



# YEARBOOK OF DEUTSCHLANDSTIPENDIUM AWARDEES

RHINE-WAAL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
GRANT YEAR 2016/2017

TESTIMONIALS OF SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

---

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	3
GREETING .....	4
GROUPLEADERS .....	6
PERSONAL ESSAYS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS 2016/2017 .....	6
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER .....	46
ARTICLES OF THE THREE SCHOLARSHIP MEETINGS .....	46
“GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER” THE FIRST MEETING .....	47
THE SECOND SCHOLARSHIP MEETING .....	48
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER IN KAMP-LINTFORT .....	50
THANKSGIVING .....	51
IMPRESSUM .....	52

## FOREWORD



Since its inception in 2011, the *Deutschlandstipendium*, or Germany Scholarship, has seen over 113 million euros in support from private donors. This funding has gone on to support thousands of talented students – over 25,000

in the past year alone, in fact. We

at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences are proud to be a part of this success story.

Our ability to bestow these scholarships, however, depends solely on the support of local companies, foundations and private sponsors. In other words, it depends on you. In 2016-2017 we were able to award 70 scholarships, and in the current grant year an even more impressive 78 scholarships to excellent students, allowing them to dedicate their time, energy and talents completely to their studies. This success would not have been possible without your support, and I would like to thank you both personally and on behalf of the entire Executive Board for your generosity.

The yearbook before you is a small token of our appreciation that offers a glimpse of student life at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. We also hope that it will encourage even more students to consider applying for a *Deutschlandstipendium* in the future. This yearbook represents just a fraction of the supporting program we developed for our scholarship winners, and reflects their own thoughts and impressions as well.

The contributions you will read on the following pages are as diverse as our University's range of degrees and the origins of our many applicants for a *Deutschlandstipendium*, each of whom is eager for a new challenge and a chance to put their growing qualifications to the test.

Without further ado, I wish you a pleasant read and a productive experience with your *Deutschlandstipendium*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Naderer', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Heide Naderer

President of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

## GREETINGS

Welcome to the Deutschlandstipendium yearbook of 2016/2017! We are the essay group, who built upon the first meeting of all scholarship holders to produce this yearbook as a memory of a great year of Deutschlandstipendium sponsorship.

On the following pages you'll get to know us and our fellow scholars, learn about our experiences with our sponsors and how our meetings were like.

We hope you enjoy reading!



## THE ESSAY GROUP







## GROUP LEADERS

### PERSONAL ESSAYS OF SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS 2016/2017





## **NANCY BELLINGAN**

### **NATIONALITY**

Italian

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Environment and Energy

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

During the Winter Semester 2016/2017 and Summer Semester 2017 I worked on several group projects, which helped improve my teamwork, leadership and organizational skills. Some examples are the entrepreneurship lecture and the business plan to develop a project based on the decision of my group of five members, or the SPECTORS project, a Dutch-German tech initiative to exploit the civilian drone technology market, which has given me my first experiences with the implementation of a development and research project.

The contacts I established this year with company partners of the Deutschlandstipendium organization will definitely help me with deciding where and which kind of internship I will do for my 6th semester. In any case I'm sure it will be in a scientific or technical field. The visit to the Hannover Messe 2017, organized by Professor Blitgen, gave me even more opportunities on a national level and in a wide variety of fields.

Through the scholarship program I've gotten to know students from different faculties and campuses (Kleve in my case) which is good for networking with people from different fields of knowledge.

Personally, I found the activities organized in the supporting program generally interesting, but not always feasible, because during the week it's not always possible to get to the venue and back with public transportation due to scheduling or distance. I think maybe a survey to get feedback from the students at the beginning of the year could be useful to understand better which kind of activities they would like to join and encourage more participation.





## **LAURA CLEVEN**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Management and Psychology

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

Due to the support of the Deutschlandstipendium during the last year, I made several experiences which will be described in the following reflective report.

Look at my personal development during this time, it was mainly my position as the responsible scholar for the networking group in the organizational team that helped me develop. Even if it was quite frustrating sometimes, because I did not get much support from my group, it helped me to organize myself and to overcome my frustration. The concept of the new supporting program during the scholarship seemed to be very interesting and connective, particularly at the beginning of the period. Ms. Noelle especially was very engaged in shaping content and increasing scholars' commitment towards the supporting program.

We had several meetings which, at least, helped to build and develop a network for the scholars. Within the scope of the kickoff meeting, we had the possibility to bring our own ideas to the program which was really nice and motivating. The supporting program also included another meeting where we got the chance to contact our scholarship provider (e.g. a first meeting in Kleve or the Scholarship Dinner in Kamp-Lintfort). Unfortunately, my scholarship provider did not attend one of these meetings, so I only had contact with them one time via email. But since I got the acceptance of another company for an internship right after the beginning of the scholarship period, it was fine for me to only get the financial support of my scholarship provider. All in all, my expectations were only partially met. I had the feeling that a large part of the companies were not really interested in building a network with the university or the scholars, which is a shame for students. Furthermore, I realized that many students were not motivated to be part of the program which was really frustrating for us in the organizational team.





## MADITA DALPKE

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology (Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie)

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The majority of the scholarship period I spent in Lillehammer in Norway for my semester abroad.

The scholarship played a major role in helping me finance this stay. During this time, I took the courses Sport Psychology and Snow Business, which helped me view my studies from a new perspective. Not only in these courses and through visits to local companies I learned about the history of a former Winter Olympic Games host city. I was also able to experience it (and various winter sports) in my free time. I learned that even though the Games were in 1994, the legacy lasts and is still present in the minds of the inhabitants of Lillehammer today.

In Lillehammer, which is a winter sport and outdoor destination, I gained a new perspective as the main activities evolve around nature. Therefore, I spent a lot of time outside, away from what I am used to be doing in my free time. Especially this probably gave me more insight to myself than I would have expected. It was also the new people I met during this time that showed me new perspectives on things and broadened my horizon. Not only did I meet people from various cultures, but I also had the opportunity to be fairly integrated into a Norwegian surrounding.

Because I was abroad for most of the scholarship period, I was not able to join most of the events of the supporting programme. If I had been in the city (or the country), however, I would have been interested taking part in these.



## **MARGARITA DEANOVA CHILIEVA**

### **NATIONALITY**

Bulgarian

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Taxation and Law

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

My personal Deutschlandstipendium experience started on 20.10.2016 when I visited a kick-off meeting and met for the first time all of the bright, dedicated and self-motivated scholarship holders. I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with them and to gain useful teamwork and soft skills. In addition, I met with my personal sponsor, Heinz Trox-Stiftung, Neukirchen-Vluyn and soon after I sent them my gratitude letter to thank them for my sponsorship, I received a personal invitation to be a part of their stand in the Trade Fair ISH/Aircontec in Frankfurt am Main on 18.03.2017.

To continue, the Deutschlandstipendium has not only helped me financially throughout my studies, but it has also provided me with the opportunity to connect with other German private enterprises and sponsors, and as a result I learned how to deal with many business- and organization-related issues. Furthermore, I created friendships with the majority of all the creative and initiative scholarship holders from both campuses of Rhine-Waal University, Kleve and Kamp-Linfort.

Last, but not least, I am convinced that as a part of the Germany Scholarship program I will be provided with broad employment opportunities after graduation, and why not while I am still a student?



## **LAURA-SOPHIE DIEKMANN**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

During the scholarship I could improve my personal social skills because I could concentrate on my personal engagement in a martial arts school without thinking over money. I did not have the need to take on a part time job or something like that because of the financial support from my sponsor.

Unfortunately I did not have the opportunity to cooperate with my sponsor, because there is no option in his company for internships or research opportunities but nevertheless I am very happy for his sponsorship. The supporting program during the scholarship was very entertaining and helpful. Especially the Scholarship Dinner in January was a great opportunity to get in touch with the different sponsors and for networking.

I think the supporting program is also a big chance for future students to get connected with companies in an early stage of their studies. Particularly the chance for an internship or a research program is very attractive.

It is safe to say that the scholarship helped me to pay my bills so that I could concentrate on the essential things during my studies. Because of that I think that I could improve my personal development and also my grades. In addition to that I was able to concentrate on my personal engagement and could help people to make their lives better.

The scholarship met my expectations especially because of the extensive supporting program. I am very grateful to be a part of this scholarship and I hope it helps also many future students to make the best out of their studies.



## NIKLAS DIETZE

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

First of all I am very grateful to be one of the recipients of the Germany Scholarship. This year's scholarship included, alongside the financial support, an additional program. The supporting scholarship program enabled all participants to get in touch with several local companies. It was interesting to get a glance at the actual-work of some companies. All representatives I talked to were keen about the exchange with us students and answered any question we had. In addition the opportunity to network with my fellow recipients on more than one occasion was very worthwhile.

Because of the financial support I was able to go Italy for a semester abroad and study at one of the oldest universities in Europe. Besides acquiring a new language, I further developed my adaptability and communication skills through the experience. I am very happy to be able to say that I have made new friends from all over Europe and got to know a different culture in depth. All told I am very glad to be part of this experience and I would encourage any of my fellow students to apply for the Germany Scholarship.





## MARCEL DOGOTARI

### NATIONALITY

Moldova

### COURSE OF STUDY

Environment and Energy

Information Engineering and Computer Science

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

I learned in school that one of the best ways to understand something is to explain it to a peer. As I was helping fellow students understand tougher topics, I realized that I enjoyed sharing the joy of learning with others. Later, in university I decided to pursue this passion by becoming a tutor for mathematics and physics. This was only possible thanks to the scholarship, as I did not have to find a better paying job, but instead had time to prepare quality tutorials and help as many students as possible to succeed in their studies. Meanwhile, knowing that my efforts were being appreciated motivated me further to work hard towards my Bachelor degree. In addition, not having to work too much to support myself gave me the time needed to advance Italian and German language skills.

At the same time, the scholarship helped me get in touch with numerous amazing people and organizations. For instance, learning about novel analytical chemistry tools first-hand from Fluxana GmbH & Co. KG and SPECTRO Analytical Instruments GmbH was a fascinating and unique experience. Another captivating topic that I learned about thanks to the scholarship programme is the extremely valuable work that RAG-Stiftung is doing for keeping the drinking water safe in Kamp-Lintfort and surroundings. On the other hand, the varied activities that Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. are undertaking to support students are paramount and I only got to learn about them thanks to the scholarship.

Overall, being awarded the scholarship helped me greatly by offering various possibilities for personal and professional growth. I will be always grateful to my sponsors for their trust and to the great framework of the *Deutschlandstipendium* that made this programme possible.



## HARALD DOMKE

### NATIONALITY

Moldova

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Relations

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

From the Bosphorus to the Golden Gate: *Deutschlandstipendium* enabled me to see two of the most exciting places I have ever visited. Spending last winter semester at Bilgi University, one of our many partner universities, I got the chance to explore not only the amazing city of Istanbul but also parts of Turkey's hinterland and the stunningly beautiful Aegean Region.

Having returned to Kleve for the exam period, I then moved to California for an internship at the German Consulate General in San Francisco. Now, to all the students coming from all over the world to study at Rhine-Waal University just to find out that the Lower Rhine region is not exactly known for its lovely weather: Go live in Outer Richmond for a while. Anatolia dreamin' on such a summer's day.

For the last couple of months I have been supported by Schleupen AG, a company specialised in IT solutions for the energy and water industry. Interacting with the people at Schleupen was definitely amongst the most valuable aspects of my scholarship experience. I am especially grateful to Bernd Mildebrath for the personal mentoring and career counselling he has offered to me. It has been incredibly helpful and yet another reason why I consider *Deutschlandstipendium* to be highly effective.

Indeed, it is great to see how well the concept of it works out at our university: A combination of financial support, interaction with local businesses and team building. In fact, the opportunity for scholars to set up their own social events alongside the programme organised by our university provided the chance to get the most out of one's scholarship experience.

Summing up, it has been an amazing year – and *Deutschlandstipendium* and the people related to it are certainly one of the reasons why it is one I will not forget.



## **SOPHIE DOMRES**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Relations

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

As groupleader of the team „Stipendientreffen“ I faced a lot of challenges. Not only to coordinate the workload within the whole team, but also to organize the whole event including invitations, catering and the agenda of the events. For sure, this was not always easy. But eventually, I am glad that I had the opportunity because all those challenges helped me to acquire new skills as to project management and leadership skills. Furthermore I was able to get to know many, very interesting and lovely people.

One highlight was my meeting with my sponsor Niederrheinische Verkehrsbetriebe Aktiengesellschaft (NIAG). They gave me the chance to get to know the whole company and to understand how their daily work looks like. I am more than thankful that they gave me the opportunity to receive the scholarship and for their personal assistance. Due to the scholarship I was able to just focus on my studies and to improve my grade point average. Moreover I had more time for my volunteering engagement. Lastly the scholarship enabled me to fulfill my academic dream of participating in the Harvard World Model United Nations 2017 in Montreal, Canada.

Harvard World MUN is a United Nations simulation in which the participants acquire diplomatic skills and sophisticated knowledge about the international political system and its functions.



## MARIA DEL ROCIO GARZA FERNANDEZ

### NATIONALITY

Mexican

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Management and Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

During the scholarship, I had the opportunity of doing an Internship at Metro AG within the department House of Learning. Here, I could reinforce the knowledge gained in the master`s lecturers by developing organizational learning solutions. In addition, I developed skills such as creativity, self-organization and time management, effective presentations, communication and project management.

To be supported by the German government and Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences with a scholarship represents a very deep breath while someone is inside a pool and his/her feet are in the limit between touching and not touching the bottom. His/her body is still able to breath but has to be very cautious of not making a false step.

Leaving the metaphor behind and having a real example of how the money was spent, this scholarship helped me to not to be worried about the rent I had to pay every month for the apartment.

I am very grateful and honoured for being selected among a lot of competitive and also good students. This experience will never leave my heart and I will never forget the satisfaction of being part of the Rhine-Waal University world.





## **MONA FRITZ**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and Social Sciences

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

Having completed my third semester and right in the middle of my fourth, I am already looking forward to the remaining semesters to come – especially the semester abroad. In the course of a third-semester project I had the possibility to lead a team of six other students. That was a truly enriching experience, as working in a team was a contrast towards the usual individual work at the university. Being able to exchange ideas and knowledge and find problem solutions through discourse was really inspiring.

Unfortunately I did not have the possibility to meet my sponsor, however I enjoyed getting to know some other companies and also the other scholars. In particular at the Stipendientreffen, we had the opportunity to get in touch with some of the sponsoring companies. It was really interesting to learn something about so different organisations and the reasons why they have chosen to support students. I also used the opportunity to ask different representatives about their approach toward business ethics/how that is or is not implemented in their organisation, as I approach a career in that field.

The scholarship did not only support me and my parents financially, so I was able to focus on my studies instead of needing to work a lot or solely rely on my parents, but it also enabled me to get to know very different people from different study programs and the other campus in Kamp-Lintfort.

As already said, the Stipendientreffen was a great event as well as the Stipendiatendinner, but I would have liked to meet the organisation which sponsors me. Nevertheless, I would like to use the remaining lines to thank them for the financial support over the last year – I appreciate it very much!



## KATRIN HARTMANN

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Early Childhood Education

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

During the scholarship, I was able to gather many exciting and interesting impressions that have strengthened my development in various areas. Working and interacting with people has helped me to improve my communication skills, build more relationships and work in groups. I was also able to intensify my interpersonal skills like empathy and sensitivity by reflecting on situations I have never been in before. Besides that I improved some theoretical skills which I can apply to real situations. In addition to theoretical competences, I acquired practical skills like decision making, organizing events or working in a team; skills that are essential in any future professional career.

The exchange with different companies has given me the opportunity to establish a number of new contacts and research possibilities and thus engage in intensive networking. It was also very exciting to gain insight into different business structures. I personally think it is very important to stay in contact with the sponsors.

The supporting program was very important for me to get an overview of the progress of the scholarship period and to identify key companies I wanted to know better. Furthermore it has contributed to our group identity by sharing various experiences in a diverse environment.

The scholarship not only helped me financially, it helped me in particular to build up a strong network with companies and scholarship holders in a creative framework. All of my expectations of the scholarship were met and I feel honored to be a part of this privileged group of people



## INES HEMESATH

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Early Childhood Education

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The Deutschlandstipendium was a pleasure for me. It gave me a lot of freedom in different areas over the last year.

The first meeting with the sponsors/companies was in the canteen Kleve. Every sponsor had his own stand. It had an exhibition style. Scholarship holders could decide what he wants to talk about. Everyone could get information about the sponsors they were interested in. I like the idea that individual conversations could be created. Although there were no sponsors from the social sector, I was able to collect interesting impressions of the companies.

Another great point is that it was not necessary to do a side job during the semester. Therefore I had more time to concentrate on my studies. I could deal more intensively with the different modules. Accordingly I could create a more professional-based attitude. During the semester break I could choose a job freely. I was not forced to be concerned about money. The social sector can't pay much, but the Deutschlandstipendium offered me the opportunity to choose a job I truly wanted in the social sector, allowing me to collect experience in my future occupational field. I decided to do a job on a horse farm. There I took care of the children. That was a lot of fun, and also a lot of practical training experience. Practical training extends my range of professional skills, and I can connect theory to practice. I also expanded upon my theoretical knowledge extensively, and the practical experience I acquired will be helpful to understand the contents of the upcoming semester.

In a nutshell, the Deutschlandstipendium gave me the opportunity to improve my skills and to become a successful "Kindheitspädagoge".



## LISA HENNERKES

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

Getting involved in the planning process of the interactive scholar support program and becoming familiar with the other scholars through meeting regularly made me feel like a part of the bigger picture.

For me, the first company meeting in exhibition style at Kleve Campus was very successful, getting in contact with the sponsors and learning about branches I am normally not in contact with. Moreover, the dinner in January, with its relaxed atmosphere and diverse program was enriching. As a proposal for the future, the dinner might also be organized as an advent event, taking place in early December. Because the support program started later, and I am currently located in

Australia, studying at the University of the Sunshine Coast, I am not able to take part in most of the events. I really regret that I cannot attend the company visit of Weeze Airport, but I am happy to see that group work is successful and that many companies are really interested in working with students.

When I was invited to an interview with Mr. Reinhardt at the Kreis Weseler Abfallgesellschaft GmbH in November, I got to know that the previous scholar they supported also told them when they first met, that she will leave for studying abroad. So for this company, it was the second time they made plans to integrate a student in a project, and were kind of disappointed. For future successful cooperation, it would be recommended to let the companies know that if they support a sixth semester student, there will probably no possibility for working together, at least for the time being. But I really appreciated that my sponsor was interested in my skills and knowledge in human resource development and recruitment I developed in an internship at Novitas BKK Duisburg, and I am proud they wanted me to support them in creating an instrument for evaluating managers.

During my current time in Australia, I have experienced a massive growth in self-reliance and self-confidence. At the beginning, writing essays in English was challenging for me, but I got used to it and now I proudly manage it successfully.





## JANNIS HÜWELS

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Mobility and Logistics

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

I am glad and honored to receive a scholarship from *Deutschlandstipendium* in the academic year 2016/17 and I want to thank my sponsor for supporting me.

This is the first scholarship I have received, which made it extra exciting for me. Unfortunately, I was not able to participate at any supporting program of the scholarship so far because I studied in the USA for one semester. But I think it is a good idea to offer such events alongside the scholarship, which provides more opportunities to connect with sponsors, companies and other scholarship holders. As before mentioned, the major event for me this year was my exchange semester at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, USA. One of the best experiences in my life. I lived for five month in the US, from 1st of January until end of May. The exchange semester brought great insights of the American lifestyle, the people and culture of the country. It was exciting to see and experience the differences between Rhine-Waal University and Ferris State University, the study programs and different teaching methods.

My major at Ferris State was Operation and Supply Management and I enrolled in the study courses International Logistics, Lean Manufacturing, Quality Operations Management and Principles of Marketing, which I all have passed with an "A". Furthermore, living in a foreign country forces you to find new friends and connect to other people, which I believe positively affected my English skills as well as my social skills. It was a great experience to study and live in the US. I encourage everyone, who has the opportunity, to take the chance and study abroad for a semester.

*Deutschlandstipendium* helped me financing this exchange semester and made this unforgettable experience possible. Now, I am looking forward to meet my sponsor.



## CHIARA KEIENBURG

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Business and Social Sciences

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

During the scholarship, I was able to gather many exciting and interesting impressions that have strengthened my development in various areas. Working and interacting with people has helped me to improve my communication skills, build more relationships and work in groups. I was also able to intensify my interpersonal skills like empathy and sensitivity by reflecting on situations I have never been in before. Besides that I improved some theoretical skills which I can apply to real situations. In addition to theoretical competences, I acquired practical skills like decision making, organizing events or working in a team; skills that are essential in any future professional career.

The exchange with different companies has given me the opportunity to establish a number of new contacts and research possibilities and thus engage in intensive networking. It was also very exciting to gain insight into different business structures. I personally think it is very important to stay in contact with the sponsors.

The supporting program was very important for me to get an overview of the progress of the scholarship period and to identify key companies I wanted to know better. Furthermore it has contributed to our group identity by sharing various experiences in a diverse environment.

The scholarship not only helped me financially, it helped me in particular to build up a strong network with companies and scholarship holders in a creative framework.

All of my expectations of the scholarship were met and I feel honored to be a part of this privileged group of people



## ROMAN KIENTZ

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The past eight months have been a very formative time for me. When I received the positive answer for the scholarship in August I was totally overwhelmed and proud of my performance. After a few days I thought about what would expect me in the next year. Fastly I noticed that the next year would be really important for me because of the search for an internship. I really think that the *Deutschlandstipendium* helped me in my search for the right company.

In December we had the first event which my group organized. For me it has been a really impressive event because I had the possibility to get in contact with many companies and ask all the questions I had for my fol-

lowing internship. I talked about what a company really expects of an applicant and which role personality traits, professional background and social engagement play. I wanted to know which expectations are realistic and I got helpful tips for the selection process and the handling of challenges in professional practice. Only one month later I successfully got an internship at MAN Truck & Bus AG in Munich, a global player with over 250 years of tradition. Looking back I am really thankful for the meeting because now I can profit from all the personal conversations I had that evening.

To sum it up, I am really satisfied with the engagement we scholars receive from the *Deutschlandstipendium* in addition to the financial support. As a scholar you can participate in many events the groups organize on their own. The meeting in December is only an example of this variety. Company visits and the Scholarship Dinner help to stay in contact with the sponsors and other scholars to exchange personal experiences. Moreover the *Deutschlandstipendium* is a well-known scholarship which many companies value a lot. In many job interviews I received appreciation for the sponsoring which makes me proud of the program.

Unfortunately I am not able to join all the events since I am in Munich for my internship. I really hope to remain a scholar for the next period to experience all benefits the *Deutschlandstipendium* offers. Thanks for the support!



## **SARAH KNAUF**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Kindheitspädagogik

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

For me the year of sponsorship was full of new impressions and experiences. For one thing I learnt how to deal with unknown people and how to work in a group with them; for another I gained insight in business structures, other majors and in possible options for my future. The scholarship allowed me to improve my team skills, collaboration skills and how to take on more responsibility. Furthermore it helped me develop new qualifications. The connections to educational organizations were pretty much non-existent, much to my regret. I would have liked to establish contact with people who are connected to my major and to gain new knowledge on my subject.

The accompanying program of the scholarship provided me with some new perspectives and insights in business and encouraged, as mentioned above, my feeling of responsibility. It gave impulses and allowed us, the students and receivers of the grant, to bond over our scholarship. Although I would have liked it if there would have been workshops or seminars that offered us the possibility to develop certain social skills or train us especially for our professional career (if that's not an option for my major specifically, there should have been something for the technical and economical majors). Looking back, the scholarship offered a lot of what I hoped it would. I hoped that I would have to work less so I'd have more time for my studies. Because that was the case my academic performance has improved and because of those accomplishments I was able to get an internship at a very interesting place. Due to the monthly financial relief I was even able to do voluntary work at the JugendRotKreuz where I will accompany around eighty children to summer camp this August. All in all, the scholarship is an experience and aid that allowed me to gain a wide range of insight and knowledge that I will take with me for the rest of my life.



## REGINA KÖNIG

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Management and Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

I have been supported by the Germany Scholarship since March 2014 when I was studying Gender and Diversity at the Faculty of Society and Economics. The scholarship helped me to reduce the weekly working hours in my job so that I had more time and mental resources to concentrate on my studies. I completed my studies in February 2016 within the standard period of time and graduated with the best Bachelor's degree in my course. This would probably not have been possible without the support of the scholarship.

For me personally, not only the financial support was important but also being encouraged to give my best and the feeling that representatives of the Rhine-Waal

university and local businesses seem to trust my capabilities and consider it worthwhile to support me. Especially the latter point led me to the decision to continue pursuing a master's degree at HSRW. I am lucky and honored to be again supported by the Germany Scholarship in the second and now third and final semester in International Management and Psychology M.Sc. Again, the scholarship helped me to focus on studying so that I will be able to complete the course on time in August 2017 with hopefully very good grades.

Besides studying, the scholarship gave me more free time which I spent in different committees. For instance, I was a member of the committee on financial support for quality improvement in teaching (Kommission zur Verbesserung der Qualität in Lehre und Studium) and currently I am a member of the committee for research and knowledge transfer (Kommission für Forschung und Wissenstransfer). By working in these committees I could not only learn more about the structures and goals of our University, but I was also able to train decision-making skills when having to consider the needs and goals of different interest groups.

Now that the end of my studies is in sight, I have realized how many inspiring people I have met at HSRW, how I learned to dream big, and how much one can accomplish with a strong will and focus on goals. My plan is to earn a PhD in social psychology during the next years. I am especially interested in social psychology's view on social inequality and I hope that my future research will add to the knowledge helping to reinforce equal opportunities for all members of our society.



## LARISSA KÖLSCH

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

When I came to the first *Deutschlandstipendium* meeting I did not have any expectations except that I will meet a lot of talented and social engaged students and maybe gain a few skills. This expectation was true. After having volunteered for the leadership of the essay group I realized what an amount of work it would be. And it is still until now. But that is one of the things that I will take an advantage of. I learned to coordinate a group, to handle problems and to work in a team.

The cooperation with my sponsor "Altana" in Wesel was and still is a great experience. Although chemistry is not my sector of choice, I can learn a lot about managing staff (they have more than 6000 employees in the world!).

In June I have the possibility of a one-day internship in the HR department of BYK and maybe to join an assessment center. In addition there was a two-day welcome event, where I met all of the Altana scholarship holders in Germany. We took part in a team building event, were guided through many departments of the company, had a BBQ together and were welcomed personally by important company leaders of Altana and their subsidiaries. Thank you Altana!

The University's supporting program aims to connect scholarship holders with each other and with their companies. I think it's a good idea, but it was hard to organize especially after Ms. Noelle, who started this project, left the university. The work was shared by the group leaders and there was only a low amount of support by all others. I think reasons are that we all have a lot of other work to do, no one felt responsible, that we have two splitted bases and the communication via Facebook and e-mails did not work very well.

Nevertheless I think it should stay a part of the scholarship and be developed in the next years, so future scholarship holders can enjoy nice meetings, company visits and conversations with their sponsors. All in all, I profited not only from the financial aid I got, but I also gained a lot of skills and experience!





## KATHARINA KOSCHADE

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

When I was selected for the scholarship, I was not only very happy to get financial support for my studies, I was also looking forward to profiting from its nonfinancial benefits. I enjoyed the meetings with my scholarship fellows and the sponsor companies, because I got to know companies from almost every working field. This helped me build contacts and networks. The exchange of thoughts on several topics was another great experience I gained from the meetings, starting with a „get-to-know“ with the other scholars and also an evening where we had the chance to talk to a lot of company representatives.

I further participated in the amazing Scholarship Dinner, where we received our scholarship certificates and had a nice dinner with all the companies. On top of all the positive impacts on possible internships and professional connections, we had a lot of fun during our meetings. During the sponsoring time, I met with representatives from my sponsoring company “Unternehmerschaft Chemie Niederrhein” and learned a lot about their business. We talked about professional topics and they also asked me how they can support me further. I didn’t expect that level of support before my application for the scholarship, and it exceeded my expectations in a very positive way. I could take part in a board and general meeting of the company, where I met with a lot of interesting people from different companies again. I appreciated these insights very much and they definitely helped me a lot for my professional future and career.



## MARIE-CHRISTINE KÜTSCHER

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Business and Social Sciences

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The scholarship has influenced my life positively and I am grateful to the University, the private sponsors and all who made this possible. During this year, I have not only been able to focus on my studies and achieve good results, but also to engage in various extracurricular activities that allowed me to help others and develop my character. Among such activities is the work in the Social Department, which focuses on helping students and furthering good causes on campus. For example, we were able to collect many shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child during a Christmas celebration for students and staff. Another great opportunity to give back presented itself as the Freshtival, which is an introductory week for new students, in which I served as a tutor.

These activities, along with other activities outside of the university environment helped me to grow in leadership and team skills as well as communication across cultural boundaries. It is safe to say that this would have been more difficult without the scholarship, which gave me the freedom to pursue studies and also to help others. Unfortunately, I was not able to connect with my sponsoring company, since they did not attend the scholarship dinner. However, I still value the intangible benefits of the supporting program, since I was able to talk with other sponsors and sponsees, exchanging knowledge and forming contacts. My hope is that the supporting program will be extended and that the connections between the sponsors and the students will be strengthened.

I appreciate the scholarship with its financial and intangible aspects, although I would have wished to meet my sponsors at least once. Nevertheless, this scholarship allowed me to focus more on my studies and thus to produce very good study results, to pursue extracurricular activities and to form great connections with the other sponsored students.



## HOI YING LAM

### NATIONALITY

British

### COURSE OF STUDY

Information Engineering and Computer Science

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

Being chosen as one of the recipients of the *Deutschlandstipendium* is a recognition of my work so far, it encourages me to continue my passion in research and to share such enthusiasm with others.

The past academic year is a very fruitful period. Not only that I met a lot of like-minded people inside and outside the University, but I also have the opportunity to work as a scientific assistant in a Dutch-German research project known as SPECTORS. As part of my study plan, I have chosen the Cyber-Physical Systems track which allows me to specialize in automation and embedded systems, while gaining knowledge in distributed computing. Within the course, I have the chance to conduct

research in developing and implementing a learning altogether with other students, and we are looking forward to having a teaching concept by the end of this semester to provide a workshop in Unity, machine learning and artificial intelligence. On the other hand, my main contribution to the SPECTORS project is to develop an image/object recognition software. Some possible applications of this software are to evaluate the health condition of plants, identify plant diseases or biotic stress, and early detection of drowning people through the images collected by drones.

During the scholarship period, I have also learned the importance of knowledge sharing. The meetings with students and project partners like Wageningen University have shown me how exchanging information, skills and expertise speed up the innovation process and increase the efficiency to solve problems. Therefore, I have started to document my research with the intention to share my knowledge to both project members and other interested parties like students at Hochschule Rhein-Waal.

All in all, the Master course and the SPECTORS project have strengthened my mind in pursuing the academic path. I truly appreciate the support from the *Deutschlandstipendium* in the past year, and wish all the participants and future participants a success in their future.



## ACE VERGEL LAT

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude for the various personal experiences during the duration of this scholarship. By means of this supporting program, I could get to know other scholarship holders and build up both a personal and professional network. All scholars show exceptional and extraordinary personalities and talents. This high level of commitment of the other scholarship holders has motivated me to strive for further developments in my own personality. For instance, the diversity of different scholars, coming from other disciplines and cultural backgrounds, emphasizes the need for an interdisciplinary approach in working in multifaceted team members. Moreover, I could meet up with my sponsors in their company. In a more casual atmosphere, the appointment was very intriguing and informative. Above all, this meeting has enriched my perspective on the corporate world. Even the get-together with other sponsors has exceeded my expectations because I could learn facts from other industrial sectors.

The various conversations with students and sponsors have demonstrated the changing personal and professional demands in society and in the business world. In line with this, this scholarship has again underlined the importance of continuous lifelong learning on hard and soft skills. By means of the *Deutschlandstipendium*, I have gained a new perspective on my own study program, which strengthened my scientific curiosity. The idiom, "it is never too late to learn" (in German: „Zum Lernen ist es nie zu spät“) puts it in a nutshell. If possible, I wish for an ideal support for the supporting program, conducted either by the HSRW or by the sponsors. Particularly, this kind of support could be, for example, guest lectures by speakers of the corporate on topics of social relevance such as sustainability or corporate social responsibility. All in all, I am very pleased by the supporting program of the scholarship and I can look back on an insightful scholarship period.



## HANZHI LU

### **NATIONALITY**

Chinese

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Taxation and Law

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

Eight months have passed since I was luckily chosen for a Germany Scholarship in 2016. With regard to my studies, I made progress in the area of law, as I promised in my letter of motivation for the scholarship. I feel proud of my improvement in that area with the help of my professors, classmates and books. Apart from studies, I also worked as a tutor of Business Mathematics last semester. After that I did an internship in a tax agency in my home country during the winter break. These two experiences convinced me that it is much more important to apply theory flexibly in real life, rather than merely learning it at university and from books.

Thanks to the Germany Scholarship, I participated in the the Weeze Airport Visit. I was impressed by the comprehensive plan and the strong team behind this successful project. Unfortunately, what I have done so far for my sponsor company Heinz Trox-Stiftung, located in Neukirchen-Vluyn, was merely sending them a letter of thanks, but I will definitely visit them when I have the chance.

All in all, I personally have benefited a lot from the one-year Germany Scholarship programme. With the connection with enterprises and having met so many other scholarship holders, we can learn from each other and develop our social networks.



## MATTHEW MCHINA

### NATIONALITY

Simbabwe

### COURSE OF STUDY

International Business and Social Science

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

My name is Matthew Mchina and I'm a *Deutschland-stipendium* recipient. My sponsor was the Niederrheinische IHK and I am very grateful for their contribution towards my education in the past year. I am very appreciative of the scholarship because it made me realise my potential socially, intellectually and mentally. I got to interact with likeminded people- people with ambition, dedication, perseverance, creativity and drive- people who indirectly motivated me to chase after my dreams.

Being at Hochschule Rheinwaal for almost two years, I have interacted with many students from different countries, cultures and backgrounds and even though

that has been a great experience, another one that was equally as great was being acquainted with other scholarship recipients. Socializing with them was both an inspiring and unforgettable experience.

During the scholarship period, I also got to meet several companies at the events organized by the University. However, because I'm a business student and most of the companies I came into contact with were science-based, there wasn't much of a connection that could be developed as these are two totally different fields of study. There was also a language barrier as most of the companies operated and displayed their services in German and my German is at a basic level therefore that hindered me from getting as much information as the other recipients.

Reflecting upon the scholarship I realized that time is a very important resource. In a world where the future may be very uncertain financially, it is paramount that we do all we can now in order to secure our education and our future. And that is how I benefitted from this program, I learnt to appreciate everything I have now and use all the resources I can, at this moment in time, in order to ensure the achievement of my goals.





## **LEANDRI MEYER (NÉE JOUBERT)**

### **NATIONALITY**

South African

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Gender and Diversity

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

Last year, as I was enjoying the last drop of summer in Italy, my brother called me to inform me that a letter addressed to me, has arrived. I knew that this was my long awaited answer, after applying for the Germany scholarship. I was jumping up and down for joy (literally) because the answer was finally YES! What an honour it was for me to be called one of the “Stipendiatin” for Hochschule Rhein Waal, especially being an international student, and of course receiving financial support, while doing what I love.

With expectation and anticipation, I pitched up for our first kick-off event. I could sense the excitement in the atmosphere as fellow Scholars met fellow Scholars and found out about the interesting events we would organize throughout our Scholarship year. My highlight was our first meet and greet event in the Kleve Mensa. This proved to be a great opportunity for me to brush up on my German language skills and to mingle with fellow scholars and the funding firms. It definitely boosted my confidence meeting and speaking to other successful businessmen and women. Unfortunately, up until now, I have not had the opportunity to meet my sponsor, who has not attended any of our meetings/events and who has not reacted to my “thank you” email. However, I am grateful for the opportunity I have received through him/her being part of this scholarship program.

I believe that my status as “Stipendiatin” encouraged me, even more, to invest in my studies and to pursue good grades. Overall, I believe that this scholarship program was a great initiative to meet companies, build relationships and to give me an insight into the “world of business and work.” The memories I have made and the experiences I have had during this year has been wonderful. A big thank you in honour of my sponsor (I hope to meet you someday).



## RUTH MINOR

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Bio Science and Health

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

During my 5th semester I became more confident with conversations, presentations, discussions, application and the English language because I joined courses about these topics. That was a good experience. Furthermore I successfully completed all courses I had to do for the study.

I got in contact with “Rheinischer Turnerbund”, head-organization for gymnastic associations and clubs in North Rhine-Westphalia. Being in an internship now, I am having the opportunity to research about effective health promotion by exercise classes. That fits well with my degree course. For me it is a special challenge, besides I still have to look after my family with three children. Also I am grateful for the supporting programme.

I see the scholarship as an appreciation of my efforts and my performance. I am happy to get the *Deutschlandstipendium*. Its financial support helps me to fulfil the tasks I am required to do while learning well and improving my skills.

I am looking forward to the following semester. I want to get more in contact with the fellow students and enjoy the supporting programme.



## NADJA MÜLLER

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Early Childhood Education

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The question about my personal development during the scholarship wasn't so easy to answer at first. To my mind my biggest personal development is that the programm teaches us how to perform in a big group full of so many different, unknown people, but still acting like a team with a common aim. Besides, it's an interesting and enriching experience to work with these different people. All of them are pursuing different, individual aims at university, but in this programm everybody has to work towards the same goal. That allows us to form a community. I think it's an important aspect to create a new view concerning different cultures and students' academic and personal lifegoals. It's nice to see how the programm works although everyone is taking different

tasks which fit to one great result in the end. My personal development during the scholarship included improved teamwork skills and a deeper understanding of the many facets and meanings of diversity.

Besides the enrichment given by the students, and the companies which are supporting, too. In my opinion, it's a little bit sad that my sponsoring company works on in a completely different area than my studies are about. So there's no perfect fit there and it's a pity not having the chance to establish a long-term connection with my company. But it was definitely a very exciting experience getting to know my sponsor personally. I think there's a mutually beneficial connection between the supporting companies and us students. The companies show that pursuing goals in life are possible in different ways. They share their personal successful path and take responsibility by showing interest in us and our future goals. Apart from earning more recognition, professional and financial support, the programm offers so many interesting and motivating themes for young people, who want to be successful later in life. Especially the possibility to talk to each of the companies which are so kind to support us students was very enriching, because these people have achieved many life goals already.

I think, it's a big motivation to continue forward and be focused on my own personal future goals. I'm glad to be one of the lucky young people who got the chance to benefit from these valuable experiences.



## KARINA NEHNES

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Early Childhood Education

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

The scholarship granted me the chance to focus more on my studies. It motivated me to improve my grades and I was able to achieve better results than ever before.

The supporting program of the Deutschlandstipendium gave me the opportunity to acquire many new experiences. I met many new people. In my opinion, the exchange with other scholarship members was especially interesting. I was not able to find a connection to a company because of my course of study. But the exchange with companies and the new information about leading a company were very exciting, interesting and helpful. I also learned a lot by being a groupleader. I got to know much about organisational inner workings e.g. by organizing several meetings or other tasks in the supporting program. Luckily the University was always by our side. But it would have been much easier if more scholarship members would have volunteered for tasks.

The Deutschlandstipendium made it possible for me to choose my internship, which I had to do in the sixth term, without any financial considerations. Devoid of the opportunities of the Deutschlandstipendium, I would have been forced to look for a second, paid job beside the full-time internship. That would have resulted in me quitting my work as trainer in a local dance group. I also would not have been able, to take part in all activities of the KjG Liebfrauen Goch.

All in all, I have to say that I am very thankful for the Deutschlandstipendium and the experiences and exchanges that went with it.



## LEA PICKARD

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Labor and organizational psychology

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

During the last two semesters, I profited from the scholarship in many different ways. I could focus on my studies because I didn't have to worry about rent and didn't need a part-time job. It was also possible for me to spend my internship in Hamburg, which wouldn't have been possible without the extra money. In addition, I could improve my personal skills: during the events, it was necessary to communicate in English so that everyone could understand what's going on. While talking to the contact partners from the different companies, we could get impressions and insights on different fields of work, which was quite impressive. I think that it's a good possibility to get to know new professions and fields outside of your area of studies.

The kick off with Ms Noelle showed quickly that this year would involve, for the first time, more than just the Scholarship Dinner. The different events of the scholarship program were well organized and a lot of fun. It was a good idea that they took place in both cities, Kamp-Lintfort and Kleve. The relaxed atmosphere of the first meeting made it easy to get in contact with the companies. Also the supporting programme of the scholarship dinner was pleasant and the dinner was tasty. ;)

In my opinion, the Facebook group was a useful way to communicate fast and easy. It gave us a quick overview of the participants and the meetings during the semester.

For me, it's a bit sad that the final meeting with all scholars and sponsors is in June because I'll still be in Hamburg and won't be able to participate. Maybe next time it could be placed after the examination weeks or at the start of the new semester. All in all, I think that the scholarship program is a good possibility to get to know new people and to improve your personal and social skills.



## JULIAN REUTHER

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

(Industrial and Organizational Psychology)

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

When I heard I was accepted for a Deutschlandstipendium it was a phenomenally great feeling. I knew what the Deutschlandstipendium stood for and how it worked, but I didn't know exactly how the supporting programme would look like.

After our first meeting of scholars this changed and I had a good idea of what will happen in the upcoming year. I thought it was great to meet the other scholars of our university, both the ones from Kleve and the ones from Kamp-Lintfort. Also I really liked the concept of getting in touch with the companies, our private sponsors.

Unfortunately I couldn't participate in the Scholarship Dinner, so at this point of the year I haven't met my private sponsor "PROBAT-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH", but I've already arranged a meeting with them in the upcoming weeks. I'm really looking forward to it and I hope to establish a good connection to them, so depending on my future, maybe there is a chance to remain in contact with them after graduation. To be honest I don't think the scholarship effected my personality or social skills, for that the time was too short. A huge benefit was the financial support, so I didn't have to work that much during my studies and I'm also really glad to have met all the other great scholars.

To summarize: Thank You!





## ALEXEI RUSU

### NATIONALITY

Moldova

### COURSE OF STUDY

Mechatronic Systems Engineering

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

My studies were supported by the Heinz Trox-Stiftung, to which I'm deeply thankful. The most obvious benefit is the financial support, which while not removing the need to work besides my studies, gave me more freedom in time management, allowing me to achieve good academic performance, engage in other activities and develop my personality. Also, I'm happy I got to know plenty of interesting people and made new friends within the activities that had directly or indirectly to do with the scholarship program.

Another important aspect was the interaction with the sponsoring companies. I made several contacts which I consider to be particularly useful and to potentially

open opportunities for my future professional life. During the scholarship period I continued to collaborate with several professors as a student assistant. My tasks included running tutorials in Elastostatics and Electronics for students studying in earlier semesters, preparing a collection of problems with solutions as supporting material for the Power Electronics course, conducting labs etc. I got the opportunity to finally realize a project idea I came up with some time before. It consists in designing a bipedal active walking robot. I worked on it in a team together with five other engineering students and with the wise supervision of Prof. Dr. Hartanto.

Our project was recognized as one of the best five projects at the Semester Project Exhibition 2016/17. Currently, during the summer semester 2017, I'm doing an internship semester at Ingenieurgesellschaft IgH in Essen. It's a progressive and internationally active company with a team of experienced engineers, who possess the know-how required to develop effective technical solutions for non-trivial tasks in various fields like hardware and software development, technical design, modeling and simulation, hydraulic test facilities etc.

Some of my tasks during the internship include software development (C, Python, Javascript), modelling and simulation (including thermodynamic) and technical calculations. I will have the possibility to learn yet much more until the end of the semester, especially considering the diversified domains of activity of the company. The chances are high, that I will continue my collaboration with IgH next semester with my bachelor thesis.

I appreciate the multi-faceted support and opportunities offered by the Deutschlandstipendium program and consider it an important contribution to the personal and professional development of young students and an indirectly investment in the social and economic future of Germany.



## **LIUBOV SAKHAROVA**

### **NATIONALITY**

Russian

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and Social Sciences

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

My first thought after receiving my letter of confirmation in August 2016 was that I probably misread it, but I quickly realised that I was indeed awarded a Germany Scholarship. To say that I was happy is an understatement.

For me it meant that I could start looking for an internship in fields and at companies that are interesting and meaningful for me, not necessarily those with better pay, since my internship semester was only a short time away. Of course, it was not the only one bonus that I got together with the scholarship. During the first meeting I had the possibility to meet other students receiving the scholarship and to decide how we would spend our year and which events could be arranged. And I should say that there were several good events indeed, and that most important they involved not only students, but also the sponsors, and sometimes went beyond campus (e.g. Airport Weeze visit).

That is why I would like to say thank you to our University, to sponsors and to the students as well, because together we made this year better than the year before.



## **LENA ELISABETH SCHUMACHER**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Sustainable Agriculture

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

I thank God for another year of support by the Germany scholarship, which enabled me to focus on my studies this year just as it did last year, so that I could gather knowledge that will remain. Last autumn, I agreed to help my colleague Hien Do by serving as the “face” of a short video, which shall promote our study programme internationally. Unexpectedly, circumstances such as rainy weather or a microphone, which was not sufficiently sensitively set, prolonged the project but we finished in the end of April. Also, the visit of my sponsor Dr. Sommer’s company was exciting, since my chemistry knowledge of the first two semesters was required. Many of the courses offered in these two semesters are of great relevance and personal interest for me and since it is

not my goal to only maintain good GPA but to widen and deepen my understanding of agriculture and related topics, I was thankful I could do this. During my world trip, I met plenty of people, who will never be able to go to university, and this drives me to exhaust the gift of education I have here. We are so privileged. Another aspect I have come to appreciate about the scholarship is that it benefits students of lesser financial means. This approach contributes to the overall well-being of our University.

Through my 22 years on this earth, there have always been people helping me. I even believe that I would not have been able to study if God’s Grace had not pulled me out of the mud (running away from home at 13, growing up in a foster family, etc.) God gave me a loving new family and now that I have been completely freed of sadness and despair, it is my turn and biggest wish to share the secret of Jesus Christ with others. It’s not about a specific religion or influencing people, but about finding the One True God. I am not a member of any official church or organisation or other religious group, but what my friends and I do, for example, is go out in public and pray for people (like in the Gospel). We have seen many people healed (physically and spiritually) in Kleve through the power of Jesus Christ, we baptised others and we are so excited about the great revival that will bring lost and broken people back to a life of liberty. All glory to God! (Romans 11:36)



## PETER STEIDEL

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Early Childhood Education

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

First of all, I want to give thanks to all the people who made it possible for me to get a scholarship!

The Deutschlandstipendium has benefited me in a few different ways. At the beginning I just was proud that someone recognized my hard work as a student. That motivated me even more for my subject and to do more in my study projects. For example: I don't need a job now, so I can work on projects with my professors which take a lot of time. This provides better connections inside the University and some connections to people outside of the University. Also the work in a research project gives me new experiences. The Deutschlandstipendium allows me to use my time for more meaningful things, like projects, instead of working in a supermarket.

It was also nice to meet other students who were also interested and motivated in their subjects, so I can learn more about Rhine-Waal and the different faculties and subjects. So it was also good for my personal development, to get in contact with other subjects and expand my own horizon. Also the supporting events, like the meetings with the companies, were interesting and helped me to get more information about what's happening locally and which companies are active in the region. Unfortunately, there are no companies from my particular subject area involved. It was interesting to get to know all about other subjects and companies, but it would have been nice to have one company from education, because I might have had the opportunity to do an internship with later! But all in all it was a nice and interesting time and I learned so much about other people, companies and subjects. And the scholarship gave me the opportunity to put all my passion in my studies and focus on my interests and research projects. It also gave me the opportunity to help others in my free time by working in a social project.



## **EKATERINA VALEEVA**

### **NATIONALITY**

Russian

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Management and Psychology

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

The Deutschlandstipendium support during two semesters in 2016-2017 was an undeniable help to my studies at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. Being a graduate student, I did not have much time to accomplish all my study goals. Thus, as a foreign student, I aimed to improve my German, and thanks to additional time and financial support from Deutschlandstipendium, I managed to pass the C1 level examination with high marks. Now I can speak German at a very high level and have many further possibilities to develop myself in international environment.

Master's programs do not require an internship; however, I find it very important, to have a chance to use in practice the knowledge that we get in the classroom. Thanks to the scholarship opportunities, I could partake in a six-month internship in a German company, getting extremely useful experience for my future life and career. Mentoring programs and events, organised by the team, also gave me possibilities to develop personal, as well as business networks.

Master's level research can be very challenging, especially when time is short. Thanks to Deutschlandstipendium, I could take my time in the library and delve deeply into a very interesting topic, which I find very important for my future success. My expectations from this year were met 100 percent. I feel that the study program I chose was exactly what I was looking for. Additional help made it even more successful and I recommend all students to join the team and explore all opportunities around them.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved with the Deutschlandstipendium for the great work and support, as well as for incredible input to international educational development.



## **VERA ZEPMEUSEL**

### **NATIONALITY**

Germany

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Early Childhood Education

### **REFLECTIVE REPORT**

For me the scholarship was a very good experience. I have learned many new things, like getting to know different personalities and new professional fields, which I didn't know before. The scholarship allowed me to get in touch with people and to expand my skills. For example during the meeting with the sponsors in the canteen I talked to different representatives of the companies, which finance our scholarship, and we exchanged information about their profession and my studies. These professions didn't apply directly to me, but it was certainly interesting. It helped me be more open-minded and converse with people from a range of backgrounds.

Also I liked the supporting programme because we were given a lot of freedom to create a year of our own. Because of the separate groups, I got to know different students from different degree programmes. The group-work was a pleasure for me. Overall I missed a direct connection to my own studies, but it was nice to get to know more about topics not included in my own degree.

In total I'm very satisfied with my scholarship and the supporting programme, because I was exposed to many different and new possibilities.





## FELICIA ZLATI

### NATIONALITY

Moldovan/Romanian

### COURSE OF STUDY

Bioengineering

### REFLECTIVE REPORT

Being a holder of the Germany Scholarship has had a significant impact on my professional and personal development. This unique experience has played an important role in the realization of my aspirations and has definitely helped me in developing my career path.

Thanks to the scholarship, I have met a lot of interesting and inspiring people, and I have improved my social skills. It has been a great opportunity for me to get to know my strengths and weaknesses and to discover new ways of becoming better every day. Through this scholarship, I was able to get a glance at the industry in which I plan to work in the near future by meeting companies' representatives and discussing with them in a friendly

environment. Probably one of the most important events during the scholarship time was when I had the chance to visit my sponsoring company, where I was welcomed by amiable people in a very pleasant atmosphere. At this meeting, we also discussed about a possible internship for me there, and this possibility excited me, as it seems a great place to learn more about my major and one of my potential career paths.

I believe that the most valuable part of the scholarship period has been the accompanying program. The organized meetings represented great occasions for networking. It was the supporting program that made it possible for us to get the most out of this extraordinary experience. Regarding the financial support, it has definitely helped me, as it allowed me to leave the job I had before, which did not help me further my knowledge in my study area, and to become a student assistant in a laboratory at my university, a position which requires less of my time and also contributes significantly to my self-development. I am now also able to be more involved in volunteer projects in my free time.

I have put in a lot of effort in order to be awarded this scholarship, as I was sure that it would be a considerable help in my study performance. However, only after living this experience I have realized that it was so much more than I had expected. I am endlessly thankful for everything that this scholarship comprises. All in all, the Germany Scholarship has opened my eyes to new horizons and new ways of thinking and has made me feel confident that I can achieve so much more than I thought I could before.

## **SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

### **ARTICLES OF THE THREE SCHOLARSHIP MEETINGS**



## **“GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER” THE FIRST MEETING**

### **20.10.2016**

“We would like to invite you to the first meeting of the ‘Deutschlandstipendiaten’ in Kleve to get to know each other and to tell you more about the program during the year”. Everyone involved in the scholarship received this invitation and met at 5pm on the Kleve Campus. Most of the scholarship winners were able to join this event, so almost 60 students took part. We met up for the first time in front of the senate hall.

Some faces were new, others were familiar: people we knew from around campus or even our own study course. Only a few people were previous scholarship winners. The rest of us did not know what would happen in the following months. After a short introduction and congratulation by the University President Dr. Heide Naderer, we all went out to take a group picture for the press. After that we changed rooms to one that was set up by our “mentor”, Christine Noelle, from the University’s Career Service.

She told us about the plan to re-organization the funding phase and to introduce a new way of connecting the scholarship holders with each other and with their sponsors. They should meet each other more often than once at the annual dinner. That was the goal of the first day: planning. The group of almost 60 students was split into 5 groups. Each group was responsible for one topic: planning meetings, company visits, a party, channels of communication and designing a scholarship yearbook. We got to know each other in our groups, worked on our topics and established an action plan. A plenary discussion added important points and showed potential limits and possibilities.

We wanted to meet with sponsors twice in the funding period, for example at a BBQ. We also wanted to visit some of the companies in person. Communication would work via Facebook and a newsletter. At the end of the year we would compose a yearbook with articles about every meeting, feedback for HSRW and the companies, and an essay from everyone which would be a kind of a report about their scholarship period.

Ms Noelle planned to Skype with group leaders two weeks later to get an update about their group’s progress. She promised to summarize the results and to create from them a new supporting programme for the Deutschlandstipendium. At 7pm the meeting concluded and everyone returned home to Kleve, Kamp-Lintfort or another town in region. The next meeting would take place at the end of 2016.”

Report by Larissa Kölsch  
Industrial and Organizational Psychology, B.Sc.

---

## THE SECOND SCHOLARSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2016

What's the best way to bring sponsors and scholarship winners together in one room? A second meet-and-greet event on December 13, 2016, organized by Christine Noelle (Career Service, Rhine-Waal University) and the students from the organizing committee. The event was designed to give both students and sponsors an opportunity to „sniff each other out“ and discuss possible collaborative events in the future. After all, the *Deutschlandstipendium* is about more than supporting excellent students financially; it's about establishing lasting connections between students and sponsors too!

Company representatives presented themselves and mingled at booths. This quickly led to interesting conversations with students about company profiles and activities, studies, life on the Lower Rhine and more. Opportunities for internships and visits were also hot topics for discussion, as students were very interested in learning more about opportunities for collaborative exchanges that went beyond their scholarship year. While students' fields of study and company focuses didn't always align, each conversation provided an interesting and engaging chance to experience a different perspective. Representatives were quite impressed by the students' broad range of studies and international backgrounds.

The time seemed to fly, and after 90 minutes the event began to wrap up. Everyone left with new contacts, impressions and ideas for future partnerships, ready and excited for the next opportunity for a shared meeting. This would be the annual Scholarship Dinner held a month later on January 30, 2017.

*Report by Lars Caspersen,  
Sustainable Agriculture, B.Sc.*

## SCHOLARSHIP DINNER IN KAMP-LINTFORT JANUARY 30, 2017

The supporter associations of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences invited this year's scholarship winners and sponsors to the annual Scholarship Dinner in Kamp-Lintfort on January 30, 2017. The evening's festivities kicked off with an introductory speech by our president, Dr. Heide Naderer, who warmly welcomed both students and companies to campus. Deans and professors of our different faculties were also in attendance.

After the introductory speech, Julia Ilg, the head of our Central Student Advisory Service and Welcome Center, held a series of interviews on stage, first with the president, then sponsor Jens Hahn (managing director of the Aldi Corporation Rheinberg) and Tobias Kamelski, current scholarship holder. These interviews delved into interesting aspects of the scholarship program, as well as the motivations and personal experiences of participants. For students, the interviews also provided a whole new perspective of Rhine-Waal University and the *Deutschlandstipendium*, as well as the community of support the university has built over the past years. Besides interviews, there was also an awarding ceremony for scholarship certificates, which were presented individually to students by the president, as well as the company funding the scholarship. The evening was accompanied musically by Manfred Hendricks on the piano.

All in all, it was an interesting opportunity for students to see the range of companies supporting Rhine-Waal University and get to know the people and faces behind the companies as well. The sheer number and variety of fields of study on display was quite impressive, as

was the diverse range of backgrounds and nationalities of students. These were also some of the reasons why the evening's conversations were so interesting.

The dinner itself took place afterwards in the campus canteen, which was spruced up like a dining room with white tablecloths and seating plans. The buffet was opened after a short speech by the supporter associations, and then everyone sat down to eat, drink and converse about business, studies, interests and more until late into the evening.

At the end of the night, students and sponsors were in complete agreement: "What a great evening!"

*Report by Sarah Knauf,  
Early Childhood Education, B.A.*

---

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

In the name of all students we, the essay group, like to thank everyone who was involved in affording us this scholarship. Beside the financial support, which enabled us to focus on our studies, we also got a lot of new experiences. Therefore we thank all our sponsors, listed in alphabetic order:

- Airport Weeze Flughafen Niederrhein GmbH
- ALTANA AG
- Aldi Süd GmbH & Co. KG
- AUMUND Fördertechnik GmbH
- CAD Schroer GmbH
- Dr. Sommer Werkstofftechnik
- Fluxana GmbH & Co. KG
- Förderverein Campus Camp-Lintfort e.V.
- Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal – Campus Cleve e.V.
- Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V.
- Heinz Trox-Stiftung
- Katholisches Karl-Leisner-Klinikum gGmbH
- Kreis Weseler Abfallgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
- LEMKEN GmbH & Co. KG
- Lutz Bongen GmbH
- Niederrheinische Verkehrsbetriebe
- Aktiengesellschaft NIAG
- Probat-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH
- Prothelis GmbH
- RAG-Stiftung
- Schleupen AG
- Sparkasse Duisburg
- Sparkasse Emmerich-Rees
- Sparkasse Kleve
- SPECTRO Analytical Instruments GmbH
- Stadtwerke Kleve GmbH
- Unternehmerschaft Chemie Niederrhein e.V.
- Unternehmerverband der Metallindustrie Ruhr-Niederrhein e.V.
- Verbandssparkasse Goch-Kevelaer-Weeze
- Volksbank Kleverland eG
- Welling GmbH
- YMC Europe GmbH

But this eventful year would not have not been the same without the support of our University, represented by our president Dr. Heide Naderer, and the Career Service.

Special thanks go to Christine Noelle, who accompanied us the first half of the year and planned the supporting program for the scholarship. In the second half of the year, Jochen van Bentum took over this responsibility, so we would like to thank him too!

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

© 2018 Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences  
Kleve/Kamp-Lintfort

### **Publisher**

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Kleve Campus  
Marie-Curie-Straße 1  
47533 Kleve, Germany

Kamp-Lintfort Campus  
Friedrich-Heinrich-Allee 25  
47475 Kamp-Lintfort, Germany

### **Responsible Party**

Dr Heide Naderer  
President of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

### **Design**

Dipl.-Des. Rebecca Hildenhagen

### **Photos**

© Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (Cover, Page 48), private photos



## **Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences**

### **Kleve Campus**

Marie-Curie-Straße 1, 47533 Kleve

Tel.: +49 2821 80673-0

### **Kamp-Lintfort Campus**

Friedrich-Heinrich-Allee 25, 47475 Kamp-Lintfort

Tel.: +49 2842 90825-0

### **Student Advisory Service**

E-mail: [studienberatung@hochschule-rhein-waal.de](mailto:studienberatung@hochschule-rhein-waal.de)

Tel.: +49 2821 80673-360



[info@hochschule-rhein-waal.de](mailto:info@hochschule-rhein-waal.de)  
[www.hochschule-rhein-waal.de](http://www.hochschule-rhein-waal.de)



Follow us on Twitter:  
[www.twitter.com/HochschuleRW](https://www.twitter.com/HochschuleRW)



Like us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.de/hochschulerheinwaal](https://www.facebook.de/hochschulerheinwaal)