



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

Patron:
Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW

The Society

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange (S.A.G.S.E.) was founded in 1967 in Melbourne by a group of people involved in trade and cultural relations between Australia and Germany. It was their belief that it was important to improve the understanding between the two countries by providing young people with the chance to spend time in the other country, living as part of a family, improving their language skills; attending school and forming friendships. S.A.G.S.E. is a non-profit volunteer organisation funded entirely by German and Australian companies and private persons. It operates in cooperation with, and with the approval of, the N.S.W. Department of Education.

The Exchange

Each year, the New South Wales branch of the Society offers about 10 - 12 scholarships to students in Year 11 who are studying German in NSW and the ACT. Students leave Australia at the end of November to spend just over two months living with a German family and attending a German school, returning around the end of January. During their stay in Germany, the students attend a camp in January, make a visit to Berlin at the end of their stay and attend a reception at the Australian or New Zealand Embassies.

A Group Leader accompanies the students to Germany and stays in Germany as their first point of contact for any queries or problems. The Group Leader is an experienced and mature former scholarship student.

Upon arrival in Germany, students are met by their host families and representatives of the German counterpart of the Society. The students stay with German scholarship winners, who travel to Australia the following June. However, no Australian scholarship winner is obliged to host a German student.

Hosting a Student

In mid June this year another group of German students will spend ten weeks here under the auspices of the Society. The German students are approximately sixteen and seventeen years of age and have a sound grounding in the English language. We invite prospective host families, who should have children in the same age group as the German students, to become involved in this programme and to give a German student the opportunity to feel part of an Australian family. Although knowledge of German is not necessary, an interest is helpful. During their time in Australia, the German students must attend school. Other activities such as holiday camps with their host siblings will be organised.

In addition to the benefits which come from getting to know a foreign student, this year any designated host sibling will be automatically granted an interview (an advanced step in the selection process).

Scholarship Benefits

Scholarship winners receive fully-paid return airfares from their home town to their destination in Germany. Students do not pay board to their host families and are not required to host a German on their return. Students should be aware that accepting a scholarship may involve missing some school

in Australia. During their stay in Germany students are allowed to travel to other places in Germany for one week at their own expense.

Estimated Additional Personal Expenses

When applying for a scholarship consideration should be given to the fact that there will be some additional expenses. The additional expenses cover such things as Health Insurance and the winter camp etc. The cost is approximately \$600.00.

Each student will require his or her own spending money whilst in Germany for approximately 10 weeks.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship students must be in Year 11 and have studied German for at least two years. Students are ineligible to apply if they are German citizens, have lived in a German-speaking country, speak German at home or are in any other way advantaged by a German-speaking background, or if they have lived in Australia for fewer than five years.

Although academic achievement and ability in German are important, the selection committee places at least as much importance on factors such as social responsibility, especially at school but also outside of school, extra-curricular activities, maturity, adaptability, ability to mix with people, initiative, general knowledge (particularly about Australia) and interest in Germany, its people, culture and history.

How to Apply

Complete the application form (photocopies are accepted) and request the school principal to complete the confidential report on the last page. Applications should then be sent by the school to:

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange
Attention: Mr Dirk Haarhaus / Simone Fox
a. hartrodt australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 349
Mascot NSW 1460

Applications close on May 15 each year and no applications will be accepted after that date. The same application form may be used in any year.

Applicants will be informed in June if they have been short-listed for an interview. Applicants who have not been informed of an interview by July 15 should assume that they have been unsuccessful.

Interviews are conducted in August by a panel consisting of representatives from the Society, the New South Wales Department of Education, Government and Non Government schools and former exchange students. Interviews take about 15 minutes each. A short section of the interview is conducted in German. All interviewees will be informed about the result of their interview by mid-September.

If you have any queries please contact Mr Dirk Haarhaus at a. hartrodt australia Pty Ltd on (02) 9364 5961.

Electronic Version

If you would like an electronic version of the Application Package, including all required forms, please email SAGSE@hartrodt.com.au with your email details.

Additional information regarding the Society, as well as application forms, is available from our website www.sagse.org.au