Jewish Studies Program Announces New Study Abroad Program in Germany

In response to the reemergence of anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere, Indiana University's Borns Jewish Studies Program and the Office of Overseas Study will offer a new study abroad program next summer to address this troubling phenomenon.

With sponsorship from the Bridge of Understanding organization in Germany, the new program, "The Jewish Experience of Modern Germany," is designed for 15 Jewish Studies major and area certificate students to accompany Matthias Lehmann (Jewish Studies Program and History) to Germany for two weeks in May 2005. The goal of the 2-credit program will give students a unique opportunity to learn about the German-Jewish experience through direct interaction with Germans, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Before the trip, the students will learn about German-Jewish history in a series of classroom meetings with Lehmann. In Germany, at different German universities, students will then have an opportunity to meet and interact with scholars of German-Jewish history during seminars held in cooperation with Jewish studies programs at these universities. They will also meet representatives of Jewish life in Germany and interact with their peers.

Costs for the study tour are significantly underwritten by Germany's Bridge of Understanding, which will pay two-thirds of the airfare and cover accommodations for two weeks. Bridge of Understanding was initiated in 1994 by the coordinator for German-American cooperation at the German Foreign Office and is supported by the German Foreign and Economic Affairs Ministries.

The deadline for applications is January 28, 2005. For further information, contact Carolyn Lipson-Walker, Jewish Studies Program; telephone: (812) 855-0453; e-mail: clipsonw@indiana.edu.

www.indiana.edu/~overseas/flyers/bridge.html

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national students from world regions that are underrepresented in U.S. higher education.

Viers also spoke of the need to remove excessive governmentally imposed barriers to U.S. higher education. There should be a system of priority processing and notification for security clearance cases pending more than 30 days. Security clearances should be made valid for the duration of an individual's program. Further, consular officers should be given discretion to waive the now mandatory 90-second interview for visas, as well as increased support to handle the visa processing workload.

Viers and his colleagues also advocated enhancing the integrity of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) by permitting universities to have the capability to correct inaccurate data entered in the government database. This would fulfill the original intent of SEVIS, the goal of which was to enhance rather than impede educational exchange.

Participants agreed that there was a need to move to the next steps in addressing these concerns, and Senate staff pledged to push nonlegislative solutions and establish future meetings.

-RMN

For information on recommendations for improving the visa process, see:

www.nafsa.org/content/PublicPolicy/FortheMedia/visapolrecs042904.htm
www.aau.edu/homeland/JointVisaStatement.pdf