



**Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft – USA Interns**

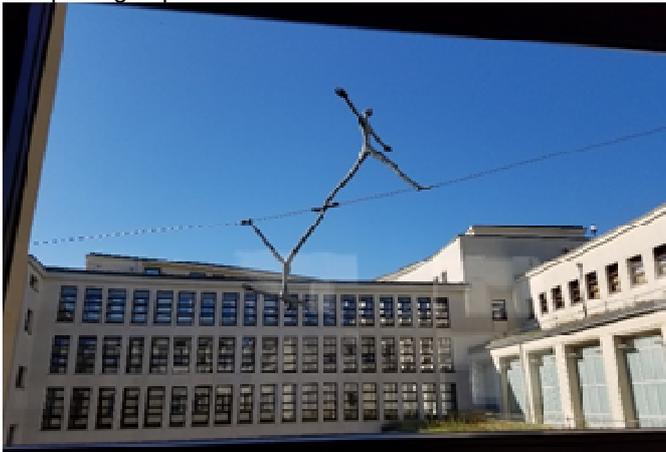


## Interning at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin

***Ann-Kathrin Merz***

While studying international affairs at Georgetown University's school of Foreign Service, ***Ann-Kathrin Merz*** applied to intern at the headquarters of the German Foreign Ministry ("das Auswärtige Amt") in Berlin. After sending in many documents and expressing her interest, she was overcome with joy upon being accepted January 2016. She was informed that she would intern in the team responsible for bilateral relations with Northern European Nations. Here is ***Ann-Kathrin's*** report she sent to ***Juliane Adameit***, coordinator of the USA Interns-Program of the Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft in Frankfurt:

My team consisted of about ten people, each person either responsible for relations with one of the Northern European Nations in my department or tasked with completing important administrative work.



As an intern, I assisted the other members in my team with their work. Therefore, I worked on a wide breadth of tasks with varying degrees of difficulty. Many of my tasks pertained to researching large amounts of data and summarizing the information in concise reports. I also compared and contrasted the views of various experts for other members in my department. Moreover, I was permitted to attend different meetings to gain a better insight into a career in the German Foreign Ministry.

The internship also proved to be a wonderful experience socially. The members in my team welcomed me warmly. Sometimes we went to lunch together,

where I benefited from their advice and loved listening to their stories from working abroad.



The German Foreign Ministry (*see picture left*) also supports the intern's education through visits to foreign embassies and political organizations in Berlin. These exciting trips often included fascinating conversations about international affairs. Moreover, through the internship program I became friends with the other interns. I enjoyed hearing about their life growing up in Germany and found interesting differences and similarities between the political culture in Germany and the United States.

Finally, I was delighted in exploring Berlin. Berlin has many beautiful neighborhoods, some tucked away far from where most tourists will find them. Likewise, the city is filled eccentric book stores and quaint cafes serving delicious, German fruitcakes. I also loved watching the crowds swell on the streets to watch the German Men's Soccer Team play during the European Cup (*see picture above of an event at Brandenburg Gate*), as TV screens lit up restaurants, bars and parks.

In the end, I am grateful for the incredible experience interning at the German Foreign Federal Office in Berlin. I learned about foreign policy processes while gaining a unique insight into a career in diplomacy. I would highly recommend this internship to any curious, hardworking college student passionate about international affairs.

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