

The Postgraduate Program in International Affairs

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung 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. Its activities focus on health, education, and international relations. In Stuttgart, the foundation maintains three public health and research facilities: the Robert Bosch Hospital, the Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch Institute for Clinical Pharmacology, and the Institute for the History of Medicine. The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, the objectives of which are exclusively non-profit, holds 92% of the capital stock from Robert Bosch GmbH. From 1964 until 2005, the foundation provided approximately 737 million euros in funding, 56 million euros in 2005 alone. In the field of promoting international young leaders, the foundation's activities currently include The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program for young American professionals, the Fellowship Program for Future Leaders from Central and Eastern European Countries, and the Postgraduate Program in International Affairs.

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (The German National Academic Foundation)

The German National Academic Foundation is a non-profitmaking, non-denominational and non-ideological foundation that provides grants for the university education of talented young people. Students who distinguish themselves by their performance, initiative, and sense of responsibility can be recommended for support by the Studienstiftung and are then subjected to a rigorous selection procedure. In addition to the scholarship, the Studienstiftung offers a scientifically and vocationally oriented program, part of which is open to applications from external candidates. The scholarship program supplements the student's academic/scientific training and aims to foster a cosmopolitan attitude plus an interdisciplinary approach and to provide key and additional qualifications for subsequent employment in science, economics and administration. The Studienstiftung is the largest and oldest German institution for the sponsorship of talented young people. Founded in Dresden as long ago as 1925, the Studienstiftung was re-established in 1948, after having been dissolved in 1934. The Studienstiftung receives financial support from the federal government, the federal states (Länder), the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Donors' Association for the Promotion of Science and Humanities in Germany) and a large number of private foundations and founders. It is currently supporting approximately 6,000 scholarship holders. About 1,000 additional students a year are accepted for support; this corresponds to approximately 0.5 per cent of all students in Germany.

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in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office

The Postgraduate Program in International Affairs

Globalization and internationalization are shaping politics and business to an increasing extent and have led to a growth in Germany's international responsibility. This trend is increasing the demand for qualified junior staff who are prepared to take on managerial assignments with international responsibility. The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH (Robert Bosch Foundation) and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes e.V. (German National Academic Foundation) have set themselves the task of preparing future leaders to meet the challenges of an international career. The program targets graduates from all disciplines who are high achievers, have set themselves clear goals, and are seeking an international career with managerial responsibility in, for example, foreign and security policy, economic policy, technical and scientific cooperation or development cooperation. The program thus makes a contribution to increasing the number of German nationals in international organizations. The German Federal Foreign Office supports the objectives of the Postgraduate Program in International Affairs and is actively involved as a cooperation partner.

Program

Twenty scholarships are available each year. The fellows carry out a self-designed project while working in institutions for international cooperation of their choice. In addition, they participate in intensive seminars on international relations. As a rule, two to three work placements are completed during the scholarship period: one placement with a German agency at home or abroad, and one or two placements with international organizations. The order of the placements depends on the project. The fellows gain work experience in publicsector organizations (for example the UN,

subsidiary organizations of the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the EU, European institutions (for example OECD, EBRD), and government agencies) or in companies with international operations. The prime objective of the Postgraduate Program in International Affairs is to provide the fellows with an opportunity for hands-on work experience Seminar I "International Policy 2003" in Berlin to broaden their professional horizon. The Postgraduate Program in International Affairs is not a scholarship for a doctorate. The program lasts 13 months. In the period between selection and the start of the program the project that has been outlined is developed in more detail and the planned work placements are organized in agreement with the foundations. The fellows are expected to take the initiative in finding and organizing the placements; the foundations and the German Federal Foreign Office offer support and advice. Before the start of the scholarship year, an introductory seminar is held in July following the selection of the fellows. The fellows have the opportunity to acquire the necessary foreign language skills during the introductory period as well as during the scholarship year, and can apply for grants for language training.

Program schedule

Selection seminar: end of April, 3 days

Introductory seminar: mid-July, 3 days

Seminar I, International policy:

August/September, 3 weeks

Work placement: October – December, usually in Germany

Seminar II, Managerial skills: beginning of January, 10 days

Work placement(s): abroad January – August

Seminar III, Evaluation of project results: September, 2 weeks

In seminar III the returning group pass on their experiences to the incoming new fellows. The grantees complete the program year with a work report and a presentation to the Advisory Board for the Postgraduate Program in International Affairs and receive a certificate stating that they have completed the program. In the period between March and August, the fellows have the opportunity to organize, on their own initiative, an interim meeting abroad which can be subsidized by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Examples of projects

- Nuclear terrorism – risk analysis and protective measures
- Trade and human rights: EU foreign policy vis-à-vis Iran
- Turkey and the enlargement of the European Union
- The financial sector in the fight against rural poverty in China
- Access to vital medicine and international copyright

Alumni Association

Former fellows act as tutors to the participants or assist as experts in the seminars. The Alumni Association of the Postgraduate Program in International Affairs forms the core of a large network of former fellows (www.stiftungskolleg.org). Many alumni now work in multilateral institutions such as the EU, OSCE, WHO, UNDP, UNHCR and the World Bank, in multinational companies, in German and foreign ministries, in institutions for development cooperation or in non-governmental organizations.

Finances and Benefits

During the program year fellows receive a monthly grant of 1,250 euros plus allowances for families and living abroad. There are also grants for language training, and travelling expenses to placements abroad are reimbursed.

Requirements

- Outline of a project designed by the prospective fellow, indicating possible placements with international organizations
- Excellent degree from a university or specialized institute of higher learning
- Very good knowledge of English and of another modern foreign language
- A total of one year's experience abroad after graduation from school
- Relevant experience (for example work experience as a student)
- Maximum age 28, periods of military and civilian service and parenting are taken into account
- Interest in a career in international organizations
- Very good general education, very good knowledge of politics and economics in the international context, wideranging personal interests and social commitment
- German nationality

Application

The application phase for the relevant program year starting in September begins in January and ends on March 15 of the same year. Prospective candidates will be invited to attend a selection seminar in April.