “prospective leaders” from the US as well as Brazil, China, India, and Russia, the German Chancellor Fellowship is offered to up to ten participants from each country. Fellows must have received a bachelor’s degree within the past twelve years and apply to work on a project they have already developed with a host in Germany. The fellowship provides a monthly stipend in addition to opportunities for mentoring and networking. The program is financed by the German Federal Foreign Office and administered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

### Germany Close Up

This program is offered to young North Americans of Jewish descent (ages 18–35) and is designed to introduce them to modern Germany. Germany Close Up engages with Jewish community organizations on both sides of the Atlantic to bring participants over for short one- to two-week trips in which they learn about the Holocaust and postwar German society as well as issues of remembrance and German efforts to acknowledge responsibility. Visiting groups can be composed of students, young professionals, representatives from the rabbinical community, journalists, and others. The program was founded in 2007 and is administered by

Action Reconciliation Services for Peace and New Synagogue Berlin – Centrum Judaicum Foundation, with supporting financing from the German government.

### **International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)**

Billed as the US Department of State’s “premier professional exchange program,” IVLP draws nearly five thousand participants annually from around the world. It targets emerging international leaders for short-term stays (approximately three weeks) in the US, during which participants visit four American communities and engage in specific projects. The US Mission in Germany selects German participants. IVLP is funded and administered by the US Department of State.

### **McCloy Fellowship Program**

Targeted to highly talented young German leaders, the McCloy Fellowship provides a full scholarship to up to seven participants yearly to attend the two-year masters program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. It aims to educate future stakeholders in the German public sector, preparing them academically, professionally, and socially with a rich experience and network in the US. The program is funded by the German National Merit Foundation.

### **Robert Bosch Fellowship Program for Young American Leaders**

Founded in 1984, the Bosch Fellowship gives 15–20 American professionals under the age of forty the opportunity to live and work in Germany for one year. Participants are chosen from a wide variety of professional fields and are provided with a stipend as well as language study. The aim of the program is to help develop the next generation of transatlantic decision-makers by giving them in-depth insight into German culture and political institutions, as well as a closer look at Europe writ large. The fellowship is funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

### **Study Foundation of the Berlin House of Representatives Grant**

Established in 1994 as a show of appreciation to the Allied Powers of World War II, the Study Foundation awards twenty grants each year to young academics from

former Allied countries who wish to research a Berlin-related topic for twelve months. The award includes a monthly stipend, living accommodations, and travel costs. The program is financed and administered by the Study Foundation of the Berlin House of Representatives.

### Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP)

Since 2002, this program has given American social studies teachers a better view of German history and contemporary German culture through provision of teaching materials, a series of in-service training sessions, and a no-cost study tour of Germany each summer. The goal is to communicate more accurate and contemporary information about Germany to the teachers who can then communicate that knowledge to students and amplify the message. Designed as a public-private partnership, the program is supported by the German government as well as Deutsche Bank, the Goethe-Institut, the Robert Bosch Foundation, and the Siemens Corporation.

### Windows on America

Started in 2006 by then-US Ambassador to Germany William R. Timken, Windows on America focuses on offering German minority students and those with immigration backgrounds a ten-day stay in the US to learn more about American integration and diversity. Students stay with host families, go sightseeing, and visit schools and attend discussion sessions in order to acquire a better feel for American culture and history. The program is funded by private contributions from American and German companies, though the US Embassy and the Department of State are partners.<sup>1</sup>

### Youth for Understanding (YFU)

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<sup>1</sup>Note: this program has been discontinued and is likely to be replaced by a program with a similar funding structure designed by current US Ambassador to Germany, John B. Emerson.

A global network of connected organizations, YFU offers academic and cultural exchanges in over fifty different countries for approximately four thousand participants a year. The organization was founded in the US in the 1950s to bring German high school students to the US for a home stay and year of academic study. YFU still offers direct US-German exchanges among its many programs, along with a partial stipend for qualifying German students from minority backgrounds, from former East German states, or with a vocational educational background and a similar scholarship for American minority students.

**\*\*A number of other programs offering global opportunities for exchange** can be used for American-German exchange but are not limited to these two countries' citizens. Examples include those from AFS Intercultural Programs, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), Cultural Vistas, and Education First (EF).