

Berlin Letter I

Invitation to the

56TH ANNUAL BERLIN SEMINAR FOR AMERICAN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

March 21 – 25, 2010

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“The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy—the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately. The simple purpose of the exchange program . . . is to erode the culturally rooted mistrust that sets nations against one another. The exchange program is not a panacea but an avenue of hope . . .”

Senator J. William Fulbright in *The Price of Empire*, 1989

Dear Grantee,

The Fulbright highlight of your program year is the 2010 Berlin Seminar, and we take great pleasure in announcing this to you today. For the 56th time we are proud to invite all Fulbrighters in Germany to this central meeting in the exciting capital of Germany. This meeting comes after a severe world-wide financial crisis, after the election of new governments in the USA and Germany, and we celebrate the fall of the Wall, as well as the 200th anniversary of the Humboldt University, one of our program partners. All these occasions will be addressed.

All American Fulbrighters in Germany are cordially invited to attend. In addition, we will also be welcoming many American Fulbright scholars from other European Fulbright Commissions.

The regular conference will take place from **Sunday, March 21, noon** (arrival is suggested by noon because of various tours offered) **until Thursday morning, March 25 (departure)**.

Please send us the enclosed Berlin Participation Confirmation form **by December 18, 2009**. We expect about 600 participants and need the remaining time for organization and logistics. You can download and email the form to us. (www.fulbright.de – To Germany – Berlin Seminar 2010). Here are some more information for you:

1) *Purpose of the Fulbright Berlin Seminar*

Ever since the first American Fulbrighters came to Germany, the Fulbright Commission has arranged a mid-year Seminar enabling grantees to get together, share experiences, and discuss the achievements and problems of the past semester. The Seminar also gives grantees the chance to experience the new and old Berlin.

For the 2nd time about 200 German Fulbrighters of the 2010-2011 program year will join us for the Berlin Seminar 2010. Special events will allow the two Fulbright groups to meet, interact and start networking.

2) *Program of the Fulbright Berlin Seminar*

A variety of events, lectures, and discussions will focus on political, economic, and cultural topics. An opening ceremony followed by a reception will bring you together with people from Berlin's academic, political, economic and cultural scenes. A Party night and a special music gala with Fulbright musicians mark other highlights.

The Seminar leaves you with some time to venture out on your own and experience the diversity and history of Berlin. Accommodations will be provided at the Park Inn Hotel Alexanderplatz on the famous *Alexanderplatz*, near the geographic center of Berlin.

3) *Participation Conditions*

a) *Invitation:*

All American Fulbright grantees in Germany are invited to participate. Accompanying spouses and children are also included. Participation fee is Euro 20 for each adult. Children (up to 18) are free.

b) *Additional Guests:*

Friends or relatives (not covered by the Fulbright Commission) can participate in the seminar at their own costs: Euro 560 for a single room accommodation, or Euro 280 if willing to share a double room. This includes the room and meal plan and the program events as arranged by the Commission—it does not include transportation to or from Berlin. **This offer depends on hotel space available.** For additional guests, who make their own accommodation arrangements, the participation contribution is Euro 150 and includes meals and program activities.

c) *Time Frame:*

The meeting officially starts on Sunday, March 21 at noon (with city tours starting at noon), in case you wish to look for inexpensive transportation to and from Berlin now. It will end on March 25 after breakfast.

d) *Children:*

We will make appropriate hotel reservations for grantees and their families, provided we know exactly who is coming. Although we don't have a full program for the younger crowd, some childcare and children's events will be provided. Some regular events are also suitable for children. We will provide more detailed information after we have received your participation confirmation.

4) **Logistics and Costs**a) *Transportation:*

For grantees in Germany the Commission will provide a standard travel reimbursement, but unfortunately cannot pay for spouses' and childrens' transportation.

Our standard reimbursement policy is based on the train fare system of the Deutsche Bahn:

Without documents you will automatically receive 50 % of the regular full 2nd class fare (Bahncard 50 fare) between your host city and Berlin (roundtrip).

Higher reimbursements can only be considered for documented expenses not exceeding regular 2nd class fare.

In other words: Grantees in Germany are asked to make their own travel arrangements and request a reimbursement within the given limits. For practical reasons we would deduct the small participation fee, see above, from the reimbursement transfer.

b) *Accommodation:*

Arrangements have been made with the Park Inn Hotel at Alexanderplatz (www.parkinn-berlin.de).

The standard arrangement for university students and teaching assistants will be double rooms.

If you already know with whom you might wish to share a room, please let us know on the requested form.

c) *Meals:*

Buffet-style breakfast in the hotel is included, and usually one additional meal per day is provided for the group. The third meal (generally lunch) is left up to you for flexibility. Contrary to myth, Berlin is not expensive if you venture off the beaten paths, and there is something for everyone, especially in the new districts of Mitte or Prenzlauer Berg.

d) *Expenses and Benefits:*

Category	Fee*	Travel	Room, Board & Activities
grantee in Germany	Euro 20	free	free
spouse	Euro 20	self	free
kids (under 18)	free	self	free
Berlin grantees	free	free	no hotel needed, usually
guests (single room) *	Euro 560	self	included in fee
guests (double room) *	Euro 280	self	included in fee
guests (self)	Euro 150	self	self (activities + meals free)

Excursions, workshops, all scheduled events and meals are included in the seminar fee.

** subject to availability*

e) *Grantees Living in Berlin:*

Berlin grantees are invited to all program events, *including the group meals*. No hotel accommodations will be made for proximity reasons. Berlin grantees who have compelling reasons for hotel accommodations should contact the Commission.

f) *Participants from other "Fulbright" countries:*

Please check with your Fulbright Commission on the conditions to become a participant.

We welcome the American Fulbrighters from more than 20 European countries and have attached a specific registration form, depending on the funding situation.

5) *Registration*

Please confirm participation on the enclosed form. We need these forms **by December 18, 2009**, at the latest; otherwise accommodation may not be possible. You can mail, email, or fax the form. If you do not plan on participating, please let us know that as well.

PLEASE OBSERVE THIS DEADLINE AS THE SUCCESS OF THE SEMINAR DEPENDS
ON ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE WELL IN ADVANCE.
THANKS!

6) *Call for Presentations*

At the suggestion of former participants and based on the great successes we've had in the past years, we have scheduled time for one or two plenary sessions for the presentation of grantees' projects. We invite grantees to give short oral reports on their projects in subject-related panels, followed by Q + A. We encourage scholars, students, and teaching assistants from all fields and categories to participate. If you are interested, please return the enclosed project registration form to us. This also applies to Fulbrighters from other European countries.

7) *Summary*

Please send your participation confirmation soon and save the dates **March 21 – 25, 2010**.

We will send you more information 3 - 4 weeks before the Seminar begins.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about reuniting with your fellow Fulbrighters and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Reiner Rohr
Chief,
American Programs

Enclosures:

- Participation Forms
- Project Presentation Form