

## The Germany Close Up Fellowship

### An Open Program for Students in Affiliation with AJC ACCESS

July 30 – August 6, 2018

#### 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 Economic Affairs and Energy) covers more than two thirds of participation costs, which leaves a participation fee of **US\$890** 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 horror 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. Please note, however, that the program cannot cater to very extreme forms of some allergies.**

The eight day program between July 30 and August 6 (start in the US will be July 29) 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)
- Current German Politics
- 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 US\$890. This fee is 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 cover the US\$890 fee. If your air fare is lower than US\$890, the remainder is due to Germany Close Up following the

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program's conclusion. If your air fare is more than US\$890, you may be eligible for a flight reimbursement from Germany Close Up for some of your costs above this amount. Please note that this amount is capped and depends on your point of departure in the United States or Canada. For participants departing from the New York or Washington D.C. greater metropolitan areas the maximum reimbursement available is US\$110 (max. flight costs for full reimbursement: US\$1000). For participants departing from elsewhere in the United States or Canada the maximum reimbursement is US\$310 (max. flight costs for full reimbursement: US\$1200). **Only flight costs above the US\$890 participation fee are considered for reimbursement.**

For example:

For flight costs from New York of US\$950, you will be reimbursed US\$60.

For flight costs from New York of US\$1050, you will be reimbursed US\$110.

For flight costs from Los Angeles of US\$1200, you will be reimbursed US\$310.

**Reimbursement will take place several weeks after the program's conclusion and will be coordinated by AJC ACCESS.** 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, 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 US\$55) for tips.

For any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at the Germany Close Up office ([office@germanycloseup.de](mailto:office@germanycloseup.de)) or Danielle Cohen at [cohend@ajc.org](mailto:cohend@ajc.org).

#### Application

Application closes on May 31, 2018.

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](mailto:office@germanycloseup.de).

The documents we require to complete your application are:

- An [online application form](#)
- A 500 word essay about your interest in the program
- A cover letter
- A resume
- One letter of recommendation (AJC external)

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