

BERLIN SEMINAR 2018 | BERLIN LETTER I

Ever since the first American Fulbrighters came to Germany, the Fulbright Commission has arranged a mid-year seminar providing an opportunity for grantees to get together, share experiences, and discuss the accomplishments and challenges of the past semester. The mid-year seminar traditionally took place in Berlin, even when Berlin was still a divided city.

Today, the Berlin seminar not only convenes the current American Fulbrighters in Germany, it also includes the German Fulbrighters-to-be, and many American Fulbrighters studying, teaching and performing research in Germany's neighboring countries. It thus offers lots of opportunities for intercultural meetings, interactions and networking. The participants will also gain interesting insights into how the eastern and western parts of the city have moved closer together, where different traditions keep them apart, and how Berlin is growing into the role of being Germany's capital city.

We herewith cordially invite you to join the Fulbright Berlin Seminar 2018.

The seminar will take place from **Saturday, March 17** (noon), **until Wednesday morning, March 21** (departure).

Please return the registration form via e-mail to americanprograms@fulbright.de by **November 30, 2017**.

Please keep in mind: this exciting event is a joint venture *from Fulbrighters for Fulbrighters*.

Therefore, we welcome your input and active participation!

The following information outlines the framework of the Berlin Seminar 2018:

I. SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

The following Fulbright grant categories are invited to participate in the Berlin Seminar:

- U.S. Students in Germany – about 70
- U.S. Journalists in Germany – 5
- U.S. Teaching Assistants in Germany – about 140
- U.S. Scholars in Germany – about 5
- German Students-to-be – about 180
- EU grantees in different categories – about 100

Total participants: approx. 500

II. PROGRAM

A variety of events, panels and discussions will focus on political, economic, academic, and cultural topics. Moreover specific workshops are offered for students and teaching assistants. The seminar schedule will also provide opportunities for you to venture out on your own and experience the diversity and history of Berlin.

Events such as the Welcome Dinner, the Fulbright Ceremony and Town Hall Reception will bring you together with alumni, friends and supporters of the German-American Fulbright program. A farewell party will be the concluding highlight.

A detailed program schedule will follow with our Berlin Letter II (available online in February 2018).

III. PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS AND COSTS

1) U.S. Fulbright Grantees in Germany

All U.S. grantees in Germany are invited to participate. For grantees, spouses, and adult children, the participation fee is EUR 30. Children (up to 18) are free of charge. For the grantees' travel costs, the Fulbright Commission will offer a "standard reimbursement." Accompanying spouses and children cannot be reimbursed for their travel costs.

Fulbright Grantees living in Berlin

U.S. grantees in Berlin are invited to all program events, *including the group meals*. No hotel accommodation will be provided for proximity reasons. Berlin grantees who have compelling reasons for hotel accommodation need to contact us prior to the registration deadline.

Additional Guests

Friends or relatives (not covered by the Fulbright Commission) can participate in the seminar at their own expense: if accommodated in a single room EUR 600 or EUR 350 if willing to share a double room. This fee includes the room and meals as well as program events as arranged by the Fulbright Commission - it does not include transportation to or from Berlin. **This offer depends on hotel space availability.** Please check with us early regarding availability. For additional guests, who make their own accommodation arrangements, the participation fee is EUR 150 and includes seminar-related meals and program activities.

Registration conditions:

Category	Participation Fee	Travel	Room, Board & Activities
U.S. Grantee in Germany **	EUR 30	Standard Reimbursement	Included
Spouse **	EUR 30	Self	Included
Child/ren (under 18)	Free	Self	Free
U.S. Grantees living in Berlin	Free	n.a.	n.a. activities and program meals included
Guests (single room) *, **	EUR 600	Self	Included
Guests (double room) *, **	EUR 350	Self	Included
Guests (no accommodation) **	EUR 150	Self	Self-accommodation, activities and program meals included
<i>Excursions, workshops & all scheduled events and meals are included in the participation fee.</i>			
* Subject to availability.			
** Cancellation of participation until January 15, 2018 free of charge, after that 50 % of the participation fee will be charged.			

2) U.S. Fulbrighters from other European countries

Once again, we will welcome American Fulbrighters from more than 20 different European countries. Please check with your Fulbright Commission regarding the participation conditions for the Berlin Seminar. *You must register for the Berlin Seminar via your local Fulbright Commission.* We will not accept individual registrations.

Registration conditions:

Category	Participation Fee	Travel	Room, Board & Activities
U.S. Grantee in other European Country			
Single room accommodation *, **	EUR 600	Self	Included
Double room accommodation *, **	EUR 350	Self	Included
No accommodation **	EUR 150	Self	Self-accommodation, activities and program meals included
The same fees apply to accompanying spouses. Children under the age of 18 are free.			
<i>Excursions, workshops & all scheduled events and meals are included in the participation fee.</i>			
* Subject to availability.			
** Cancellation of participation until January 15, 2018 free of charge, after that 50 % of the participation fee will be charged.			

IV. LOGISTICS

Time Frame

The seminar officially starts on **Saturday, March 17 at noon** with the conference registration. You may wish to look for inexpensive transportation to and from Berlin now. The seminar will end on **Wednesday, March 21 after breakfast**.

Transportation

For U.S. grantees in Germany, the Fulbright Commission will provide a “standard travel reimbursement,” but unfortunately we cannot cover the transportation costs of accompanying family members.

Our standard reimbursement policy

For U.S. grantees in Germany, we reimburse 50 % of the regular Deutsche Bahn 2nd class train fare for direct seminar-related travel. We will not transfer any amount below EUR 10.

We ask grantees in Germany to make their own travel arrangements and to request a standard reimbursement via our registration form. For practical reasons we will deduct the participation fee (EUR 30) from the reimbursement. The transfer of funds will be made approximately 4 weeks after the end of the seminar.

Accommodation

Hotel accommodation will be provided for four nights. Reservations have been made with the [Hotel Riu Plaza Berlin](#) within walking distance of the famous *Ku'damm*.

The standard arrangement for students and teaching assistants will be double room accommodation (this may be a twin or double bed accommodation). If you already know with whom you would like to share a room, please let us know by including your friend's name in the registration form.

Children

We will pre-arrange appropriate hotel reservations for grantees and their families, provided that we know exactly who is coming. Some regular events are also suitable for children.

Meals

Buffet-style breakfast is included in the hotel arrangement, and usually one additional meal per day is provided for all seminar participants.

V. CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Project Presentations

Based on the suggestions of former participants and thanks to the great success in past years, we scheduled time (Monday, March 19, 2018) for the presentation of projects. We invite grantees to give short TEDx-style oral reports on their projects, followed by Q + A. We encourage grantees from all fields and categories to participate. This also applies to Fulbrighters from other European countries. We will select presentations from all incoming applications, trying to offer a cross-section of Fulbrighters' projects and will notify you in due time regarding the outcome.

If you are interested, please return the enclosed project presentation form by **January 2, 2018**.

Walking Tours/Excursions

We will also have time to explore the many different facets of Berlin and discuss contemporary issues during our “Fulbright on Tour” slot on Tuesday afternoon, March 20, 2018. We invite participants to offer/organize walking tours or excursions for up to 20 participants which can last from one to three hours:

Walking Tours would revolve around a certain topic or area (e. g. “Political Architecture in Berlin”, “Literature Tours” or “Traces of the Berlin Wall”).

Excursions would include stops at one or multiple destinations (e. g. guided tour at an art museum, panel discussion at a renowned Berlin research center, “Entrepreneurship Safari” including visit of a start-up).

We will select tours/excursions from all incoming applications, trying to offer a well-balanced mix of topics and destinations. We will notify you in due time regarding the outcome, so that you would have ample time to organize the Walking Tour or Excursion/Visit.

If you would like to organize a walking tour or excursion, please return the enclosed form by **January 2, 2018**.

VI. REGISTRATION DEADLINE

U.S. Grantees in Germany must confirm their participation via the registration form. We need you to return your form by **November 30, 2017** via e-mail to americanprograms@fulbright.de



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

If you do not plan on participating, please let us know that as well in an informal e-mail.

U.S. Grantees in other European countries please register through your local Fulbright Commission!

More seminar information will follow in February 2018.

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

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Charlotte Securius-Carr in blue ink.

Charlotte Securius-Carr
Head
Fulbright Programs

Handwritten signature of Catharina Hänsch in blue ink.

Catharina Hänsch
Program Officer

Handwritten signature of Renee H. Burke in blue ink.

Renee H. Burke
Program Officer