

The Germany Close Up Fellowship: An Open Program for Students and Young Professionals in Affiliation with the Congregation B'nai B'rith Santa Barbara

August 31st – September 8th, 2016

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 **\$920** 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 atrocities 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 Wednesday, August 31st and Thursday, September 8th (start in the US will be August 30th) 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 and political 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)
- Jewish Life in Berlin, past and present
- German-Israeli relations
- A visit to a city outside Berlin

Participation Fee

The participation fee for this program is \$920. This fee will be 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

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cover the \$920 fee. If your air fare is lower than \$920, the remainder is due to Germany Close Up following the program's conclusion. If your air fare is more than \$920, you may be eligible for a flight reimbursement from Germany Close Up for the difference between \$920 and your actual flight costs. Please note, however, that the flight costs considered have a maximum cap. Participants departing from the New York or Washington, D.C. greater metropolitan areas are not eligible for a reimbursement. It is expected that they will not need to spend more for their flight tickets than the \$920 participation fee. For participants departing from elsewhere in the United States or Canada the maximum ticket cost Germany Close Up allows for is \$1250. This means that these participants will receive a maximum reimbursement of \$330 (\$1250 max ticket cost minus the \$920 registration fee). This is to ensure the participation fee remains the same while participants may come from across the United States and Canada. **Only flight costs above the \$920 participation fee are considered for reimbursement.**

For example:

For flight costs from Los Angeles at \$1,100, you will be reimbursed \$180.

For flight costs from Los Angeles at \$1,250, you will be reimbursed \$330.

For flight costs from Los Angeles at \$1,300, you will be reimbursed \$330.

Reimbursement will take place several weeks after the program's conclusion and will be coordinated by the B'nai B'rith Congregation. 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 (mostly 3*), 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 Rabbi Suzy Stone at RabbiStone@cbsb.org.

Application

Application closes on March 20th, 2016.

Please apply via email and be prepared to attach the documents listed below as a **single pdf file (please no ZIP files)** to **office@germanycloseup.de**.

The documents we require to complete your application are:

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

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