



Transatlantic Program 2007

Program Description and Application Package

A. Brief Program Description

The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM) offers U.S. students the opportunity to apply for the German Program for Transatlantic Encounters (Transatlantic Program 2007). This is the third year that GACCoM has been able to carry out this program.

The Transatlantic Program 2007 offers an internship opportunity in Germany to 25 motivated and qualified students from U.S. colleges and universities and includes a fully-funded pre-internship seminar. This 10-day Immersion Seminar includes classroom language instruction,, lectures on various topics, visits to companies, government institutions and other organizations, and travel. Academic language training and cultural instruction focusing on Germany will be provided. Universities throughout the entire United States are invited to nominate their best students for this prestigious program. Students who have at least a working knowledge of German (2-years of college-level in German) are invited to apply for participation. For more information, please refer to the application details.

The Transatlantic Program is generally designed to offer young Americans the opportunity to gain a comprehensive perspective on German business, economy and politics, as well as an insight into German culture and language. The overall goal is to discover Germany through first-hand experience, while making contacts and forming relationships between Americans and Germans. The program aims to make a positive impact on the German American relationship. It is financed through the European Recovery Program (ERP) Special Fund.

The Transatlantic Program encourages colleges and universities whose students are selected to participate in the program to offer course credits for the internship program.

B. Schedule and Program Details

The Transatlantic Program 2007 consists of two parts. Part one and part two form an inseparable unit.

Part one: Immersion Seminar, May 19 – 29, 2007 in Berlin, Germany,

This seminar is fully-funded.

Throughout the seminar, which will include excursions from Berlin to Hamburg, Rostock, and Potsdam, students will meet with government officials, representatives of associations, companies, and fellow students from Berlin Universities to discuss topics of current and future interest. Participants will receive information from first-hand sources on a variety of topics relating to the German economic, political and social systems as well as on German culture and history. In addition, the students will be able to develop valuable social and business contacts



with German entrepreneurs, government officials, students and other interesting German parties.

Further program details will be available in Spring 2007. Please visit our website at www.transatlanticprogram.org for information on last year's program. GACCoM also prints a Transatlantic Program 2007 Brochure which will feature all program details as well as a listing of all participants and their internship companies and locations.

During this first part of the Transatlantic Program the students will be accompanied by representatives of GACCoM and taught by Helga Kraft, PhD, Professor of Germanic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Kraft will conduct the language classes/culture course during the Immersion Seminar with the help of two German native language teaching assistants from Berlin. The instruction is designed to help students prepare linguistically and culturally for topics they will discuss during visits with German companies and governmental agencies, to adapt to their new surroundings in Germany, and ultimately, to work and live in Germany. Students will receive an official German Language Course Certificate including contact hours for this part of the program.

- Please note that accepted senior students might have their graduation ceremony on the same weekend the program starts in Germany and will therefore miss the graduation. We ask you to consider this before applying to the program as every participating student must without exception be in Germany for the start on May 19.

Part two: Individual Internships

Part two of the program starts immediately following the immersion week in Berlin. The students will travel to their individual internship locations on May 29th, get settled in their respective cities and start their internships on June 1, 2007.

The students choose the duration of their internships:

- 2 months (until July 31, 2007),
- 10 weeks (until August 15, 2007),
- 3 months (until August 31, 2007) or
- 6 months (until November 30, 2007).

It is highly recommended to stay for at least a three-month internship in order to facilitate a good placement. All internships will be prearranged by GACCoM and its German partner InWEnt after the selection of 25 participating students. The participant's major field of study and professional interests will be taken into account in order to create the best possible fit between a German company and the U.S. student. Companies which offer short-term internships are less common in Germany and it might take some time to find a placement. Participating companies of the Transatlantic Program 2006 are listed on our website as a reference. There is no guarantee in any way that these companies will provide internships again in 2007.

Each American student can experience first-hand through their internship how a German organization functions. The students will not only be there to observe the inner-workings of a



German business but will also become a productive part of the company team. A high level of motivation and a strong work ethic will be expected from each student.

Whereas the first part of the program is a group experience, during the second part the 25 participants will continue their internships individually. They will stay in different cities and companies. All students will officially meet again once during their internship phase for a mid-term seminar which will be conducted in Cologne by GACCoM's German partner InWEnt. The next official and post-program meeting will take place after the return of all students to the United States, most probably at the end of 2007 or beginning of 2008.

Further details in regards to the placement process:

The more previous practical experience students have in their field of study, the more likely it is that they will obtain an internship related to their specialty. Students with less practical experience need to be more flexible in what to expect from their internship. Once an internship company has been found, the student will be informed about the placement. Students will not be able to choose between different companies or locations.

C. Eligibility

- Enrolled students (they need to be enrolled when applying; students graduating in spring 2007 may also apply).
- Majoring in Engineering, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Business Administration, or Computer Science.
- Minors in these areas of study may be considered.
- At least two years of college-level German; including the ability to speak and understand German at a conversational level.
- The program is primarily targeted towards students in their junior or senior year. The upper age limit is 30.
- Some work experience in their respective fields of study is preferable.

German companies will consider these qualifications when offering an internship. If the applicant's major does not match these categories, but a definite interest in the program exists, exceptions can be made on a case by-case basis. We encourage and accept recommendations for any student who might be well-suited for this opportunity.

D. Application and Selection Process

For the Transatlantic Program 2007, we look for excellent students from across the United States with the following characteristics:

- Open-minded personality, flexible, curious
- Highly motivated to learn through first-hand experience about Germany



- Interested in learning about current German economic and political topics
- Interested in being a young ambassador for the US in Germany and vice versa

Each application will be examined with the utmost scrutiny, as each selected student will be a representative of the German American Chamber of Commerce, their university, and, of course, the US.

The full application package must include:

- Resume in English (finalists will be asked to send resume in German)
- Letter of motivation (1-2 pages) specifying reasons for student's interest in the program
- Nomination by student's German professor
- Letter of recommendation with original signature on official letterhead from a professor in the student's major department. An additional LoR (e.g. by a German Professor) is more than welcome
- Official transcripts documenting all undergraduate or graduate studies
- Completed Internship questionnaire

Deadline to submit the full application is October 23, 2006. Email application is sufficient to meet the deadline, paper version with signed documents and official transcript needs to be received by October 30, 2006 at the latest. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Please mail your application to:

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest Inc.
Attn. Sabine Klensch
401 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 3330
Chicago, IL 60611
Email: klensch@gaccomm.org

GACCOM will evaluate the applications and conduct phone interviews in English and German with a pre-selected group of students before deciding on the final group of participants. Selection criteria will be the student's qualifications, his/her motivation for the program, good German language skills and work experience in his/her field of study. Participation is limited to 25 students.

GACCOM will inform all students regarding the outcome of their application in December 2006. Students accepted into the Transatlantic Program 2007 will be asked to provide further information on short notice, including a German resume, digital passport photos, etc. The process of matching the 25 participants with German companies offering internship opportunities begins in January 2007 and might take until April/May 2007. Most German companies will require phone interviews, and in some rare cases also personal interviews in the United States before making their decision. From experience, we know that matching all



students with the German companies for an internship will take a couple of months. In some instances, a final decision might occur only shortly before the Program starts.

E. Stipends and Costs Covered by The Transatlantic Program

The stipend and coverage of costs for participants of the Transatlantic Program 2007 include:

- 10 days of Immersion Seminar in Berlin, starting on May 19, 2007.
- Accommodations, meals, guided visits, and transportation during the immersion seminar.
- German language/culture course during the first week of the program to prepare for the visits, as well as for living and working in Germany. Books about Germany and the German business culture will be sent to the students before the start of the program.
- An introductory one-day seminar in Berlin to prepare for the internship, including intercultural training.
- Travel to the internship locations and to the mid-term seminar.
- Accident and liability insurance for the duration of the immersion seminar in Berlin and the internship in Germany.
- A USD 500 stipend to assist with the cost of the airfare between Germany and the US. Students buy their own flight tickets and submit proof of ticket purchase (e.g. e-ticket) to GACCoM. GACCoM will reimburse each student USD 500 after successful completion of the first part of the program in Berlin and the start of the internship in Germany.
- A one-time stipend of EUR 500 (value in 8/06 approx. USD 640) for the internship period Germany if the student does not receive from his internship company any monetary internship compensation, payment of housing expenses, or other forms of cost reimbursement.
- A two-day mid-term seminar in Cologne during the internship period to discuss experiences and observations.
- Transportation, accommodation, guided visits, and meals during the two day mid-term seminar.



F. Participant's Responsibilities

The participant's responsibilities are the following:

- A one-time, non-refundable administrative fee of USD 350 upon acceptance into the program (to be submitted together with the signed participation agreement).
- Providing health insurance during the whole stay in Germany or buying health insurance provided by our partner organization InWEnt (EUR 3.11 per day).
- Arranging round trip air travel (stipend of USD 500 will be granted as stipulated above).
- Providing housing during the internship (information on where and how to search for housing will be provided)
- Providing meals and personal expenses during the internship.
- Acting as a professional and worthy representative of the United States and the Transatlantic Program during the whole stay in Germany.

G. General Information

Overall, this is a fantastic opportunity for motivated, well-qualified U.S. students and we look forward to working with you. Should you have any questions, please contact the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest in Chicago:

Program Coordinator: Sabine Klensch
Email: klensch@gaccomm.org
Phone: (312) 494-2166

GACCom has considerable experience in organizing study tours: GACCoM has conducted Transatlantic Programs for the past five years for U.S. professionals and entrepreneurs, and since 2005 for students. The past programs were very successful and met the objectives of giving American participants an in-depth insight into modern Germany, bringing them together with a select group of high-ranking government officials and company representatives, and helping them to establish life-long personal and professional relationships. According to our participants' feedback, the Transatlantic Program was the opportunity of their lifetimes and was highly beneficial to their personal and professional development.

Please visit our website as a resource to read more about past programs and to find information on the current program: www.transatlanticprogram.org. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact our previous participants to hear about their experiences in Germany, as they will surely be happy to share their experiences with you.



Transatlantic Program 2007 Preliminary Schedule

October 6, 2006	Deadline for professors to nominate students
October 23, 2006	Deadline for students to submit applications to GACCoM
Nov./Dec. 2006	Review of applications and phone interviews with pre-selected applicants.
End of December 2006	Selection of participants. Accepted students will be informed immediately and need to submit participation agreement and participation fee to GACCoM to confirm their place in the program.
December/January 2007	Participants need to submit further documents such as a German resume, passport photo, etc.
Through April/May 2007	Students will be matched with appropriate German internship companies; students will conduct phone interviews with German companies; students will be informed individually as soon as placed
May 19, 2007 or earlier	Students will fly to Berlin, Germany according to their own arrangements
May 19, 2007	Start of the Transatlantic Program 2007
May 19-29, 2007	Group program in Germany including meetings, visits, language instruction, intercultural training, and preparation for the internships
May 29, 2007	Students will depart individually to their various internship locations
May 30-31, 2007	Adapting to new location and taking care of administrative issues (registration with city, housing, etc.)
June 1, 2007	Start of individual internships
July 2007	Mid-term seminar with InWEnt and all participants in Cologne
Individual dates	End of internship. Earliest return date to the U.S. is August 1st.
After November 2007	Post-internship meeting with all participants in Chicago



Transatlantic Program 2007

Summary of Student Internship Information

The Transatlantic Program provides 25 selected U.S. students with the opportunity of an internship in Germany, after completion of a one-week immersion seminar in Berlin, Germany.

A. Duration of Internship

The minimum duration of the internship is two months (until July 31st), 10 weeks (until August 15th), 3 months (until August 31st) or 6 months (until November 30th), depending on the individual student. We highly recommend internships for 3 months or longer.

B. Age and Student Status Requirements

The program is primarily targeted towards students up to age 30 who are in their junior or senior years.

C. Educational Background

This internship program is for enrolled students majoring in engineering, computer science, business, finance, or marketing. If the applicant's major does not match one of these categories yet there is a definite interest in the program, exceptions can be made on a case by-case basis. Practical work experience in the field of study is a plus.

D. German Language Requirements

In most instances, at least two years of college-level German is required. You must be able to conduct a conversation in German.

E. Host Companies

GACCoM and its partner InWEnt work with all types of German host companies and organizations: small family-owned businesses, medium sized companies, and the Big Blue, as well as economic development corporations, ministries, etc. More than 90% of all German companies are small and medium sized companies. While a "big name" certainly sounds attractive, be assured that smaller companies will provide for excellent internship experiences. Since internships with larger companies are very competitive, the likelihood of being placed with a big and well-known company is rather slim, especially for students who stay less than six months. Usually, the outcome of the internship highly depends on what the students puts in.



F. Financial Compensation for Internship Work

Financial compensation depends on the individual company. The longer the student stays, the more likely it is that the company will pay a salary. Two or three month-internships are considered short-term internships; therefore the student might only receive a small or no payment. In the case of non-paid internships, GACCOM will provide a one-time stipend of EUR 500 per student.

G. Regional Preferences

The host companies are located all over Germany. Our foremost goal is to provide the applicant with an internship placement with a company that is most suited to his/her individual qualifications, and thus the location is not our primary focus in the matching process.

H. Housing

The student is responsible to provide his/her own housing once placement with a company is confirmed. The host company might provide some leads. GACCOM and InWEnt will help with some general information on how to find your housing but it is the student's responsibility.

I. Health Insurance

Health insurance for the duration of the program is mandatory. A student enrolled at a college in the US should either keep his/her US insurance if it extends coverage to him/her during his/her stay in Germany, or purchase extra insurance coverage. InWEnt does offer insurance coverage, so let us know if you need our assistance in arranging for adequate insurance provision.

J. Cost of Living

The cost of living in Germany for a student depends on the city and can be calculated at approx. EUR 900/month (approx. USD 1,150/month). This includes housing, meals and to some extent entertainment.

Do you have any further questions?

Please contact Sabine Klensch (klensch@gaccomm.org) at the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Chicago.



Transatlantic Program 2007

Internship Questionnaire – To be returned to GACCOM with application!

This form is designed to inform us on your preferences, background, and interests. It will not be forwarded to companies. We encourage you to list your first, second, and third preference and to be receptive to alternatives. Although we cannot guarantee a placement based on the information on this sheet, we will certainly do our best to accommodate your preferences and to make your internship experience in Germany worthwhile.

Name _____ **University** _____

Please indicate preferred length of internship (information is binding)

2 months 10 weeks 3 months 6 months

Preferred field/department/projects you would be interested in:

Please provide us with details on your background and work experiences and what you would like to do in your internship:

Have you already established personal contact(s) with a German company that you would like us to follow up on?

Other things you would like us to consider:

Do you have any previous internship experience with companies in the U.S. or in Germany? If so, please specify.

No Yes _____



Transatlantic Program 2007

The Who is Who

Project coordinator:

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest Inc., Chicago
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Website: www.transatlanticprogram.org; www.gaccomm.org

Contact:

Ms. Sabine Klensch
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Students: If you have any questions, please contact Sabine Klensch

Partner organizations:

U.S. Partner – Academic part

University of Illinois at Chicago
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Chicago

Atlanta

New York

Philadelphia

San
Francisco

Universities: If you have any questions concerning the academic portion, please contact Dr. Kraft

German Partner – Internship

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Email: dawn.price@inwent.org

Students: If you have questions about your internships please contact Dawn Price Diegel.