

Scholarships to Germany in 2010 and 2011

Our affiliate in Germany, Experiment EV, is offering 6 full scholarships (half-year and year program) as well as 10 partial scholarships in the sum of 1,000 Euros each (2 and 3-month program). These are offered worldwide and NZ students have been awarded a high proportion of these in the last three years.

The aim of this scholarship is to enable qualified students who are financially disadvantaged to participate in an exchange to Germany

A full scholarship means that no fee will be charged for the programme but students will still have to find their airfare, pocket money and some other minor costs. With a partial scholarship, we will reduce the usual programme fee by 1,000 Euros.

The requirements for receiving a scholarship are as follows:

- 1. Financial need:** Students must prove their financial need to NZIIU.
- 2. Language skills:** Basic knowledge of German **or** very good English skills are required.
- 3. Age/School status:** Participants should be at least 16 and not older than 18 years of age and attend a high school in New Zealand (students who have completed high school no more than 3 months prior to the program begin are also eligible).
- 4. Essay:** Students must write an essay (at least 600 words) in which they explain their motivation for applying as well as their expectations of the program. This essay comes in addition to the regular application form.
- 5. Personal interview:** NZIIU will conduct an interview with shortlisted applicants. This happens in their home with at least one parent participating. Most interviews take about two and a half hours.
- 6. Program duration:** Full scholarships are only offered for the half-year or full-year program while partial scholarships are offered for the 2 and 3-month program.
- 7. Ambassador Project:** students who are given a scholarship are required to carry out an "Ambassador Project" while they are in Germany. This project entails completing a project with the goal of informing others about one's culture and home country. The project can take many forms and will be discussed in detail in Germany.
- 8. Quarterly Experience Report:** Scholarship holders are requested to write a quarterly experience report about their experiences in Germany. Definite details about the report will be given to you at your arrival.

Duration

Half-year program:

August 26, 2010 - January 15, 2011

January 21, 2011 – July 15, 2011

Full-year program:

August 26, 2010 – July 15, 2011

January 21, 2011 – January 15, 2012

2 and 3-month program: start dates are decided on an individual basis

Experiment Germany must receive all full scholarship applications by May 1, 2010 for summer arrivals which is why interviews are in mid to late April.

Applications for partial scholarships must be completed at least 4 and a half months prior to the program beginning.

The program includes the following meetings and services:

Orientation seminar, mid-term seminar (for full-year participants), end-of-year seminar (for full and half-year participants), transfer from the airport to the seminar location and then to the host family upon arrival, transfer from the host family to the airport on the departure date, host family accommodation, an administration fee, as well as health, accident and third party liability insurance.

Required documents

The participant must submit the following documents in their application to NZIIU:

- Experiment e.V. placement form
- A „dear host family“ letter in which the participant describes him or herself, their family and their everyday life
- Signed “rules for exchange students”
- A letter from the natural parents describing their son/daughter
- Medical report/health certificate
- School reports (copies) of at least the 2 most recent full report and any interim report since then
- German or English language assessment (e.g. from the German or English teacher)
- Recommendation letter (e.g. from a teacher, principal, guidance counsellor, etc.)
- A copy of the passport
- 5 SMILING passport-size photos
- 3-5 additional photos of the applicant and their family as an album for the host family

All forms are supplied in the application pack.

Host Family

Participants will be accommodated in host families, who live all over Germany. Special requests cannot be guaranteed (e.g. for certain locations, family size etc.). It is important that participants are prepared to value the experience itself rather than the outward conditions of the home stay.

The host family considers the student to be a temporary member of the family. They offer their home, time, hospitality, and their interest in learning and exchanging views with the student about him and his culture.

The participant will be notified as soon as a host family is found. Experiment will forward the full address, closest airports and train stations as well as a family description along with the address of the local representative as early as possible.

School

It is obligatory for the student to attend school throughout the entire duration of the program. The host family will enrol him/her in the local school, which will be a Gymnasium. Very often but not necessarily, their own children will attend the same school. On the basis of the submitted school certificates, the host school will decide upon the grade level the student will be placed in. Should the student require credits for certain subjects, it is very important that they indicate this in the application! Fares for school bus and fees for school books are not included in the program price.

Program rules/Disciplinary action

We take our program rules very seriously and will exercise disciplinary action against those students who disobey these rules. Depending on the severity of the offence, we will issue a written letter of warning or probation, which is sent to the student, host family, local coordinator, partner organization and natural parents. Students who repeatedly disobey our program rules will be dismissed from the program without refund.

Orientation seminar

Students will take part in a 3-day orientation seminar upon arrival. The orientation covers the nature of the program, the program rules, the cultural differences between the home country and Germany, visa information, insurance, counselling and financial responsibility. All costs for the seminar are included in the program price. Transfer from the airport to the orientation seminar as well as transfer costs from the seminar location to the host family are included.

Mid-term seminar

After the first half of the year-program, students are obligated to take part in a 3-day mid-term seminar. Their experiences will be discussed and evaluated and unsolved problems or questions will be addressed. Transfer to the seminar is included in the price. Mid-term seminars will only take place for full-year students.

End-of-year seminar

At the end of their stay, students must also take part in a 3-day seminar before their departure. This seminar provides the chance for all Experiment e.V. exchange students to meet and reflect on their past year or months. The students are prepared for the return to their home country and the possible issues and reverse culture shock they may experience. End-of-year seminars will be organized for full-year students as well as semester students.

Program supervision/Local coordinator

During the program a local coordinator is ready to assist the student and the host family should they need advice, require assistance or have questions or problems. The local coordinator will be in regular contact with the student and the host family. Of course the Experiment e.V. office in Bonn can always be contacted for assistance as well.

Spending money

Participants have to bring their own spending money to cover their private expenses. Usually we recommend a monthly allowance of about 180-250 Euros.

Visa to Germany (for non-European citizens)

Participants will get all necessary documents from Experiment e.V. in order to apply for their visa. They are responsible for arranging a date on which to submit the documents to the German Embassy in their home country. For more information, they should also consult the German Embassy.

Travel

Participants must arrange their international travel in a timely manner and should plan to arrive on the first day of the orientation seminar. Participants will be informed of the closest airport to the seminar location. This is almost certainly going to be Dueseldorf. Transfer from the airport to this location is arranged by Experiment e.V. All participants will be picked up by their host families or will take the train to their new host town.

Insurance

Full health, accident and third-liability insurance coverage will be arranged by Experiment e.V. in Germany. The extent of the coverage and other insurance details will be discussed during the orientation seminar.