



**BERLIN PROGRAM FOR
STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM
AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**
June 28 – July 18, 2020

**RIAS Berlin Program for Students of
Journalism and International Affairs**

Program Application – Introduction

BERLIN PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

U.S. university students are invited to apply for a three-week intensive study program on journalism in Germany. Funded largely by a grant from the German government and organized by the RIAS Berlin Commission, up to 15 outstanding journalism or international studies students will be invited to take part in the three-week program in Germany to learn more about journalism in Germany, the role that broadcasters like the Berlin-based RIAS played during the Cold War and the current political landscape of Germany.



2019 Participants on roof of US embassy Berlin

The RIAS BERLIN COMMISSION was founded 1992 in recognition of the merits of RIAS Berlin (Radio in the American Sector), the “free voice of the free world” from 1946 to 1993 that provided millions of listeners in communist East Germany with uncensored information and entertainment. Today, it is a binational organization that promotes German-American understanding in broadcast journalism.

Since 2018, the RIAS Berlin Commission has been offering exceptional students of journalism, international affairs and related disciplines the opportunity to participate in this prestigious three-week educational program in Berlin. Funded by the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the program will give 15 participants valuable insights into transatlantic, German and European affairs. Students from across the US are encouraged to apply.

Over a three week period in Berlin, with a multiday excursion to at least two other German cities, participants will meet with leading political analysts, journalists, think tank representatives and other experts. They will visit German government institutions, historical sites, and universities, enabling them to and deepen their knowledge of central issues in transatlantic affairs and gain a more personal understanding of German politics, media and history.



Meeting German soccer legend Jürgen Klinsmann

Program applicants must be outstanding, full-time undergraduate or graduate students of journalism, international affairs, political science, history, German or closely related disciplines at universities and colleges in the United States. They should be starting at least the third year of their undergraduate studies at the time of the program

and preferably have some experience in journalism – for example at a campus radio or TV station or newspaper. An interest in and knowledge of German or European affairs is very desirable; knowledge of German is preferred but not required. Students who have already gained some professional or volunteer experience in their field are strongly encouraged to apply.

The program is funded by the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, with additional financing from the RIAS BERLIN COMMISSION. Participants receive round trip air travel from their home states to Germany, ground and air travel in and across Germany, and hotel accommodations during the program. Some meals are also provided during the program. Participants will leave the US no later than June 27 and return no sooner than on July 18. They may arrive earlier or later than these dates, but must cover any additional costs themselves. Each participant will be required to contribute 500€ to help cover the cost of the program and must pay for their own meals.

PROGRAM DATES & DEADLINES

The program takes place in Berlin from **June 28 – July 18, 2020**. Including travel days, participants depart from the US on June 27 and arrive back in the US on July 18.

Application deadline: February 15, 2020. Leading applicants will be interviewed by Skype before the final selection of program participants is made in early March.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Your application consists of the following items:

- 1: Completed and signed application form.
- 2: Your résumé / CV
- 3: One letter of recommendation letter from a college professor or a work supervisor (if the work is relevant to your field of study).
- 4: A scan of your most recent transcript.
- 5: Two essays (see part IV of the application form)

HOW TO APPLY

Send all your application materials in electronic format to Isabell Hoffmann hoffmann@riasberlin.org by February 15, 2020. **Be sure to add us to your spam white list** in case there are any questions about your application. Link for this current application form as PDF: http://riasberlin.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2020_RIAS_Students_program_application.pdf

For more information, contact the RIAS Berlin Commission:

RIAS BERLIN COMMISSION
Funkhaus am Hans-Rosenthal-Platz
D-10825 Berlin
Germany
www.riasberlin.org / info@riasberlin.org



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PART I: BASIC INFORMATION	
APPLICANT NAME:	
	LAST FIRST MIDDLE
PERMANENT ADDRESS	STREET:
	CITY: STATE: ZIP:
E-MAIL*:	
*Please provide an e-mail address that you use and check daily. Be sure to add our email addresses to your white list to ensure you do not miss an important e-mail from us.:	
	info@riasberlin.org kirschbaum@riasberlin.org
	hoffmann@riasberlin.org ziss@riasberlin.org
HOME PHONE:	
CELL PHONE:	
DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH:	<u>Date:</u> Month/Date/Year: <u>Place:</u> City/State/Country
CITIZENSHIP:	USA () OTHER:
DO YOU HAVE A PASSPORT VALID THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR 2020? YES () NO ()	
PART II: YOUR UNIVERSITY	
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY WHERE ENROLLED	NAME:
	CITY/STATE:
MAJOR(S)/SUBJECT:	
DEGREE OBJECTIVE:	I WILL FINISH IN (MM/YYYY):
MINOR(S) IF ANY:	
IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A DEGREE, LIST IT HERE	
GPA	<i>Note that your application must include a scan of your latest transcript.</i>



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PART III: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF	
TELL US ABOUT ANY WORK EXPERIENCE (PROFESSIONAL OR VOLUNTEER) YOU HAVE IN YOUR FIELD OF STUDY.	
HAVE YOU BEEN TO GERMANY OR EUROPE BEFORE? IF YES, WHEN AND WHY?	
PLEASE TELL US ABOUT ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE.	
HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?	
DO YOU SPEAK ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND IF SO, HOW WELL (1=basic, 5=native)?	
PART IV: ESSAYS	
ESSAY 1:	MOTIVATIONAL STATEMENT. On a separate piece of paper, tell us about your personal background and why you want to participate in this program. (maximum 450 words)
ESSAY 2:	GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. On a separate piece of paper, please provide an overview of the current challenges and issues in German-American relations. (maximum 450 words)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

I have enclosed the following:

- Completed, signed application form.
- Résumé / CV
- One letter of recommendation letter from a college professor or a work supervisor (if the work is relevant to your field of study).
- A scan of your most recent transcript.
- The two essays above

Once all of the items above have been checked, e-mail the entire application to info@riasberlin.org no later than February 15, 2020.

I certify that all information in this application is correct and valid. I understand that my application is not complete until it all parts of it have been submitted, and that the RIAS BERLIN COMMISSION summer education program will require me to attend and participate in program activities in Berlin over a three week period. I know that I will have to make a 500€ non-refundable contribution to the cost of the program and am able and willing to do so.

SIGNATURE

DATE