

The Germany Close Up Fellowship

An Open Program for Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Affiliation with AJC's ACCESS, Campus Affairs, and Interreligious and Intergroup Relations Departments

August 12-20, 2017

Background

Established in October 2007, *Germany Close Up – American Jews Meet Modern Germany* is an initiative created to enrich transatlantic dialogue and provide Jewish-North American students and young professionals in their twenties and thirties with an opportunity to experience modern Germany up close and personally. A generous government scholarship (a part of the ERP Special Assets of the German Ministry for Economics and Technology) covers more than two thirds of participation costs, which leaves a participation fee of **\$890** per person. At the same time, Germany Close Up is an independent body regarding the organization and content of its programs. The purpose of the program is to allow participants to gain *their own perspective* on Germany through individual experience.

Focus

The trips are designed to expose participants to a range of aspects that make up modern Germany, with both the past and present in focus. Every Germany Close Up trip includes a number of activities, tours, and meetings. All trips cover issues related to Germany's reflection on its past and its efforts to deal with the memory of the Holocaust and the Nazi horror up to this very day. They also consider Germany's transformation over the last decades into a modern, reunified, and democratic country in the heart of the European Union, home to the third-fastest growing Jewish community worldwide. **Observing Shabbat and keeping a kosher diet are both possible on all Germany Close Up trips.**

The nine day program between August 12 and 20 (individual departure from the U.S. on August 11) will expose participants to Berlin's multicultural life, allow them to visit sites such as a former concentration camp, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and the Jewish Museum in Berlin, and to experience other key historical sites and cultural venues. They will meet with German opinion-makers from the academic, political and religious spheres, representatives of grass roots movements and the Jewish community, as well as German contemporaries. The role of Jewish voices in transatlantic relations will be explored as participants actively contribute to German-American dialogue.

The program will focus on the following topics:

- Berlin and united Germany
- The Holocaust and the Nazi Era (incl. a visit to a former Concentration Camp)
- Transatlantic/German-American relations (incl. a meeting with officials of the German Federal Foreign Office)
- Current German Politics
- Jewish Life in Berlin, past and present
- German-Israeli relations
- Interreligious relations
- Christian-Jewish study seminar and interfaith engagement in Wittenberg, addressing Martin Luther's anti-Jewish legacy, on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

www.germanycloseup.de

Participation Fee

The participation fee for this program is \$890. This fee is paid indirectly to Germany Close Up via a flight contribution. After being accepted to the program, participants are expected to book their roundtrip airline ticket to Berlin with economy class and to provide proof of purchase to Germany Close Up. In most cases this expense will cover the \$890 fee. If your air fare is lower than \$890, the remainder is due to Germany Close Up following the program's conclusion. If your air fare is more than \$890, you may be eligible for a flight reimbursement from Germany Close Up for some of your costs above this amount. Please note that this amount is capped and depends on your point of departure in the United States or Canada. For participants departing from the New York or Washington D.C. greater metropolitan areas the maximum reimbursement available is \$110. For participants departing from elsewhere in the United States or Canada the maximum reimbursement is \$260. **Only flight costs above the \$890 participation fee are considered for reimbursement.**

For example:

For flight costs from New York of \$900, you will be reimbursed \$10.

For flight costs from New York of \$1000, you will be reimbursed \$110.

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Reimbursement will take place several weeks after the program's conclusion and will be coordinated by AJC. Please note that the reimbursement process can take up to three months.

Once you have been accepted for the trip, we encourage you to begin researching flights ASAP due to the maximum reimbursement levels and the rising cost of airfares as the trip dates near.

Other expenses

Germany Close Up covers the following expenses in Germany: hotel accommodation in double rooms, most meals, transportation within Germany, admission fees and event tickets. The scholarship does not include tipping. Please keep in mind that you will need to pay around 50€ (roughly \$55) for tips.

For any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at the Germany Close Up office (office@germanycloseup.de) or AJC's Danielle Cohen (cohend@ajc.org).

Application

Application closes on May 12, 2017.

Please apply by sending the following documents as a single pdf file to office@germanycloseup.de:

- An application form
- A cover letter
- A resume
- A 500 word essay about your interest in the program
- One letter of recommendation (AJC external)

Please note that participants in previous Germany Close Up programs are not eligible to apply.

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