



Founded in Melbourne, Victoria

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange

PATRON: Professor David de Kretser, AO, GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION 2010/2011

Closing date for all applications: May 28, 2010
Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Background

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) was founded in 1967 by Mr Fritz von Einem-Joosten, a German businessman who wanted to foster international understanding by means of a German-Australian youth exchange. He sought sponsorship from a number of German firms operating in Australia. Since then, the Society has been able to give a select group of students of German in secondary schools the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the language and to get to know German people by living in the country for a period of time. The Society has among its members, representatives of Victorian universities and schools. Australian firms are actively participating in the work of the Society and provide scholarships to students to and from Germany.

Since 1968, scholarship sponsors have enabled hundreds of Victorian secondary students who have reached the eleventh or twelfth year level to stay in Germany from late November to early February. Scholarships are being offered each year on a similar basis.

Benefits for Scholarship Holders

Scholarship winners will travel to Germany in late November of the year in which they apply, and stay with selected families. They will be shown around by their hosts during the holidays and celebrate Christmas with them. **They must attend school with their host brothers/sisters.** They will return to Australia in early February of the following year. The scholarship provides for all air travel, Berlin Camp and accommodation during the home-stay segment of the exchange.

Scholars from Victoria will fly to Germany in a group with scholarship winners from NSW and WA. A Group Leader nominated by GASS, the returned students' Society, will accompany them and is responsible for their well-being during the journey. On arrival, they will be met by their hosts. They will be given their hosts' names in advance to allow them to correspond with the family prior to departure. The Australian Embassy in Germany will be informed of their presence in the country, and they will have contact with the Group Leader at regular intervals.

Selection Criteria

Scholarships are available to boys and girls who fulfil the following criteria:

- they are **Australian citizens**
- they are in Year 11 or 12 at a Victorian secondary school

Suitable candidates will possess the following essential qualities:

- Excellent academic achievement in English and other subjects
- Wider contribution to the school community and participation in activities outside the classroom
- Excellent communication skills
- Good knowledge of current issues in both Australia and Germany
- Capacity to discuss Australian history, geography and culture in some detail
- Some knowledge of Germany's history, culture and geography, as well as its relevance to Australians
- Ability to converse in simple German on a range of everyday topics
- Ability to adapt to change and a new environment

The school principal will be asked to provide a report on the applicant's character, general academic progress, contribution to the school and community, and his/her achievement in German.

Students who have fulfilled the above criteria and have submitted a correct completed application by the due date students will be considered for short listing.

Students who have fulfilled the above criteria, have submitted the correctly completed application form by the due date and have hosted or are hosting will be granted a preliminary interview.



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Selection of Scholars

Initial applications will be short-listed and a selected group interviewed by a Selection Committee. From this group, a number of scholarship winners will be selected. When the scholarships are awarded, the four or five candidates next in order of merit will be placed on a reserve list and awarded scholarships if any of the winners are unable to accept or if further scholarships should become available.

At the interview, candidates will be asked questions relating to the Selection Criteria on page one, as well as being asked to conduct a short segment of the interview in German. Short-listed candidates are strongly advised to refer to the selection criteria when preparing for their interview.

Conditions of the Scholarship

Students who are offered a scholarship are expected to attend the Presentation Banquet, which is generally held on the second Friday in October.

In addition, there is an expectation that returned scholars will make an active contribution to the process by which host families are recruited for the following year. This could include hosting a student, finding an alternative host family or assisting GASS members with the administrative tasks associated with this process. Scholars will also be expected to assist the German teacher at their school in promoting the scholarship and the benefits of hosting.

Back in Australia

On their return scholars are required to furnish the Society with a comprehensive and well presented report on their experiences, as well as deliver a short speech of approximately four minutes at the Returnees' Debriefing. Students will become members of the German-Australian Scholarship Students Society (GASS), first established in 1970.

Additional Costs to Scholars

It is a condition of acceptance that the scholar's family take out appropriate travel insurance for the duration of the scholarship. Students will also need to provide their own pocket money. Students are encouraged to participate in a number of additional activities hosted by the German Branch of the Society, such as a week-long camp in Berlin (compulsory) and a GASS camp. The conditions of the scholarship provide for students to undertake 5 days of independent travel within Germany, together with other Australians in the group. These activities all entail additional expenses of about \$1,500AUS in total. It may be possible for the Society to offset some of these costs, depending on airfare costs in any given year.

Application Forms (Part 1 and 2)

The SAGSE scholarships will be publicised in the German-teaching community.

Students can obtain an application form from any of the following sources:

- Ask your German teacher or Head of LOTE
- Download from the SAGSE website: www.sagse.org.au
- Contact the Chairperson of the Selection Committee (Evelyn Voshege) via email on selection-vic@sagse.org.au

Completed applications must reach the following address by May 28, 2010.

**Mrs Evelyn Voshege
Scholarship Selection Panel
The Society for Australian – German Student Exchange
18 Russell Street
Camberwell, VIC, 3124**

email: selection-vic@sagse.org.au

It is planned that interviews will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2010, preceded by the Kaffee und Kuchen on Saturday, July 24, 2010.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by mail.

Please do not use any of the following methods of delivery:

- Courier Registered Mail Bulky folders