The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program
Program Year XXIX 2012-2013
In September 1984, the first group of Robert Bosch Foundation Fellows arrived in Germany for a nine-month professional development program.

Every year since then, fifteen – as of 1998, twenty – accomplished Americans have been afforded this unique opportunity to become personally acquainted with Germany’s political, economic, and social situation, both in overview and from the vantage point of their own professional fields. Through the program’s unique format of seminars and work phases, Bosch Fellows have gained an insider’s perspective of the working world, made a wide variety of contacts with decision makers, and achieved a better understanding of German and European views of global issues.

In the 2012-2013 program year, seminars outside of Germany in Brussels, Paris, and Warsaw provided an introduction to the complexities of the European Union. Special attention was given to the topics of renewable energy and European integration in the face of the euro crisis.
Program Summary 2012-2013
The fellowship year lasts nine months, beginning in September and ending in May of the following year. Prior to September, fellows may have up to seven months of intensive language training, both in the US and Germany.

Introductory Seminar
September
A three-week introductory seminar program in Stuttgart, Berlin, Dresden, and Warsaw gave the fellows an overview of German politics, economics, society, history, and culture, as well as the opportunity to learn more about Germany’s relationship to its Eastern neighbor, Poland. This initial seminar offered fellows essential background information about Germany prior to the first work phase, focusing on the German political party system, and Germany’s role within Europe. Discussions also focused on current political and social challenges, such as the consequences of the German Energiewende, a federal initiative to transition to the use of more renewable energy resources.

In addition to visiting Berlin as the country’s political center, the fellows travelled to Stuttgart to explore one of the country’s major economic and industrial hubs. Excursions to Saxony and Warsaw provided examples of development in Eastern Germany and insight into relations with Poland as a vital partner in Central Eastern Europe.

Seminar lecturers and panelists included key figures from the fields of academia, politics, economics, business administration, labor relations, media, and culture. Highlights of the seminar were meetings with Alexander Bonde, Minister for Rural Development and Consumer Protection from the state of Baden-Württemberg, and Christian Schmidt, State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defense.

First Work Phase
October-December
During the first stage, most fellows completed professional assignments in government institutions, ranging from the Federal Foreign Office to the Ministry of the Interior. These assignments familiarized fellows with policy formulation, decision making, and the general character of public administration and politics in Germany. Journalists had the opportunity to work in key media outlets in Germany.

Seminar II
January
In January 2013, the fellows participated in a two-week seminar program focusing on regional diversity and key issues of federal and regional policy in Germany. They became acquainted with the areas of Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, the Rhine-Main region, as well as Bavaria and Hamburg. During this seminar, fellows learned more about issues such as the regional implementation of renewable energies.

The state elections in Lower Saxony gave them insight into the German electoral system. Furthermore, the fellows met with representatives of various religious backgrounds and learned more about the importance of religion in German society.

One highlight of this seminar series was a discussion with Wolfgang Schill, Director of General Economics at the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, about current challenges and differing perspectives in the eurozone.

The seminar was preceded by a mid-year evaluation of the fellowship experience in Berlin, where the fellows met with representatives of the US Embassy to discuss current transatlantic topics.

Second Work Phase
January-May
The second stage gave fellows the opportunity to acquire practical, regional-level experience in their respective fields in the private sector. Most fellows worked with their host institutions to design this work phase as a project based on their professional expertise and interests.
April

In April 2013, the fellows traveled to Brussels, The Hague, and Paris for a two-week seminar program exploring Europe’s intricate system of political integration and Germany’s relations with some of its key Western neighbors. The European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are vital to the economic and political system of Germany as vehicles for international cooperation and dialogue between the United States and Europe. The fellows had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the EU to discuss the international role of the EU, as well as the ongoing challenges resulting from the euro crisis.

A visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels emphasized the transatlantic dimension of supranational policies in Europe. Furthermore, the fellows had the chance to attend a trial session of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In Paris, the fellows were introduced to the tradition of cultural, economic, and political ties between France and Germany and learned more about one of the key founding members of the EU.

Highlights of the seminar were discussions with Dr. Stefanie Babst, Acting Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO headquarters, about the future of NATO and transatlantic security cooperation, as well as with Hans-Peter Kaul, Vice President of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, about the growing importance of international jurisdiction.

May

The program concluded with an evaluation seminar in Berlin. The fellows discussed their experiences in Germany and Europe, as well as the current situation of the transatlantic community, with State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, Dr. Emily Haber, and Member of Parliament Hans-Ulrich Klose, Deputy Chairman of the Bundestag’s Committee on Foreign Affairs.
Laura Damerville

- Harvard University
  - Juris Doctor
  - 2007
- Swarthmore College
  - BA Art and Economics
  - 2003

Recent Professional Experience:
- Associate
  - Caplin & Drysdale
  - 2011-2012
- Associate
  - Ropes & Gray LLP
  - 2007-2011

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Central Tax Agency
- Deutsche Post AG

Michelle Cloud

- Institut d’études politiques de Paris
  - MA International Affairs
  - Sciences Po
  - 2008
- University of Virginia
  - BA Foreign Affairs
  - 2006

Recent Professional Experience:
- Presidential Management Fellow
  - US Department of State
  - 2009-2012

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Foreign Office
- Cultural Projects Berlin GmbH

Laura Damerville

- Harvard University
  - Juris Doctor
  - 2007
- Swarthmore College
  - BA Art and Economics
  - 2003

Recent Professional Experience:
- Associate
  - Caplin & Drysdale
  - 2011-2012
- Associate
  - Ropes & Gray LLP
  - 2007-2011

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Central Tax Agency
- Deutsche Post AG
Lauren Edwards

- Georgetown University
- MA European Studies 2012
- Lewis & Clark College
- BA Foreign Languages and Literatures (German and French) 2007

Recent Professional Experience:
- Research Assistant
  BMW Center for German and European Studies, Georgetown University 2010-2012
- Intern
  Council on Foreign Relations 2011

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Foreign Office
- German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Sarah Jones

- Syracuse University
- MPA Environmental Studies
- MA International Relations 2007
- Allegheny College
- BA Political Science 2005

Recent Professional Experience:
- Senior Analyst
  Government Accountability Office 2008-2012
- Analyst
  Pace Global Energy Services 2007-2008

Fellowship Placements:
- German Parliament
- Deutsche Bahn

Steven Keil

- Georgetown University
- MA European Studies 2012
- University of South Dakota
- BA Political Science and German 2007

Recent Professional Experience:
- Legislative Aide
  US Senator John Thune 2007-2011
- Intern
  South Dakota State Legislature 2007

Fellowship Placements:
- German Parliament
- German Institute for International and Security Affairs

James Kirchick

- Yale University
- BA History and Political Science 2006

Recent Professional Experience:
- Writer-at-Large
  Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty 2010-2011
- Assistant Editor
  The New Republic 2007-2009

Fellowship Placements:
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- Spiegel Online International
Elizabeth Livengood

- Columbia University
  MS Mechanical Engineering
  2011
- University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
  BS Physics and Mechanical Engineering
  2005

Recent Professional Experience:
- Intern
  Delegation of the European Union to the US
  2011-2012
- Intern
  Office of the US Trade Representative
  2011

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
- BMW AG

Nicholas Oyler

- Texas A&M University
  Master of Urban Planning
  2012
- Texas A&M University
  Certificate in Sustainable Urbanism
  2012
- University of Memphis
  BA Geography and German
  2008

Recent Professional Experience:
- Urban Planning Consultant
  City of Brownwood, TX
  2011-2012
- Graduate Assistant
  College of Architecture, Texas A&M University
  2010-2012

Fellowship Placements:
- KfW Mittelstandsbank
- Siemens AG
Jaimes Valdez
- Whitman College  
  BA Physics and Environmental Studies  
  2003

Recent Professional Experience:
- Renewable Energy Specialist, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
  2008-2012
- Wind Project Coordinator, DNV GL  
  2007-2008

Fellowship Placements:
- German Parliament  
- Badenova AG & Co. KG

Kyle Whitaker
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
  Certificate in Supply Chain Management  
  2009
- University of Wisconsin – Madison  
  MPA International Affairs  
  2007
- Wake Forest University  
  BA Economics and History  
  2005

Recent Professional Experience:
- Manager, Sustainability  
  2010-2012
- Principal, Framework:CR  
  2007-2010

Fellowship Placements:
- Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment  
- BMW Group

Michael Williams
- London School of Economics  
  & Political Science  
  PhD International Relations  
  2006
- Humboldt University zu Berlin  
  MA European Studies  
  2003
- University of Delaware  
  BA International Relations  
  2002

Recent Professional Experience:
- Visiting Assistant Professor of International Relations  
  Wesleyan University  
  2011-2012
- Visiting Fellow, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University  
  2010

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Ministry of Defense  
- Cassidian

Anne-Marie Zell
- William & Mary School of Law  
  Juris Doctor  
  2006
- Indiana University - Bloomington  
  BA English and Germanic Studies  
  2003

Recent Professional Experience:
- Attorney, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom  
  2008-2012
- Attorney, Semmes, Bowen & Semmes  
  2006-2008

Fellowship Placements:
- German Parliament  
- Otto Group
Selection Committee

American Members
Dr. Daniel Hamilton, Chairman
Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations
School of Advanced International Studies
Johns Hopkins University

Mr. Robert Fenstermacher
President and CEO
Cultural Vistas

Ms. Alice Kelley
Producer
ZDF German Television

Ms. Karin Johnston
Adjunct Professor
School of International Service
American University

German Members
Mr. Dieter Berg
Chairman of the Board of Management
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Dr. Bertram von Moltke
Head of Cultural Department
German Embassy

Robert Bosch Stiftung
Established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of founder Robert Bosch (1861-1942) and fulfills his legacy in a contemporary manner by taking on challenges of modern day society, developing forward-looking concepts, and putting them into practice in exemplary fashion.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung has structured its activities into six program areas:
- Health and Science
- Education, Society, and Culture
- International Relations America and Asia
- International Relations Europe and its Neighbors

The Robert Bosch Stiftung, the objectives of which are exclusively non-profit, holds 92% of the capital stock of Robert Bosch GmbH. From 1964 until 2012, the foundation provided approximately 1.164 billion euros in funding, 69 million euros in 2012 alone.

With sales of approximately 52.4 billion euros in 2012, Bosch is one of Germany’s largest industrial enterprises, with a significant international presence. In 2012, a total workforce of around 306,000 was employed in the three business sectors of Automotive Technology, Industrial Technology, and Consumer Goods & Building Technology. Founder Robert Bosch opened the company as a “Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering” in Stuttgart in 1886.

Cultural Vistas
Cultural Vistas is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and designated sponsor of Exchange Visitor Programs committed to providing international exchange opportunities that strengthen global networks, enhance professional skills, and advance mutual understanding in an interconnected world.

Since 1950, Cultural Vistas has facilitated professional exchange programs and services for visitors coming to the United States, and Americans seeking overseas experiential learning opportunities. In its 60-plus years of experience, Cultural Vistas has created pathways to personal and professional development for more than 100,000 individuals from more than 100 countries around the world.

Cultural Vistas acts as the U.S. representative of the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program and has administered the program since its inception in 1984. Learn more at culturalvistas.org