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27.04.2026/ JS
PG_JA

Topic:

Transatlantic Summer Academy: Honors Scholars Exploring Germany

Date:

10.07. – 21.07.2026

With kind support of



Cooperation Partners



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

<u>Organisation and pedagogical responsibility:</u>	Dr. Jana Stehlíková, Director of Studies, EAO
<u>Seminar leader:</u>	Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO
<u>Co-leader:</u>	Brian Etheridge, Kennesaw State University, USA Shane Peterson, Kennesaw State University, USA
<u>Seminar assistant:</u>	Tom Kurzyca, FR-Ottange (12.-21.07.2026)
<u>Language:</u>	English
<u>Interpreters:</u>	./.
<u>Participants:</u>	
<u>Beginning:</u>	10.07.2026, 09:00 a.m.
<u>End:</u>	21.07.2026, 06:00 a.m.
<u>Venue:</u>	10.07.-12.07.2026 a&o Frankfurt Ostend Hanauer Landstraße 207 60314 Frankfurt 12.07.-21.07.2026 Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen Europahausstraße 35, 66620 Nonnweiler
<u>Seminar fee:</u>	1,860.00 € Splitting: 2/3 will be collected as project-related participant fee (1,200.00 € incl. the proportional VAT of 7 %) and 1/3 as institutional contribution margin of the EAO (600.00 € incl. the proportional VAT of 7 %).

PROGRAM

Friday, 10.07.2026	Arrival to Frankfurt
Around 9 am Arrival to the hostel	Arrival of the American students at Frankfurt Airport Terminal 2 (DELTA 14 from Atlanta) Meeting Point at Frankfurt Airport and transfer by metro to the city center Hotel a&o Frankfurt Ostend Hanauer Landstraße 207 60314 Frankfurt
11:00 – 12:30	Welcome Remarks <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Joint lunch at Jugendherberge
13:30 – 14:30	Down time
14:30 – 15:00	Walk to the city center
15:00 – 17:30	Frankfurt - a German and a European City Meeting point: Eiserner Steg Paulskirche, Römerberg, Bankenviertel, Goethehaus, Dt. Börse <i>Guided Tour with Coffee-to-go-Break</i>
17:30 – 18:30	Reflection of the tour Preview and planning of the next day <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
18:30	Individual Dinner and individual free time
Saturday, 11.07.2026	Frankfurt – German Peculiarities
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
08:30 – 09:30	Transfer to Start Stiftung
09:30 – 12:00	International / Transatlantic Get Together: “Empowerment and participation for young students in Germany” Meeting with START Stiftung Scholars Moderation: Jana Stehlíková, EAO
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch with START students and team
13:00 – 16:30	City Rallye: What to Know about Germany? German Procedures, Peculiarities and Lifestyle City as Text: Exploratory workshop in small groups in the City Centre together with START Students <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Individual free time spent with START students
17:30 – 18:30	City Rallye: What we now Know about Germany?!? – Reflection Reflection and discussion <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>

18:30 – 19:00	Transfer to the restaurant
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner at "Ebbelwoi Unser", Alt-Sachsenhausen
Sunday, 12.07.2026	Time to relocate / Reflection and Evaluation
Until 08:00	Breakfast and Check-Out
08:00 – 13:00	Transfer to Frankfurt Main Central Station and by train to EAO (Train to Türkismühle, shuttle bus to EAO)
08:30 – 12:00	Reflection and Evaluation of the Frankfurt Program on the train: Take-aways, main surprises and what we want to learn? Seminar team: <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Eteridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
13:00	Arrival to EAO, check in
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 18:30 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 16:00)	Welcome to the rural Germany Presentation, guided walk in Otzenhausen, city rallye <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
18:30	Dinner
Monday, 13.07.2026	Global Crisis and Human Rights
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 12:30 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 10:30)	Global Crises, Global Challenges – where are we now and what about it? Introduction to the seminar topic <i>Lecturer: Jun. Prof. Dr. Florian Böller, Heidelberg Center for American Studies</i> <i>Moderation: Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 17:30 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 16:00)	Strategic Culture: Politics, Discourse and Challenges in the Global Arena Keynote speech with discussion <i>Lecturer: Julian Plottka, University Passau</i> <i>Moderation: Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
17:30 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Saarland-Style Barbecue
20:00	German Bowling ("Kegeln") evening in the EAO's "Euro bistro"
Tuesday, 14.07.2026	International Regimes, Institutions and much more: exploring the status quo and the (un)desired alternatives
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 12:30 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 10:30)	Institutions and decision-making processes under the magnifying glass: Can justice and efficiency be achieved simultaneously through democratic governance? Keynote speech with discussion <i>Lecturer: Philipp Raab, University Würzburg</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 18:00 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 16:00)	A short journey from democracy to authoritarianism (and back!): How do political systems differ and how do these differences influence the actors within the systems? Impulse lecture with discussion and small group work <i>Speaker: Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>

18:00 – 18:30	Preparation of the excursion to Strasbourg Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO
18:30	Dinner
Wednesday, 15.07.2026	Day trip to Strasbourg
06:00 – 07:00	Breakfast (and making a packed sandwiches) <i>(Wear business casual attire for meeting with European government officials and wear/bring comfortable walking shoes for city walking tour and free time in afternoon)</i>
07:00	Departure for Strasbourg
10:00 – 12:00	Visit and working discussion at the Council of Europe Tour of the Council of Europe and presentation of the institution's work Subsequent working discussion with: Sylvia Ivanova, Deputy Head of the European Youth Foundation at the Council of Europe (TBC)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break (packed sandwiches)
13:00 – 14:00	Guided tour of Strasbourg's European District with the seminar team including Parc de l'Orangerie (Orangerie Park), Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme (European Court of Human Rights), Europaparlament (European Parliament)
14:00 – 14:30	Transfer to the city center
14:30 – 17:30	Strasbourg - a European Semi-Capital? Exploratory small-groups workshop focused on insights into the history of Strasbourg as a border city between Germany and France City-as-Text: Moderation/academic impulse: <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
17:30 – 21:00	Individual free time in Strasbourg city center, dinner with packed sandwiches
21:00	Departure to Otzenhausen from parking lot Place de l'Étoile (Arrival in Otzenhausen approx. 23.30)
Thursday, 16.07.2026	Resilience in various forms and remembrance culture
08:30 – 09:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 12:30	Half – day – Off to recharge the batteries ☺
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:00	Reflection of the excursion and exploratory workshop Seminar team
14:00 – 18:00 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 16:00)	From resilience to design ability. How to Speak up and communicate your opinion <i>Nicola Speer, EAO (tbc)</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30 – 19:30	Dinner
19:30 – 21:30	Westwall and Höckerlinie Otzenhausen Guided walk to the remembrance Path "Remember to the future" <i>Katrin and Raimund Dahmen, Höckerlinie Initiative</i> <i>Kerstin Adam, SEKB</i> <i>Moderation: Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
Friday, 17.07.2026	Transfer Workshop: Envision our future: The World we want to live in

08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 12:30 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 10:30)	"Envision our future": Group work For Democracy and Diversity. – PART 1 <i>Facilitator: Larissa Saar, Bonn</i> <i>Moderation: Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 17:00 (including 30 minutes coffee break at 16:00)	"Envision our future": Group work For Democracy and Diversity. – PART 2 <i>Facilitator: Larissa Saar, Bonn</i> <i>Moderation: Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
17:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
Saturday, 18.07.2026	Trier, the German oldest city
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast, lunch packages for the day provided
09:00 – 10:30	Transfer to Trier
09:00 – 10:00	Preparation for the Excursion on the bus Seminar team
10:30 – 12:30	Discovering Trier: The oldest City of Germany. From a Roman Capital to Karl Marx <i>Guides TBA: Elke Schmeier</i>
12:30 – 16:30	Free time in the city center, individual lunch
16:30 – 18:30	Visit of the Karl-Marx Museum Guided tour / Audio Guides
18:30 – 19:00	Transfer to Longuich Reflection of the excursion on the bus Seminar team
19:00 – 21:00	Running a Small Family Business in Germany: An Insight into Agriculture and Small Businesses in Europe Wine Tasting and Dinner at Winery Schlöder-Thielen, Longuich
Sunday, 19.07.2026	SDGs
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 16:00 Including lunch break 12:30 – 13:30	Sustainable Development Goals What have we learned from the "orchard" and national park concept? Where is it reflected in the SDGs? What is comparable in the USA? <i>Dr. Marie-Louise Brunner, EAO</i> <i>Dr. Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 19:00	Travelling in time over 2,500 years in 20,000 steps: Guided Hike to the Celtic Circular Wall with historical (and fun) facts Seminar Team
19:00	Dinner
20:00	EU Pub Quiz Seminar Team

Monday, 20.07.2026	Saarbrücken
07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast, lunch packages
08:30 – 10:00	Train transfer to Saarbrücken
09:30 – 10:00	Preparation for the Excursion / Evaluation with the EU students Seminarteam
10:00 – 12:30	Saarbrücken – a capital of the smallest federal state of Germany PART 1 Exploratory small-groups workshop focused on insights into the history of Saarbrücken and Saarland City-as-Text: Moderation/academic impulse <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i> - <i>Day ticket for public transport in Saarbrücken provided</i> -
12:30 – 14:00	Individual lunch and free time
14:00 – 15:30	Saarbrücken – a capital of the smallest federal state of Germany PART 2 Exploratory small-groups workshop focused on insights into the history of Saarbrücken and Saarland - <i>Day ticket for public transport provided</i> -
15:51 – 17:30	Train transfer to EAO
17:30 – 18:30	Saarbrücken – a capital of the smallest federal state of Germany – Reflection round Moderation: <i>Jana Stehlíková, EAO</i> <i>Brian Etheridge, KSU</i> <i>Shane Peterson, KSU</i>
18:30 – 19:00	Seminar evaluation Seminarteam
19:00	Dinner
Tuesday, 21.07.2026	Departure
	Early departure