



## EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

### I. Educational Exchanges

#### Government-Sponsored Programs

More than 174,000 Germans have participated in government-sponsored German-American exchange programs, including:

- Fulbright Commission programs for students, scholars and teachers: 26,000 Germans (1952 to 2007). *The German Fulbright Commission is financed by the U.S. and German governments,*
- U.S. Embassy/Department of State sponsored International Visitor Program - Regional and multi-regional programs: 1,860 Germans (1980 to 2007)
- U.S. Embassy/Department of State sponsored International Voluntary Visitor Program: 2,180 Germans (1980 to 2007)
- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), 8,026 German students and 7,647 U.S. students (1983-2007)
- Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Staff Exchange (CBBSX), 210 German staffers and 210 U.S. staffers (1983-2007)
- German-American Partnership Program high school short-term exchange (GAPP), 114,804 German students and 82,578 U.S. students (1982-2007)

#### University and College

According to the 2008 Open Doors Report by the Institute of International Education (<http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org/>):

- After growing relatively slowly in the 1950s and 1960s, the number of German students began to accelerate in the mid-1970s and increased steadily in the 1980s and early 1990s. German students peaked in 2000/01 with more than 10,000 students. Beginning in 2000/01, their numbers began to trend downwards but in 2007/08 the number of German students was at its highest since 2002/03.
- In academic year 2007/08, there were 8,907 students from Germany studying in the United States; representing an increase of 3% over the year before. Germany is the twelfth-leading place of origin for students coming to the United States; leading all other European countries.
- The majority of German students study at the graduate level (In 2007/08, 37.2% undergraduate; 41.2% graduate students; 16.1% other; 5.5%, optional practical training).
- In academic year 2007/08, 5,269 scholars (up 4.6% over 2006/07) from Germany were involved in research or teaching at U.S. institutions. Germany is the fifth-leading place of origin for scholars coming to the United States.
- Germany ranks eighth in the world as a destination for U.S. students studying abroad. 7,355 Americans studied at German universities in 2006-2007 (up 7%

from 2005-2006). U.S. students are studying abroad in record numbers (up 8 in 2005-06). Semester study now attracts 37% of those students studying abroad, while slightly more than half (52%) of U.S. students elect short-term programs (including summer, January term and any program of less than 8 weeks) and only 5.5% spend a full academic or calendar year abroad.

The U.S. Mission to Germany is part of the State Department's Education USA network, which offers educational advising to high school and university students as well as young people interested in Au Pair stays, language courses, work and travel programs, voluntary services and internships.

Several partnerships exist between German and American universities, many of which are actively supported by the U.S. Mission to Germany. Some of these relationships are part of state partnership initiatives and include state university systems; others are institutional. (*See state profiles in the Benchmark series.*)

### **High School**

- The U.S. is the number one choice of German students completing a high-school year abroad. More German high school students participate in U.S. based exchanges than any other nationality. In the 2006-2007 school year, 8,189 young Germans attended U.S. high schools. Germany is the top-ranked destination for U.S. high school students.
- The Windows on America program provides exchange stays in the U.S. to small groups of young people with immigrant backgrounds and from German families who have been underrepresented in traditional exchange programs. Since the program's initiation by Ambassador Timken and his wife Sue Timken in 2006, more than 80 students from eight different schools from all over Germany and their teachers have visited the United States through this unique public-private partnership.
- In an attempt to bring America closer to those students who do not have the opportunity of firsthand exposure to the U.S., the American Embassy in the fall of 2003 launched the school outreach program, now called Meet US. The Meet US initiative brings Americans – U.S. citizens from all walks of life who reside in or are visiting Germany, as well as U.S. Embassy/Consular staff – together with German students in secondary schools.

### **Teachers**

- The U.S. Mission to Germany offers teacher-in-service training and study tours in cooperation with State Ministries of Education, school authorities and educational training centers.
- In addition, the Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program, established in 2003, aims at promoting mutual understanding and lasting contacts between eastern German and American teachers. In 2007, several teachers took part in a two-week exchange program, which exposed them to U.S. history, politics, and culture in the U.S. capital and enabled them to interact with American teachers. The program is a public-private initiative and is supported by corporate contributions.

## **II. German-American Cultural Institutions, Clubs and Partnerships**

### **German-American Institutes**

Successor institutions to the network of Amerika Haus cultural centers function in ten German cities. These centers feature cultural programs and offer a range of information resources and activities in their libraries and educational advising centers. The centers are supported through city, state and federal German governments, corporate donations and other sources. The U.S. Embassy provides grants for cultural programs, center libraries and educational advising activities, and other projects.

For more information, see: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/gaci.html>

### **Clubs**

German-American clubs were formed in the early days after World War II to re-establish people-to-people relations between Germans and Americans. The Federation of German-American Clubs was established in June to bring together the 17 clubs that had been established until then. Today some 30 German-American clubs are members of the Association.

In addition, there other strong networks of business and professional clubs, as well as international and expatriate clubs that bring Germans and Americans together to participate in cultural, sports and social events.

For more information:

[http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/american\\_organizations.html](http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/american_organizations.html)

### **Sister Cities**

175 cities in Germany have concluded partnerships with American cities. Many of these programs began shortly after the end of the Second World War in parts of Germany where American troops were stationed. Since reunification, 31 new partnerships have been established in the former eastern German states. These sister city initiatives generate a significant and continuous flow of visitors from the U.S. to Germany and vice versa. Some of these partnerships focus on annual school or university exchanges, others regularly organize visits of clubs or institutions or foster business and trade contacts.

For more information, see: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/sistercities.html>

## **III. Cultural Institutions**

A major program element of Mission Germany public affairs is the placement of “U.S. speakers” – experts on transatlantic issues, U.S. foreign and security policy, economics, the environment or culture – in settings which encourage open exchanges and the development of new contacts across the Atlantic. These programs bring Germans and Americans together for discussions, lectures, roundtables at public and private institutions, and public panels. The U.S. Mission to Germany also supports cultural

events and programs organized by German cultural institutions involving American artists.

### **Libraries**

Amerika Haus cultural centers libraries were established in many cities in the postwar years. Hundreds of thousands of Germans visited the libraries and attended programs. Over the years, many of the Amerika Haus centers became German-American Institutes, supported for the most part by German local, state and federal governments, and increasingly corporate sponsors. The US Mission continues to support cultural programs and libraries at nine German-American Institutes.

- In the early 1990s, thousands of American books from former U.S. Army and Air Force bases were transferred to libraries in eastern Germany. The first donation ceremony took place in April 1991 during the Leipzig Book Fair, when the collection from the Hessisch Oldendorf Air Force Community Library went to the Leipzig Public Library. In all, 31 libraries of former militaries ranging in size from 3,500 to 35,000 volumes were given to cities and institutions in the new German states. Over the years, other book donation programs followed.
- 2005 marked the start of the America@yourlibrary initiative which encompasses support for library collections and educational and cultural programs relating to the United States in German libraries. Twenty libraries in East and West were chosen as preferred cooperation partners through which the Mission is developing collaborative services for libraries throughout Germany. Such partner libraries as the America Memorial Library branch of the Central and Regional Library of Berlin or the City Public Library in Frankfurt/Main receive over 10,000 visitors every day.