

# VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA (ISCOG)\* -  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Proudly Presents

## LET'S TALK GERMANY

WITH



**MELANIE MOLTSMANN, CONSUL  
GENERAL OF GERMANY IN ATLANTA**

Before arriving in Atlanta in 2021, Ms. Melanie Moltmann was the Deputy Head of Division, Division for Immigration Law, Visa and Immigration Policy in Berlin. Her other diplomatic experiences include serving as the Deputy Head of the Mission and Counselor for Cultural and Press Affairs at the German Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Desk Officer, Division of South East Asia and the Pacific in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin; and Deputy Head of the Mission, German Embassy, Yerevan, Armenia. Fluent in Russian, French and English, after studying Law in Germany and U. K., Ms. Moltmann earned an LLM degree in Moscow. She is married and has three sons.

**JOIN US ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023 – 2:00 – 3:30 P. M. (EASTERN TIME)**

### Registration

for a 90-minute interactive program in which diplomat Melanie Moltmann will introduce the social, cultural, and economic footprint of Germany in the United States with a focus on the Southeast. Students attending the program will gain global competency skills to help them succeed in a dynamic and interdependent global economy. The program will also offer opportunities for career exploration, including government internships, for students attending schools in the Consortium.

### JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

**REINHARDT UNIVERSITY & THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA**



Please contact Consortium Executive Director [raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu](mailto:raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu) for any additional information.

**\*Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Houston Community College (TX), Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

### **THE VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM**

The main objective of the Virtual Visiting Diplomat Program is to have a direct impact on the talented and accomplished students at Consortium universities/colleges and increase their knowledge and understanding regarding a country or a region or a global topic. The focus of the 90-minute interactive program (one hour of presentation followed by 30 minutes of question and answer) will be international and cross-cultural in nature. Visiting Diplomats will serve as presenters and resource persons for the program and will introduce the region/country and its social, cultural and economic footprint in the United States in general and the Southeast in particular to young men and women.

As a part of the program, the featured presenter will share his/her professional career trajectory to stimulate students to be creative and innovative and encourage them to aspire and reach higher levels of leadership as they pursue their own academic and professional goals. The purpose of the program is to provide students with unique experiences and opportunities not available in a textbook or in a classroom setting. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist young men and women acquire global competency skills and help them to adapt and succeed in a dynamic and highly-interdependent global economy.

### **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: COUNTRY PROFILE**

**Germany** (Population 84 million) is **Europe's largest economy and the most populous country in the European Union**. Achieving national unity later than other European nations, Germany quickly caught up economically and militarily, before defeats in World War One and World War Two left it shattered, facing the difficult legacy of Nazism and divided between Europe's Cold War blocs.

After 1949, West Germany rebounded to become the continent's economic giant and a prime mover of European cooperation. Franco-German cooperation was central to European economic integration in the 1980s and 1990s. With the end of the Cold War, the two parts of the country were once again united, although the economy of the former east continues to lag behind the rest of the country. Since reunification, Germany has taken a more active role in the European Union, signing the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 and the Lisbon Treaty in 2007 and co-founding the Eurozone.

### **OVERVIEW: POLITICAL SYSTEM, TRADE AND ECONOMY**

[Germany – EU member country profile | European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)

**UNITED STATES – GERMANY RELATIONS:** Germany is one of the United States' closest and strongest Allies in Europe. The U.S. relations with Germany are based on a mutual and vital relationship as friends, trading partners, and Allies. The political, economic, cultural, and security relationships, critical to shared prosperity and continued stability, are based on extensive people-to-people ties and close coordination at the most senior levels.

**GERMANY – U. S. ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP:** In 2019, bilateral trade in goods and services between Germany and the U.S totaled nearly \$260 billion, with U.S. exports of \$96.7 billion and imports of \$162.9 billion. All of the \$66.2 billion trade deficit in 2019 was in goods. Bilateral trade in services (\$71.6 billion in 2019) is roughly in balance with a U.S. surplus of \$1.7 billion (down from a \$3 billion surplus in 2018).

While Americans have invested more than \$148 billion FDI in Germany, Germans have invested \$522 billion FDI in the United States – 29 percent of all FDI from the EU.

**GERMANY – GEORGIA BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT:** There are over 500 German companies in the state of Georgia, with many of them associated with the Southeast's thriving automotive industry. There are also many "Mittelstand" or family-owned small-to-medium sized companies which often go to smaller, more rural Georgia towns for their American presence. The State of Georgia's European economic development office is headquartered in Munich, which is the largest of its 12 international offices.

Atlanta is the Southern headquarters of the German-American Chamber of Commerce, which covers 11 states, as well as the German School and the German Cultural Center. Atlanta also has a sister city relationship with the city of Nuremberg and Georgia has a sister state relationship with Bavaria.

There are at least 58 Georgia companies with operations in Germany, including Alimera Sciences, Bridgestone Golf, Delta Airlines, Eversheds Sutherland, Graphic Packaging Holding, Novelis, Porex Corporation, and West Rock.

## **GEORGIA-GERMANY CONNECTION**

[georgia\\_germany\\_connection\\_2021.pdf](#)

**GERMAN CULTURE** is known for its punctuality, efficiency, and adherence to rules and traditions therefore it's important to familiarize yourself with these cultural norms to avoid any misunderstandings or cultural faux pas.

One important aspect of German culture is punctuality. Germans value punctuality and expect others to be on time as well. Being late for a meeting or appointment can be seen as disrespectful and unprofessional.

Another important aspect of German culture is their love for rules and regulations. Germans are known for following rules strictly and expect others to do the same. This is especially true in public places such as train stations, airports, and government buildings.

Germans also value personal space and privacy. They don't usually engage in small talk with strangers and prefer to keep a distance from others. It's important to be aware of this and not invade their personal space.

It's also important to note that Germans are not big on physical contact such as hugging or touching. Handshakes are the norm for greetings and it's best to avoid physical contact unless initiated by the German person.

In terms of dress code, Germans are generally well-dressed and expect others to be as well. It's best to avoid casual or sloppy attire in formal settings.

Lastly, it's important to be mindful of German history and avoid making any comments or jokes about the Nazi regime or Holocaust. This is considered disrespectful and offensive.

Learning and understanding these cultural norms can help make your transition to living in Germany smoother.

With my program, you'll not only learn the language but also the culture and customs of Germany, making it easier for you to integrate into German society.

## **GERMAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, PEOPLE, CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND DIVERSE CITIES.**

The country's educational system has various tracks for students and they have options at certain ages of their schooling. Teachers are paid well and respected in each state; however, it is difficult to move from state to state unlike in the U.S.

Germany has a very interesting government as well. In the German multiparty system, a party can attain a voice with at least five percent of the vote. Voting across party lines is quite common in Parliament and coalitions are necessary in order to pass laws. Overall citizens feel very happy with their leadership, but when issues arise, groups like the Green Party become new additions to the Parliamentary scene.

Germans are global leaders in green energy. In fact, you are not allowed to deny that climate change is real. Visitors to the country can see wind turbines and other energy saving measures throughout the country. Buildings are intentionally designed to maximize energy savings and solar panel are commonly used. The varying levels of non-automotive transportation encourages people to be conservative and multi-colored garbage cans help to organize recycling efforts.

Germans are to discuss the atrocities of the past that have made their country rebound in a relatively short period of time after World War II. It is a crime to deny the Holocaust. German children, usually around fourteen years old, must visit a concentration camp.

Visitors to German cities can see reminders of the past, especially where buildings are being restored or have been left in their damaged state. These include the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, and the Topographie des Terrors, a center documenting the difficult history of Nazi Germany.

Germany is not just a place with painful memories of the past. There are countless museums, city tours, amazing food at various restaurants, little fairy tale villages like Herrenberg, castles, extravagant churches, lots of shops, opera houses, multiple languages being spoken with ease, and green spaces such as the English Garden. Sundays are traditionally family-oriented as many shops are closed and people are relaxing at a variety of venues.

In brief, American students will be enriched by their exposure to German and by experiencing the country firsthand.

## **WHY STUDY ABROAD IN GERMANY?**

Germany is among the most popular destinations for studying abroad. The number of international students in Germany has been growing steadily over the years. From 2014 to 2021, the numbers have increased by nearly 40%. Here are the top advantages Germany offers that draw students from all over the world;

**Low or No Cost of Education:** For Bachelor's or Master's degree level, international students can enjoy free tuition in German public universities. International Students only need to pay a small administrative fee or semester fee. This is why so many students choose to study abroad in Germany.

**Choose From Top Ranked Universities:** Get world-class education, almost for free, at German universities which rank among the world's best. Germans believe everyone should have free access to higher education and contribute to the economic growth of the country. A degree from a reputable German university will open doors for career growth for you internationally.

**Scholarships for International students:** Several scholarship providers like DAAD offer financial support to needy students in Germany.

**Affordable Living:** The cost of living is relatively affordable in Germany, with accommodation and airfare constituting the bulk of the cost. Students have many options to handle accommodation costs like living in a dorm, student halls, renting a room, sharing an apartment with friends, etc.

**Endless Work Opportunities:** There are plenty of work opportunities in Germany, and they want international students to stay after completing their education and keep working in Germany. Giant companies like Daimler, BMW, Audi, Adidas, Siemens, and Bosch are among the top recruiters.

**Extensive Focus on Research:** Top German universities enjoy partnerships with local and international research institutes and offer state-of-the-art research facilities and laboratories for students.

**Travel Europe on Student Visa:** Travel anywhere within the EU with your student visa in Germany. Enjoy the historical sites at Berlin and Munich to get a taste of Germany's rich history.