The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program
Program Year XXX 2013-2014

Robert Bosch Stiftung
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, up to twenty highly accomplished young Americans have been afforded this unique opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in the political, economic and cultural environment of Germany and the European Union. Fellows complete high-level work rotations at leading public and private institutions in Germany tailored to their respective background and professions and participate in seminars involving key decision-makers from the public and private sectors in Germany, Brussels, and other European locations. Through the program’s unique format of seminars and work phases, Bosch Fellows gain an insider’s understanding of the German professional world, make a wide variety of contacts with key decision makers, and become more familiar with German and European views on global issues.

The Fellowship Program is fully funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, one of Germany’s largest foundations, with the goal of fostering a community of American leaders. Fellows are selected from the fields of business administration, cultural management, journalism, law, non-profit, public policy, and urban planning. Bosch alumni include academics and journalists, senior White House and federal officials, and accomplished business and non-profit leaders.
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 five months of intensive language training, both in the US and Germany.

Seminars

The 2013-2014 seminar sessions began with an introduction in Stuttgart (headquarters of the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Robert Bosch GmbH company) and focused on Germany’s federal structure. The Fellows received an overview of the history, politics, economy and society of the Federal Republic of Germany, illustrated by examples of regional particularities and traditions. In addition to learning about the diversity of the German regions, the Fellows gained insight into the campaign for the Bundestag’s election, experienced election day on the ground and became familiar with key issues and actors that define German politics.

An excursion to Warsaw introduced the Fellows to Poland as Germany’s most important partner in the East. During the mid-term evaluation of the program year, the Fellows reflected upon their personal and professional experiences after six months in Germany, and presented their results in working groups.

The first half of the Fellowship Year concluded with an evening event and a panel discussion on “Liberty versus Security? The Future of Common Values in Transatlantic Relations”. At the same time, this occasion served to commence the celebration for the 30th Anniversary Event of the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program.

In spring, a seminar excursion to Brussels demonstrated that true insight into modern Germany is not possible without an in-depth understanding of the process of European integration and the structures of the European Union.

The seminar program focused on the main players on site in Brussels: the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament, as well as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). A trip to The Hague to visit the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia illustrated to Fellows the growing importance of international jurisdiction within the international system.

As 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, the seminar program was complemented by a stay in Paris. Looking back on the process of Franco-German reconciliation, the Fellows received an introduction to what became one of the cornerstones of European integration. They got to know France as a founding member of the EU and as one of the most important economic and political actors in Europe, which strongly influences many structures and procedures within the process of European integration.

The seminar also aimed at introducing the Fellows to one of Germany’s crucial partners in finding solutions for the Euro-crisis, while simultaneously exploring the impact of France’s extensive economic challenges in regards to achieving this common goal. During the final seminar, the Fellows reflected upon their year in Germany by focusing on their personal, professional and intercultural experiences. Additionally, they met with experts on the three fundamental topics shaping their seminars and stages: the current tensions in transatlantic relations, the European elections and infrastructure and urban planning.

Work Phases

During the first stage, most Fellows completed professional assignments in government institutions, ranging from the Federal Foreign Office to the Bundesrat. These assignments familiarized the Fellows with policy development, 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.

The second stage gave Fellows the opportunity to acquire practical, regional-level experience in their respective fields. With the intention of complementing the Fellows’ experiences in the public sector during the first stage, the second stages were completed mainly within 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.
The Robert Bosch Fellows 2013-2014

Christopher Alessi
New York, NY
- Columbia University
  MS Journalism
  2010
- New York University
  BA International Relations
  2008
Recent Professional Experience:
- Council on Foreign Relations,
  Online Editor/Writer
- Institutional Investor Magazine,
  Contributing Correspondent
Fellowship Placements:
- Spiegel Online International
- WirtschaftsWoche
- Reuters Germany

Carolyn Beeler
Philadelphia, PA
- Northwestern University
  BS Journalism
  2009
Recent Professional Experience:
- WHYY Public Radio,
  Health and Science Reporter
- National Public Radio,
  Kroc Fellow
Fellowship Placements:
- Agence France-Presse
- Berlin Stories for NPR

Allison Gibbs
Washington, D.C.
- Georgetown University
  MA European Studies
  2013
- University of Colorado, Boulder
  BA International Affairs
  2010
Recent Professional Experience:
- Department of Defense,
  Desk Officer
- American Institute
  for Contemporary Germany Studies,
  Research Assistant
Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Ministry of Defense
- Airbus Defense and Space

Harrison Grafos
Pittsburgh, PA
- University of Pittsburgh
  PhD Public Policy and Management
  2013
- New York University
  MPA Public Policy and Management
  2005
- Whitman College
  BA Politics
  2002
Recent Professional Experience:
- Office of the Provost,
  University of Pittsburgh,
  Research Assistant
- Sciences Po/Center for European Studies,
  Visiting Researcher
Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Foreign Office
- German Bundestag
Sarah Hale
Washington, D.C.
- University of Maryland
  BA Economics
  2004
Recent Professional Experience:
  - American Action Forum,
    Director of Healthcare Policy
  - U.S. Representative Sue Myrick,
    Chief of Staff
Fellowship Placements:
  - German Bundesrat
  - Vertex Pharmaceuticals Germany

Faith Hall
Washington, D.C.
- University of Pennsylvania
  MA City & Regional Planning
  2009
- Carnegie Mellon University
  BS Anthropology & German
  2002
Recent Professional Experience:
  - U.S. Department of Transportation,
    Community Planner
  - Office of U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
    Legislative Fellow
Fellowship Placements:
  - Federal Ministry of Transport
    and Digital Infrastructure
  - Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG)

Michael Holtje
Washington, D.C.
- University of Nebraska
  PhD Psychology
  2012
- The George Washington University, LLM
  2012
- University of Nebraska
  MA Psychology
  2009
- University of Nebraska College of Law, JD
  2008
- Juanita College
  BS Psychology
  2003
Recent Professional Experience:
  - U.S. Department of State,
    Intelligence Operations Specialist
  - Office of the Dir. of National Intelligence,
    Senior Advisor for Foreign Partnerships
Fellowship Placements:
  - German Institute for International
    and Security Affairs (SWP)
  - German Bundestag

Andrew Ireland
Washington, D.C.
- Johns Hopkins University
  MA Economics
  2011
- Wake Forest University
  MA Department of State,
  Administrative Liaison Officer
Fellowship Placements:
  - Federal Foreign Office
  - German Development Institute (DIE)
Elizabeth Johnson  
Washington, D.C.  
:: Georgetown University  
MA European Studies  
2013  
:: University of California, Los Angeles  
BA Economics  
2007  
Recent Professional Experience:  
:: Bank of New York Mellon,  
Global Client Management for CEE  
:: Office of U.S. Trade Representative,  
Desk for European Affairs  
Fellowship Placements:  
:: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy  
:: Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI)  

Maria Mahler-Haug  
Washington, D.C.  
:: National Defense University  
MA Strategic Security Studies  
2013  
:: Brown University  
BA International Relations  
2009  
Recent Professional Experience:  
:: U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill,  
Policy Aide for National Security Affairs  
:: Representative Albio Sires,  
Legislative Assistant  
Fellowship Placements:  
:: Federal Ministry of Defense  
:: Euler Hermes, Allianz Group  

Riley Ohlson  
Pittsburgh, PA  
:: Carnegie Mellon University  
MS Public Policy  
2013  
:: University of New Hampshire  
BA English  
2004  
Recent Professional Experience:  
:: Massachusetts Nurses Association,  
Associate Director of Legislation and Government Affairs  
:: Professional Employees Union,  
Negotiating Committee Member  
Fellowship Placements:  
:: IG Metall  
:: Friedrich-Ebert Foundation  

Fay Peng  
Washington, D.C.  
:: Johns Hopkins University  
PhD Biomedical Engineering  
2005  
:: California Institute of Technology  
BS Chemical Engineering  
1998  
Recent Professional Experience:  
:: The Pentagon,  
Office of Secretary of Defense,  
Country Director for Germany, Austria, and Switzerland  
:: Presidential Management Fellowship,  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Fellowship Placements:  
:: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
:: German Bundestag  
:: Airbus Helicopters
Imran Sheikh
Berkeley, CA
- University of California, Berkeley
  PhD Energy and Resources 2013
- University of California, Berkeley
  MS Energy and Resources 2010
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
  BS Biomedical Engineering and Environmental Studies 2003

Recent Professional Experience:
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Research Assistant
- Johnson Controls, Post-Graduate Strategy and Marketing Intern

Fellowship Placements:
- Energy Profiler
- Ecofys

Jesse Singal
Princeton, NJ
- Princeton University
  MPA Public Affairs 2013
- University of Michigan
  BA Philosophy 2006

Recent Professional Experience:
- Newsweek/The Daily Beast, Reporter/Contributing Writer
- The Boston Globe, Opinion Writer and Online Editor

Fellowship Placements:
- Associated Reporters Abroad

Michael Stock
Washington, D.C.
- Georgetown University
  MS Foreign Service 2013
- University of Kansas
  BA Political Science 2009

Recent Professional Experience:
- U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Europe and Eurasia
- U.S. Consulate General Dusseldorf, Political and Economic Affairs

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Ministry of Finance
- Deutsche Bank Research

Wendy Tao
Berkeley, CA
- University of California, Berkeley
  MCP City and Regional Planning 2007
- University of California, Berkeley
  MS Transportation Engineering 2007

Recent Professional Experience:
- Cambridge Systematics, Transportation Policy and Management Associate
- ARUP, Transportation Planner/Engineer

Fellowship Placements:
- Civity Management Consultants
- Siemens AG
Christina Tsafoulias
Washington, D.C.

- George Washington University
  MA International Affairs
  2013
- Brown University
  BA International Relations
  2004

Recent Professional Experience:
- U.S. Representative Michael E. Capuano,
  Senior Legislative Assistant
- U.S. Senator John F. Kerry,
  Staff Assistant

Fellowship Placements:
- Federal Foreign Office
- German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Amanda Van Epps
Austin, TX

- University of Texas, Austin
  PhD Civil Engineering
  2013
- University of Texas, Austin
  MS Environmental Engineering and Public Policy
  2008
- Stanford University
  BS Chemical Engineering
  2001

Recent Professional Experience:
- University of Texas at Austin,
  Environmental and Water Resources Engineering,
  Graduate Research Assistant
- University of Texas at Austin,
  Instructor at Cockrell School of Engineering

Fellowship Placements:
- Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment, Berlin
- GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation)

Ebony Wiresinger
New York, NY

- New York University
  MPA Healthcare Public Finance
  2013
- Barnard College
  BA Women’s Studies
  2004

Recent Professional Experience:
- New York University Langone Medical Center,
  Research Assistant
- EmblemHealth,
  Summer Associate

Fellowship Placements:
- GKV-Spitzenverband
- Pfizer Deutschland
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. Between 1964 and 2013, the Foundation made 1.23 billion euros available for projects. In 2013, approximately 70 million euros were spent on project funding.

With sales of approximately 46 billion euros in 2013, the Bosch company is one of Germany’s largest industrial enterprises, with a significant international presence. In 2013, a total workforce of around 300,000 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 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.