



Transatlantic Program 2006 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 2006). This is the second year that GACCoM is able to carry out this program.

The Transatlantic Program 2006 offers an internship opportunity in Germany to 25 motivated and qualified students from U.S. colleges and universities, including one week of fully-funded pre-internship travel and immersion, which includes daily academic language and cultural instruction in Germany. Universities throughout the entire United States are invited to nominate their best students for this prestigious program. Students who have a working knowledge of German (2-years of college-level German) are invited to apply for participation. Please see information on application details.

The Transatlantic Program is generally designed to offer young Americans the opportunity to gain a comprehensive perspective of German business, German economy and politics, as well as an insight into the 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 at making a positive impact on the German American transatlantic relationship. It was established in 1997 and is financed with European Recovery Program (ERP) Special Funds.

The Transatlantic Program especially encourages those colleges and universities to participate that are able to offer course credits for the internship program.

B. Schedule and Program Details

As in the previous year, the Transatlantic Program 2006 consists of two parts.

Part one, starting May 20, 2006 in Berlin, Germany, includes a fully-funded week in Germany, with focus on its capital, Berlin. Throughout their trip, which will include excursions from Berlin to Hamburg and Dresden, students will meet with government officials, associations, companies, and fellow students to discuss topics of current and future interest. During their tour, the participants will receive first-hand information on a variety of topics, especially about the German economic, political and social system as well as on German culture and history. In addition, the students will create valuable social and business contacts with German entrepreneurs, government officials, students and other interesting German parties.

Program details will be available in spring 2006. Please also check out our website at www.transatlanticprogram.org for information on last year's program, which is similar to what we



plan for 2006. GACCoM also prints a Transatlantic Program 2006 Brochure which will feature all program details as well as a listing of all participants and their internship companies and locations.

During this part of the program the students will be accompanied by Helga Kraft, PhD, Professor of Germanic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, who will lead the language classes during that week. These language classes will help the students to adapt to their new surroundings in Germany, to prepare for the topics they are going to discuss with German companies and Government officials, and ultimately, to working in Germany. Students will receive an official German Language Course Certificate including contact hours for this first part of the program.

The second part of the program, starting June 1, 2006, consists of an internship with a German company for the duration of either:

- 2 months (until July 31, 2006),
- 10 weeks (until August 15, 2006),
- 3 months (until August 31, 2006) or
- 6 months (until November 30, 2006), depending on the individual student.

All internships will be prearranged by GACCoM and its German partner InWEnt after the selection of the 25 participating students. The participant's major area of study and interest will be taken into account in order to create the best fit between the German companies and the U.S. student. We expect some flexibility on behalf of the student concerning the internship companies. Companies which offer short-term internships are less common in Germany. For reference, the companies where participants of the Transatlantic Program 2005 interned or are still interning are listed on our website.

Each American student will experience first-hand how a German organization functions. The students will be not only there to observe the inner-workings of a German business, but also to become a productive part of the company team. A high-level of motivation and a strong work ethic will be expected from the students.

Part one and part two of the Transatlantic Program 2006 form an inseparable unit.

Whereas the first part is a group experience, during the second part the participants will continue their internships individually. People will be 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 by GACCoM's German partner InWEnt. The next official meeting will take place at the end of 2006 during the time of the Christkindlmarket in Chicago after the return of all students to the United States.



C. Eligibility

- Enrolled student (enrolled when applying; students graduating in spring 2006 can also apply)
- Majoring in Engineering, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Business Administration, or Computer Science.
- Minors in these areas of study may be considered.
- 2 years of college-level German; including the ability to speak and understand German at a conversational level.
- Age limit of 30.
- Work experience in their respective fields of study

German companies will consider these qualifications when offering an internship. If the applicant's major does not match these categories yet there is a definite interest in the program, 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 2006 we look for excellent students from across the United States with the following characteristics:

- Open-minded personality, flexible, curious
- Highly motivated to learn about Germany through first-hand experience
- 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 student will be a representative of the German American Chamber of Commerce, their university, and, of course, their country.

The full application 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 from a professor in the student's major department
- Official transcript
- Internship questionnaire

Deadline for application is November 15, 2005. Email application is sufficient to meet the deadline, paper version with signed documents and official transcript needs to be received by a week later at the latest.



Please mail your application to:
German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest
Attn. Barbara Zollmann
401 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 3330
Chicago, IL 60611
Email: zollmann@gaccomm.org

GACCoM will evaluate the applications and then 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 qualification of the student, his/her motivation for the program, sufficient German language skills and a good distribution between the different regions within the United States. Participation is limited to 25 students.

GACCoM will inform all students regarding the outcome of their application in January 2006 at the latest. Students accepted in the Transatlantic Program 2006 will be asked to provide some further information, including a German resume, digital passport photos, etc. The process of matching the 25 participants with German companies offering internship opportunities begins in January 2006. The 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 to the German companies for an internship will take a couple of months, for a few students even shortly before the program starts in May.

E. Stipends

The stipend for participants of the Transatlantic Program 2006 includes:

- Round trip airfare from the U.S. to Germany (max. \$ 900). Students must buy their own flight tickets, and GACCoM will reimburse the cost of the flight after successful completion of the first program part and start of the internship in Germany.
- Accommodations, meals, guided visits, and transportation during the first week of the program.
- German language class during the first week of the program.
- An introductory 1-day seminar to prepare for the internship, including intercultural training as well as a mid-term seminar to discuss experiences and observations.
- One-time payment of EUR 500 (value in 9/05 approx. \$ 600) during the internship in Germany if the company does not pay any internship compensation.



F. Participant's Responsibility

The participant's responsibilities are the following:

- Providing his/her own health insurance during the whole stay in Germany or taking health insurance provided by our partner organization InWEnt.
- Arranging his/her own round trip air fare (reimbursement will be made as described above).
- Providing his/her own housing during the internship.
- Providing his/her own meals during the internship.
- A one-time, non-refundable administrative fee of \$350 upon acceptance for the program.
- Being a professional and worthy representative of the United States and the Transatlantic Program during the whole German experience.

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 Director: Barbara Zollmann
Email: zollmann@gaccomm.org
Phone: 312-494-2174

Program Assistant Sabine Klensch
Email: klensch@gaccomm.org
Phone: 312-644-2662

Our experience in study tours: GACCOM has conducted four Transatlantic Programs in the past years which were designed for U.S. professionals and entrepreneurs and since 2005 for students. The past programs were very successful and met the program's 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 establish life-long personal and professional relationships.

Please use our website as a resource to read more about past programs and as to find information on the current program: www.transatlanticprogram.org.



Transatlantic Program 2006 Preliminary Schedule

November 10, 2005	Deadline for professors to nominate students
November 15, 2005	Deadline for students to submit applications to GACCOM
Until December 2005	Review of applications and phone interviews with pre-selected applicants. Finalists will have to provide further documents such as copies of transcripts, student verification, etc.
End of December 2005	Selection of participants. Accepted students will be informed immediately. Participants will have to provide further documents to prepare for the stay in Germany
Through April/May 2006	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 matched
May 19, 2006 or earlier	Students will fly to Berlin, Germany according to their own arrangements
May 20, 2006	Start of the Transatlantic Program 2006
May 20-29, 2006	Group program in Germany including meetings, visits, language classes, intercultural training, and preparation for the internships
May 29, 2006	Students will depart individually to their various internship locations
May 30-31, 2006	Adapting to new location and taking care of administrative issues (registration with city, etc.)
June 1, 2006	Start of individual internships
July 2006	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.
December 2006	Post-internship meeting with all participants in Chicago



Transatlantic Program 2006 Summary of Student Internship Information

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.

B. Age and Student Status Requirements

The age limit for participation in this program is 30. You must be enrolled at a U.S. college or university at the time of application and program start. Students graduating in early May 2006 can still apply.

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 2 years of college-level German is required. You must be able to converse in German to some extent.

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 often very competitive, the compensation is likely to be smaller than in medium-sized companies. It all depends on what you make of it.



F. Financial Compensation for Internship Work

Financial compensation depends on the individual company. Usually, 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 will less likely receive a substantial 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 company that is most suited to his/her individual qualifications, and thus 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. InWEnt will help with some general information on how to find your housing.

I. Health Insurance

You must have health insurance for the duration of the program. As an enrolled student, you should either keep your US insurance or purchase insurance coverage yourself. InWEnt offers insurance coverage, so let us know if you need our assistance.

J. Cost of Living

The cost of living in Germany for a student will be approx. EUR 700/month (approx. \$ 900/month). This includes housing, meals and entertainment to some extent.

Do you have any questions?

Please contact Barbara Zollmann (zollmann@gaccom.org) or Sabine Klensch (klensch@gaccom.org) at the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Chicago.



**Transatlantic Program 2006
Internship Questionnaire – To be returned to GACCOM with application!**

This form is designed to inform us of your preferences and ideals. It will not be forwarded to companies. We encourage you to list your first, second, and third preferences 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 2006 The Who is Who

Project coordinator:

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest
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Students: If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Zollmann or Sabine Klensch

Atlanta

Partner organizations:

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U.S. Partner – Academic part

University of Illinois at Chicago
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Philadelphia

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Universities: If you have any questions concerning the academic portion, you may either contact Prof. Kraft or Ms. Zollmann

German Partner – Internship

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