

# DEUTSCHLANDSTIPENDIUM YEARBOOK

OF RHINE-WAAL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
SCHOLARSHIP YEAR 2017/2018

EXPERIENCE REPORTS OF STUDENTS

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## FOREWORD

Dear readers and donors,

Working together with many generous donors and embracing an obligation to promote science and education in society Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences has been a proud contributor to the success story of the Deutschlandstipendium since 2011. True to the motto “promoting talents, together”, our efforts benefit our top students and bolster the regional workforce of tomorrow.

Thanks to the tireless commitment of local businesses, foundations and private donors, some 80 top talents were awarded a scholarship for the 2017-2018 year. This financial boost allows them to concentrate their time and energy fully on their studies. Without this generous support, we surely could not boast of the successes of this or previous years.

With that in mind, this yearbook provides a personal look at the lives of our scholarship holders and represents a small token of our appreciation to you, the donors. The contributions you will read over the following pages are as diverse at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences itself. They mirror the myriad life experiences and character traits of our applicants, as well as the personal impressions of students who are eager for new challenges and adventures.

We wish you a very pleasant read,

The Executive Board, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

## GREETINGS

Welcome to the Deutschlandstipendium yearbook of 2017/2018! We are the scholarship holders who produced this yearbook as a memory of a great year of Deutschlandstipendium sponsorship.

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

We hope you enjoy reading!



KATHARINA KOSCHADE



AGNES KELM



ACE VERGEL LAT



KERSTIN MERKS



ADIL RAZA



LEANDRI MEYER



JAKOB VÖGERL



SARAH KNAUF



ALTAY YUZEIR



LARISSA KÖLSCH



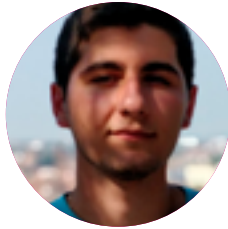
HANZHI LU



NICLAS KÜPPERS



MADITA DALPKE



CATALIN DASCALIUC



SOPHIE DOMRES



FELICIA ZLATI



JOHANNA FRYE



JASMIN GRÄVELL



LINA GRIESBACH



INES HEMESATH



LISA HENNERKES



JULIAN REUTHER



LAURA MAXIMILIANE  
LAMBACH



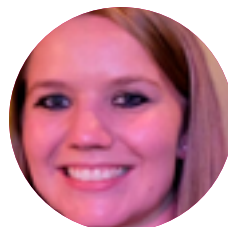
KATRIN STIERLE



VANESSA RICHTER



DORUK KAMALI



ALICE-CHRISTIN  
LEUKER



FABIENNE LANG



FREYA MALEEN  
WAGENFÜHR



RUTH MINOR



IAN HUNTER

## REFLECTIVE REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS





## MADITA DALPKE

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

Heinz Trox-Stiftung

### **I COULD FULLY FOCUS ON MY PAPER**

I am very thankful to have been one of the recipients of the Deutschlandstipendium for my last semester at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

During the course of my seventh semester, I wrote my bachelor thesis in the field of intercultural and personality psychology. The Deutschlandstipendium made it possible for me to fully focus on this paper and to put all of my energy, knowledge and time in it. As the topic of my bachelor thesis, I chose an empirical one, which can be applied to the practice of Work and Organisational Psychology. Connecting research and practice was very important for me, because I think transferring the results of the study into practice is profitable for both sides.

I had the possibility to apply the knowledge from my entire studies to my paper. My semester abroad, which I did in the sixth semester and which was possible with the help of the Deutschlandstipendium, was a big help to put the paper into an international context. Additionally, I was able to use my knowledge of basic modules such as statistics, methodology or personality psychology, and also of applied modules in the field of Work, Personal and Organisational Psychology.

Additionally, with the scholarship I had time for different tasks such as finding a place for an internship in between my bachelor and master. As I am now finished with my thesis, as well as my bachelor degree, I am grateful for the opportunity the Deutschlandstipendium gave me to fully focus on my studies.



## CATALIN DASCALIUC

### NATIONALITY

Moldova

### COURSE OF STUDY

Mechanical Engineering

### SPONSOR

SPECTRO Analytical Instruments GmbH

### MEET WITH BRILLIANT MINDS

For the past two semesters Deutschlandstipendium has offered me more than financial aid. It has provided me with the opportunity to meet with outstanding students and companies willing to invest in education and brilliant minds, during meetings and via the Facebook Group.

I have made valuable contacts with other holders of the grant and sponsors of the stipendium, which I consider a start of a future collaboration. It helped me a lot during both my academic semester and my internship semester. The stipendium together with Student-Assistant job at the University has allowed me to become financially independent, focus on my studies and help other students by tutoring engineering courses, such as Drive Systems, Process Engineering and Introductory Mathematics.

In my second semester as a holder of the grant, I have done a six months internship in the field of Simulations and Controls of Vehicle Dynamics at Bosch Engineering GmbH. Due to the financial support I was able to afford moving to south of Germany to pursue my dreams.

I am very thankful for the offered chance to both Deutschlandstipendium and my private sponsor SPECTRO Analytical Instruments GmbH.





## SOPHIE DOMRES

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Relations

### **SPONSOR**

Niederrheinische Verkehrsbetriebe  
Aktiengesellschaft NIAG

### **BUILD A STRONG NETWORK OF CONTACTS**

During my scholarship year, I was able to dedicate time to helping my fellow students in Kleve. I was elected to student government's financial commission and I founded a new mentoring programme for students in International Relations B.A. together with some like-minded friends. The goal of the mentoring programme is to help new students adjust to their studies with valuable tips and support, while also connecting all students in the degree programme regardless of semester.

In addition to my on-campus activities, I also volunteered for the project "UN in the Classroom", initiated by the German Society for the United Nations e.V. The goal of this project is to illustrate the goals and functionality of the UN for school kids in Germany to raise awareness for the national and international relevance of this global organisation. As part of this project, I drive to schools all over Germany and organise project days/weeks that include both a comprehensive introduction to the topic as well as simulations of UN bodies in German and English. I have also been organising workshops and seminars to train new project members since December 2017. But it was only thanks to the Deutschlandstipendium that I could concentrate all of my time and efforts on this project.

This financial support also allowed me to join the Peace Summer School of the University of Augsburg in August 2017. Over the course of a week we both explored and developed new approaches in peace and conflict studies in modules and seminars.

Thanks to the non-financial support of the Deutschlandstipendium I was also able to participate in the exciting workshop Intercultural Competence and build and expand a strong network of contacts with my donors, the Lower Rhine transportation services association NIAG.

The Deutschlandstipendium not only allowed me to focus on my studies, but also on myself and my dreams too.



## JOHANNA FRYE

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and  
Social Sciences

### **SPONSOR**

ALDI Rheinberg - Unternehmensgruppe ALDI SÜD

### **FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

First of all, I want to thank the University, my sponsor and all who made this possible as I am very grateful for having the opportunity to receive the Deutschlandstipendium.

Being a recipient has influenced my life positively as I was able to gather many exciting and interesting impressions which has influenced my personal development over the year. During the time I was not only able to focus on my studies but also, it gave me the freedom to engage in many extracurricular activities, as for example being a member of the faculty council of the Faculty of Society and Economics and being a faculty student representative. Additionally, the Deutschlandstipendium has been very valuable for my personal and academic development as I was able to save some money for my exchange semesters next year, which I will spend at Ferris State University, Michigan, USA. There I will pursue the opportunity to participate in the double degree program.

Besides the financial support, I value the supporting program of the Deutschlandstipendium very much. Unfortunately, I was not able to participate at all workshops. However, working and interacting with many different people has helped me to improve not only my communication skills across cultural boundaries but also my teamwork skills and building up relationships.

All in all, being a recipient of the Deutschlandstipendium has had a significant impact on my professional and personal development and especially in realizing valuable experiences in the past and future. Therefore, I am very grateful for being part of this program and I am looking forward for many future students to benefit from this opportunity as well.



## JASMIN GRÄVELL

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

Grafschafter Lions Club Moers

### **OVERWHELMED BY FEELINGS OF JOY AND RELIEF**

Last year, when I learned that I was awarded a Deutschlandstipendium, I was overwhelmed by feelings of joy and relief. It was October and all of my friends who applied had already received their notification letters. I was convinced that I would get a rejection letter. Then the letter finally arrived. When I opened, I read these very gratifying words: Your 12-month scholarship will be financed by the Grafschafter Lions Club Moers. I felt very honoured, because the scholarship was recognition of my hard work at university. But the financial support also took away my money worries that had been plaguing me at the time, giving me the opportunity to focus exclusively on my studies.

During my scholarship year, I was able to take part in courses offered through the Deutschlandstipendium programme, for example a course on intercultural skills development. Not only could I improve my own set of skills, but also meet and network with other scholarship holders.

A really memorable event was the Scholarship Dinner. There I was able to establish my first contacts and meet my donors personally. Meeting with the Grafschafter Lions Club Moers, I quickly learned that it was an organisation I could strongly identify with. Members – all volunteers – organise many charity events throughout the city of Moers to help and support people in need. The organisation is only open to male members, otherwise I would have also volunteered my time as an active member.

All in all, I am very pleased and proud to be a holder of the Deutschlandstipendium and to experience both its financial and knowledge-based benefits.



## LINA GRIESBACH

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

Unternehmerverband der Metallindustrie  
Ruhr-Niederrhein e.V.

### **HELPFUL COMMUNITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND LOCAL BUSINESS**

I have been a holder of the Deutschlandstipendium and member of this community since September 2017. Over my scholarship period, two things in particular stick out in my mind.

The first was the Scholarship Dinner that took place shortly after the start of the new winter semester. During the celebration on the Kleve Campus we, the new scholarship winners, first received our scholarship certificates. I was very proud to be selected and to hold in my hands one of the few certificates bestowed that evening. Afterwards, we enjoyed a pleasant dinner with our donors and fellow scholarship winners. The atmosphere was lively and enjoyable, not at all tense like I expected it to be. I got to know many friendly people and engage in interesting discussions, which is why this amazing evening remains for me, to this day, such a positive memory.

The second memorable experience was an invitation from my donor to join a personal meet-and-greet with representatives from Unternehmerverband der Metallindustrie Ruhr-Niederrhein e.V. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my donor for the valuable support they provided. For example, they also supported my search for an internship in my field.

I am so happy and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this helpful community of higher education and local businesses, and I truly hope to see more of these kinds of programmes in Germany in the future because the Deutschlandstipendium represents so much more than just financial support.



## INES HEMESATH

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Early Childhood Education

### **SPONSOR**

Stadtwerke Kleve GmbH

### **CHOOSE THE INTERNSHIP I WANTED**

The Deutschlandstipendium afforded me many opportunities last year, something I am very thankful for. The financial support gave me more time for studying. It also allowed me to choose the internship that I wanted, not the one that I needed because it paid more. My internship of choice was at farmyard kindergarten. The work is inspiring and I gathered so much useful experience there. I was able to expand upon my own personal educational philosophy, particularly in the areas of sustainability and animal-assisted pedagogy. I was able to unite theory and practice on many occasions. That is a very good feeling, because I can see how the contents of my studies help guide my pedagogical approaches.

Not only that, but I was able to gather many ideas for my bachelor's thesis. The idea of a farmyard kindergarten is still new in most states in Germany. But my work there left a deep impression on me, which is why I want to continue contributing to this idea. I am so grateful that I was able to accept an internship at this kindergarten thanks to the Deutschlandstipendium. Unfortunately, no natural science electives were offered in winter semester 2017-18. Instead, I decided to do the elective Artistic Education, Children's Literature and the Story-Telling Workshop. Not only that, but I also did a voluntary introductory course to sign language. I was not the only one to benefit from these topics: the children I worked with during my internship and the holiday care camp I assisted with had a lot of fun trying out new projects based on the things I was learning.

It was a very enriching year and I look back at it fondly.



## LISA HENNERKES

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Industrial & Organizational Psychology

### **SPONSOR**

MERA Tiernahrung GmbH

### **MY SPONSOR WAS INTERESTED IN MY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**

Reflecting the last year as a scholar, I realize that many exciting and impressive events happened to me. In February 2018 I moved to Frankfurt to start my voluntary half-year internship at Accenture. I worked as a recruiter for the business unit consulting financial services and I also gained some impressions in the training and development area as well as in the construction of an assessment centre. Sitting in a big, innovative and modern open-space office with more than fifty colleagues, concentrating on my tasks has sometimes been exhausting and demanded a great deal of cognitive effort. But luckily, this experience turned to be the fundament for my bachelor thesis where I now broach the issue of the health consequences of working in an open-space office with flexible desks. As the rental prices for accommodations are immensely high in Frankfurt, even for a room in a shared apartment, I was really glad to have the financial relief from the Germany Scholarship.

After my internship at Accenture I moved back home and made some first researches for my bachelor thesis. Also, I got a job as a working-student at Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG where I support the leadership development team two times a week. I am very happy about my new job and I hope that the current semester will be successful when I finally finishing my bachelor degree.

Getting involved in the planning process of the interactive scholar support program and becoming familiar with the other scholars through meeting regularly, makes me feel as a part of the whole. For me, the first company meeting in exhibition style at Kleve Cam-

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pus was very successful, getting in contact with the sponsors and learning about branches I am normally not concerned with. Moreover, the dinner in October, with its' lose atmosphere and diverse program was an enrichment. 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 has started late in time, 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 cooperating. 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 later in time.

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 experience a massive growth in autonomy 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.



## IAN HUNTER

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Food Science

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. -  
c/o Niederrheinische IHK

### **EXCELLENT NETWORK OF CONTACTS WITH INDUSTRY**

Not worrying about living expenses while studying is a prime motivator for many students. But an equally important aspect is making new contacts with people in industry. The Deutschlandstipendium made both things possible for me.

I was able to supervise internships in numerous areas of Life Sciences and help younger students with their questions on the related subject matter. Beyond that, the Friends of Rhine-Waal University Association, with its excellent network of contacts with industry, was able to put me in touch with many different companies throughout the Lower Rhine. My contact person in the Friends of Rhine-Waal University assisted me in my search for companies that were interested doing a collaborative thesis project, and provided valuable insights and tips. I actually met the company where I ended up doing my master's thesis through an excursion organised by the Friends of Rhine-Waal University.

Ultimately, this is what I expected from the scholarship. It was a unique opportunity to meet interesting people in the both Friends of Rhine-Waal University Association and industry, while also improving my own skills through a range of useful workshops.





## **DORUK KAMALI**

### **NATIONALITY**

Turkish

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Mechanical Engineering

### **SPONSOR**

RAG-Stiftung

### **THE SCHOLARSHIP HELPED ME TO INVEST TO LANGUAGE COURSES**

I am a mechanical engineer who has 3.5 years of work experience in energy sector in Turkey. Since Hochschule Rhein-Waal is located in North Rhine Westphalia state where energy companies, developed technology and opportunities are present, I wanted to set a new life in Germany and moved to Germany. I also wanted to develop my technical skills at the university. In addition, I have some political and military problems in Turkey that is another reason for me to leave my home country.

When I moved to Germany, I had some money that I saved in Turkey and this money may have lasted for some months. Therefore, the scholarship money helped me financially. Also, the part-time job opportunity that I had at RWE caused me both financial income and an opportunity to develop my technical skills in a professional environment. This part-time job will be the background of my thesis.

I was a beginner in German language when I first moved to Germany on April 2017. I was studying on my own in order to improve my German language skills because I know that I have to speak fluent German in order to find a good job in Germany. Therefore, the scholarship money also helped me to invest some of this money to language courses. I was in a B1 course before and I am having B2 course right now.

All in all, I am really grateful for the scholarship opportunity that helped me financially to live and to invest some of the money to improve my skills during the scholarship period. I also had the chance to participate in nice and cozy events hosted by the scholarship.



## AGNES KELM

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and Social Sciences

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. -  
c/o Niederrheinische IHK

### **ONE OF THE MOST EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE**

First of all, I would like to thank everyone, involved in the organization of the Deutschlandstipendium, for offering us students this support and opportunity.

Throughout the last year the Deutschlandstipendium has helped me in various ways. The additional financial support encouraged me to go abroad and spend one semester at the University of Alicante, which has been one of the most eye-opening experiences in my life so far.

In Spain I had the chance to try new courses, meet people from all over the world and get to know a different culture first hand, while simultaneously also learning more about my own culture. Moreover my time in Alicante has furthermore encouraged me to travel more and also to apply for internships abroad. Thus, I will be doing an internship in the United Kingdom next.

Unfortunately, due to the semester abroad I was not able to attend many events of the Deutschlandstipendium. However, I could participate in the scholarship dinner which was a very good opportunity to get to know not only the sponsors but the other scholars as well!

Therefore I hope that in the next semester, I will have the chance to participate in more events and maybe also be able to help in developing and organizing new events!



## SARAH KNAUF

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Early Childhood Education

### **SPONSOR**

Verbandssparkasse Goch-Kevelaer-Weeze

### **MANY CHANCES FOR PERSONAL, ACADEMIC AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

2017-18 was my second scholarship year for the Deutschlandstipendium. Though it was my second year, it left me with just as many experiences and impressions as the year before it. My Deutschlandstipendium allowed me to pursue a very special internship that otherwise would not have been possible. I spent my internship semester at an alternative school near Lake Constance. Living on my own and assuming responsibility for myself and for my work was a very enriching experience that helped me grow significantly as a person. Because I was away on my internship for six months, I was not able to participate regularly in official events for scholarship holders, but in my first year I found these events very helpful even though not many companies from my area of study were represented.

Beyond my internship, my second scholarship year was marked by a series of intensive academic workshops as I approach the final stretch in my studies: the bachelor's thesis. In the meantime, I try to take advantage of as many remaining education opportunities as I can. This year I took a new language course, tutored and participated in various scientific presentations. All of these opportunities helped shape my idea of what I would like to do career-wise after graduation. Not only that, but the discussions and interactions with other scholarship winners from many different cultural backgrounds were enriching experiences that have left me wiser and with many fond memories.

Students benefit enormously from the Deutschlandstipendium and its event programme: it offers them many chances for personal, academic and career-related development and enriches their lives with experiences that are likely rather uncommon during their normal studies. That is why I am truly thankful to be a part of this programme.



## LARISSA KÖLSCH

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

ALTANA Gruppe / ALTANA Chemie GmbH

### **ALTANA AG TOOK ME UNDER ITS WING**

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for the privilege of being selected for a second Deutschlandstipendium year at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. My very special thanks goes to Altana AG, which took me under its wing for a second time and helped again to organise a wonderful programme of events for my second scholarship year.

The absolute highlight was the two-day workshop for scholarship winners, where I met new people, learnt so much about the company and was given the chance to overcome my fears on a climbing wall. I also benefited quite a lot from my brief internship in Altana's

central HR department. Another highlight for me was how Altana included me in its internal communication, for example by sending me news about open positions and training opportunities, but also ensuring that I received the company newsletter too.

This year's Scholarship Dinner was a pleasant networking experience and also a chance to take a bit of pride in my achievement. Unfortunately, that was the only gathering of scholarship winners at HSRW because the event programme from 2016-17 was discontinued. That was a shame, but in terms of time it was a bit of a relief because of my full-time internship at a polling institute in Cologne from April-August 2018. But even during this stressful period, Altana's continued financial support and willingness to provide useful tips and advice for research and assignments was worth its weight in gold.

While I liked the idea of additional networking events very much, I found it burdening at times too. Due to the distance between Kamp-Lintfort and Kleve, the interdisciplinary focus and a lack of motivation among certain participants, the programme did not really work out in this form. But the resulting scholarship yearbook produced by Rhine-Waal University was fantastic!

This semester I will be focusing on completing my bachelor's thesis, and hopefully I will be a smiling "bachelorette" by early 2019!



## KATHARINA KOSCHADE

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

### **SPONSOR**

Unternehmerschaft Chemie Niederrhein e.V.

### **SUPPORT IN MULTIPLE WAYS**

I was very excited and happy when I got the admission for my second year in the Deutschlandstipendium, because that meant another year of financial and also non-financial support for me.

In 2017 I had the chance to participate at the annual meeting of my sponsor Unternehmerschaft Chemie Niederrhein e.V. This event featured very interesting lectures and strengthened the contact to my sponsor, while having a nice dinner. I was also invited to several other events, but I spent a semester abroad from January to June, so unfortunately, I could not participate in those events. Still, I am very grateful that the Unternehmerschaft Chemie Niederrhein e.V. always tried to keep contact with their scholars and supports them in multiple ways, so the scholarship includes way more than financial benefits.

On the other hand, I was looking forward to making new experiences in Madrid, Spain, where I spent the semester abroad at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos. I had a great time, made a lot of friends from all over the world and had valuable insights on the study life in another country. Of course, the Deutschlandstipendium helped me here to cover the costs of this great experience and made it possible to focus on the studies.



## NICLAS KÜPPERS

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Media Communication and Computer Sciences

### **SPONSOR**

Sparkasse Duisburg

### **A POINT OF PRIDE FOR MY FAMILY AS WELL**

Last year marked not only the start of my scholarship period, but also my studies in general. I was able to hit the ground running without having to worry about my finances. That allowed me to dedicate a portion of my free time to social activities, and I joined student government (AStA). I made new friends and contacts there and was able to help with the planning of multiple events.

My driving goal for last year was to learn new things and apply them wherever and whenever I could. That's a big reason for why I decided to apply to become a student assistant in our university's IT department. I was accepted and ended up spending an even greater portion of my free time at the university learning new behind-the-scenes processes that most students do not even know exist. I also ended up becoming active in "Bridge NRW", a project running in North Rhine-Westphalia.

It is an honour for me to have been selected for a Deutschlandstipendium this past year. It is a point of pride not only for me, but for my family as well. After I met and got to know the donor behind my scholarship, I had an open invitation to contact them at any time. It was good knowing that I had that additional level of support.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being selected for a Deutschlandstipendium. It was an experience that I would recommend to every one of my fellow students. In my opinion, it is one of the best things that can happen to a student in his or her academic career.



## **LAURA MAXIMILIANE LAMBACH**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and Social Sciences

### **SPONSOR**

RAG-Stiftung

### **ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

Without my fellow students I would have not applied for the Deutschlandstipendium. They encouraged me to give it a try. Being one of the best students of the university seemed unrealistic to me, until I received the letter of acceptance.

Becoming a scholarship holder of the Deutschlandstipendium is a great honor for me. I am studying for two years now at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. During this time, I realized more and more that my course of study goes hand in hand with my personal interests. Receiving the scholarship motivated me even more to pursue good grades and studying on a high level.

Currently I am in the fifth semester and I am looking forward to the semester abroad which I will spend in Auckland, New Zealand - unimaginable without the financial support of my donor, the RAG Stiftung. Moreover, the scholarship enabled me to quit my student job and extending my voluntary commitment instead.

In June, the RAG Stiftung organized an event for all its scholarship holders at Zeche Zollverein in Essen. It was a great experience because the accompanying program was very interesting and it fueled the intellectual exchange between other participants.

Thanks to my fellow students and the RAG Stiftung for encouraging and supporting me!



## FABIENNE LANG

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Bio Science and Health

### SPONSOR

Grafschafter Lions Club Moers

### GO ON AND ALWAYS GIVE MY BEST

My Deutschlandstipendium experience started in September 2017, when I was invited to the Stipendium-Dinner. I was very excited because I got that message quite spontaneous a week before and I was so happy.

met all the other Stipendium holders, so we could exchange views. I also met the Grafschafter Lions Club Moers, who sponsor me for the first time. During the dinner we talked about my future and my life and I learned a lot about their work and we could exchange ideas. I knew that club before, because I worked in a Kindergarten for three weeks and the Grafschafter Lions Club Moers donated a lot of toys to them every year.

So, the Stipendium has not only helped my financially situation, it also gave me the chance to make new experiences and to get more confidence in what I am doing. The first year at my studies at the Hochschule Rhein-Waal had a good basic and I could continue with my activities at the sports club as an unsalaried coach in gymnastics. Without that financial support I would not be able to do this anymore as I had to go for a part-time job and finance myself.

The first two semesters were successful and motivated me to go on and always give my best to achieve good grades. I am very happy that I could be part of the program of the Deutschlandstipendium the last year.





## ACE VERGEL LAT

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

Unternehmerverband der Metallindustrie  
Ruhr-Niederrhein e.V.

### **I DEEPENED MY TEAM-WORK SKILLS**

First of all, I am very grateful to be one of the recipients of the Deutschlandstipendium again. Thus, the scholarship is the confirmation of my personal path, which I have been taking. On the one hand, the scholarship is also an incentive for me to continue this particular way and it provides me with strength to provide social commitment. On the other hand, particularly this scholarship helped me to encourage and support other students passing their exams, especially First-Generation-Students.

Receiving the scholarship and studying do not only mean to write good grades, both mean more than that, namely life-long-learning, broadening my horizon and get to know inspiring people. By means of that, I deepened my self-reflection, communication and teamwork skills throughout the semester. I was able to combine and extend the theoretical frameworks from my studies in a professional and practical context. For instance, I was an observer in a real Assessment-Center, leading to an improvement of my soft skills.

By receiving this financial aid, it allowed me to pursue my studies more intensively. Even though, I have already passed particular modules, it was due to my scientific curiosity to attend certain modules again, so I could foster and deepen my academic knowledge. Therefore, by refreshing the study material, I could review the different topics. Alternatively, by reviewing the lectures, I wanted not only to simply understand the material, but also comprehend it extensively.

All in all, I am very pleased by the scholarship and I can look back on an eye-opening second scholarship period.



## **ALICE-CHRISTIN LEUKER**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Sustainable Development Management

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. -  
c/o Niederrheinische IHK

### **IT STRENGTHENED MY CHOICE TO TO A MASTERS STUDY PROGRAM**

The scholarship during the Winter Semester 2017/2018 and Summer Semester 2018 gave me a great opportunity to focus on my studies. It strengthened my choice to do a masters study program even though I already experienced the professional life for two years. The scholarship helped me also to improve my personal skills, because it gave me the chance to improve my communication skills.

The scholarship started with the kick-off meeting in October 2017 where we had the chance to get to know the other scholarship holders as well as our own sponsor. In my case it is the Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. with the Niederrheinische Industrie und Handelskammer, which was represented by Stefan Finke. After the official part, where we received the scholarship certificate from Dr. Heide Naderer and the sponsor, we had a dinner in the evening. This was a nice opportunity to get to know the sponsor and the other scholarship holders.

I used this chance to get a scholarship also and started with a language course in Japanese. It was always a dream to learn another language, which I was able to fulfil now. It is now only the language which I was able to learn during the course, it was also a great opportunity to learn more about the Japanese culture. For the next semester I plan to continue with the language class.

I am very grateful to be a part of this scholarship program and hope it will also help many other students in the future to make the best of their studies.



## HANZHI LU

### **NATIONALITY**

Chinese

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Taxation and Law

### **SPONSOR**

Heinz Trox-Stiftung

### **A GREAT CONFIRMATION OF MY EFFORTS**

This was my second time being awarded with the Deutschlandstipendium. Proven by my improved academic performance and my enriched work experience, this programme offered me enormous supports in many ways.

First of all, I attended two famous summer schools in Shanghai and London respectively. Part of the tuition fees was covered by the scholarship that I received, and the professional knowledge in international tax law that I obtained at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences laid me a solid foundation for intensive and advanced studies at the summer schools.

Furthermore, the scholarship programme enhanced my self-confidence and played a critical role in my career path. I was offered an internship position at one of the Big Four accounting firms. During the internship, thanks to the knowledge learnt at our university again, my work performance received positive assessments from my colleagues. I was also very pleased that my professional knowledge was to a large extent helpful and paved the way for me in this respect.

“Where there is a will, there is a way.” I cherished this successful extension of the Deutschlandstipendium, as it was a great confirmation of my efforts in the past year and will definitely leave strong influence on me in the long run as well.



## KERSTIN MERKS

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### SPONSOR

Stadtwerke Kamp-Lintfort

### THE YEAR WENT BY IN A FLASH

This past year went by in a flash: my fifth semester was mostly taken up by the interdisciplinary project Ambient cueing in the home environment with ubiquitous computing. I took over project management with a colleague of mine, which helped me enormously to develop my organisational and interpersonal skills. It was the first time that we really engaged with cultures of other degree programmes in a work context. Through open and transparent communication we were able to overcome the challenges inherent to interdisciplinary teamwork like developing a shared reality, for example. This was crucial because after team meetings each project member would usually go

off to conduct his or her own individual research and development.

It was in this context that I first learned about the STREEN project at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, which I contributed to with great interest for a brief period of time. The goal was to develop a reading app for tablets to encourage literacy in primary school children. My time with the team was so enjoyable that I plan to support the STREEN project in the future as well. I also truly experienced for the first time how research efforts can change the world for the better. That is one of the reasons I have come to see it as a potential future career path, too.

I spent the second half of my scholarship year in an internship with HSBC Germany. As part of the team Learning & Development – Apprentices and Trainees, I contributed to recruitment and support services for talented up-and-comers. A service mentality, perseverance and creativity were particularly useful skills that helped me independently develop and initiate a new internship concept for school pupils.

Though my internship at HSBC Germany remains a fond memory and I managed to land a position there afterwards as a working student, I still plan on starting a master's degree next year with the hopes of eventually becoming a researcher. But before that I have to master the biggest challenge of my studies yet: my bachelor's thesis.

I would like to thank the Stadtwerke Kamp-Lintfort for their support in this very exciting time of my life.



## LEANDRI MEYER

### **NATIONALITY**

South African

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Gender and Diversity

### **SPONSOR**

RAG-Stiftung

### **THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN US**

As Earl Nightingale once said: "All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination." I had the plan: attain a Bachelor degree in Germany, I had the courage: come abroad and work/study hard and I had the road map: the German Scholarship!

What an honor and privilege it was to receive the German Scholarship for two consecutive years. Just knowing that there were other people/companies out there that were willing to financially support and invest in my dream, gave me the wings to fly.

As part of the Scholarship program I had the opportunity to meet and interact with many inspiring fellow students and companies, write my Bachelor thesis in corporation with Vodafone GmbH and finally, successfully attain my Bachelor degree. It has been such an inspiring journey filled with many up's, down's and life-lessons along the way.

Looking back I believe that the German Scholarship provided me with endless opportunities to interact with other talented students, network with successful companies and to be inspired by the success and determination of others.

I applaud each and every individual/company who has supported the German Scholarship over the past years. Thank you for believing in us and bringing us one step closer in reaching our dreams.



## RUTH MINOR

### NATIONALITY

German

### COURSE OF STUDY

Bio Science and Health

### SPONSOR

RAG-Stiftung

### APPRECIATION OF MY EFFORTS AND PERFORMANCE

After two years within the program, I got another 6 months support of Deutschlandstipendium in the winter term 2017/2018. I am still grateful to have been part of it. During my 7th semester I wrote my bachelor thesis in collaboration with Rheinischer Turnerbund, the German umbrella organization for gymnastic associations and clubs. One task was to find ways to support trainers to do health promotion in sustainable ways. In February I successfully completed my bachelor degree and I am very glad about this.

Besides that, I was a student assistant in biology. Thereby I also could extend my knowledge and skills. I furthermore was able to give tutorial assistance to fellow students and to encourage some of them preparing their thesis. Within the semester I became more confident with the English language while joining an according course. I wanted to prepare for the following semester, starting with a master course in English. That means a huge challenge to me.

Except for one meeting at a scholarship dinner there were no personal interactions with my scholarship provider. Here I could meet a representative of RAG Stiftung which supported me. Unfortunately I couldn't join other events of the supporting program. I still have to look after my family with three children besides studying. This is a challenge for me to do well.

Overall I see the scholarship as an appreciation of my efforts and my performance. I am very thankful to have received the Deutschlandstipendium. Its financial support was a huge benefit and helped me to fulfill the tasks I was required to do.

Now I am looking forward to my master studies in "Biological resources" in which sustainable development occupies an important position, just like in my own personal values.



## ADIL RAZA

### **NATIONALITY**

Pakistani

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Communication and Information Engineering

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Campus Camp-Lintfort e.V.

### **A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for making my 2017-18 a great one, where I not only excelled in my degree program but also was able to gain some technical and real-world experiences. I am glad that I had a fantastic opportunity.

Since last year, I have been involved in many community services which are mainly focused on disabled people. The very first inspiration for working with this important community was attending the Hackathon related to accessibility at HSRW. The purpose was to identify unknown daily basic problems this community faces, and thus solving them using cost-effective digital solutions.

Similarly, the second quite motivational achievement was to voluntarily work for elderly people care in collaboration with Accenture. I was assigned to brainstorm on the elderly care needs and build a prototype i.e. a mobile-based application, specifically for caretakers to make them competent and efficient. Moreover, I worked on a project for refugees in German job market with Trivago.

Furthermore, participating with the German community helped me to improve my German language skills and enriched me with the understanding of German cultural and traditional values.

Apart from my social welfare association, I was also immensely connected with my academics. As a result, I was ranked among the Top 5 in my class in almost every subject, which was further recognized by my faculty as selecting me for a highly desirable and demanding US exchange program.

It is worth mentioning that I participated in one of the world biggest technology competition in Paris, which is also an indirect support of the Deutschlandstipendium, as the funds assisted me to spend my quality time in learning different computer programming languages and technological trends.

Lastly, this stipendium helped me to explore my interests, discover my passions, and polished me in terms of educational, emotional, and worldly intelligence.



## JULIAN REUTHER

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

(Work and Organisational Psychology)

### **SPONSOR**

Probat-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH

### **I DO MY BACHELOR IN COOPERATION WITH PROBAT**

For me it was the second consecutive year I was part of the Deutschlandstipendium.

I really liked the concept of getting in touch with the companies, our private sponsors. Unfortunately, in my first year as a scholarship holder I couldn't participate at the scholar dinner, but this year I could. I met the CEO of PROBAT-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH, which is my private sponsor. Additionally, I was in Emmerich am Rhein where the company's headquarter is located. They showed me the company and it was really nice and interesting. This semester I do my bachelor thesis in cooperation with PROBAT-Werke and really looking forward to it.

For me the Deutschlandstipendium was already a big benefit. On one hand financially because I didn't have to work a lot besides the classes, on the other hand because I have the chance to take a first step into the working life and make some new contacts.





## VANESSA RICHTER

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

International Business and Social Sciences

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. -  
c/o Niederrheinische IHK

### **MY SPONSOR OFFERED ME TO BENEFIT FROM HIS NETWORK**

First of all, I would like to thank my sponsor and the university for the financial and non-financial support during the time of the Deutschlandstipendium. Thanks to the Deutschlandstipendium I had the opportunity to focus on studying without worrying about financial issues. It helped me to become more independent as I did not rely on my parents that much. Moreover, the scholarship motivated me to work harder for university to keep on achieving good grades. Furthermore, I had more time for other activities like planning the coming semester abroad, taking a language course and using my semester break for an internship instead of going to work.

What I especially liked about the Deutschlandstipendium was the Stipendiendinner in October 2017. There, we received our scholarship certificates and had a dinner where I had the chance to meet my sponsor and the other scholarship holders as well as the other sponsors. It was a very interesting evening with interesting discussions which helped to establish new contacts and to gain useful communication skills. Unfortunately, there was no option for me to do an internship or something similar at my sponsor, however, my sponsor offered me to benefit from his network if I am searching for an internship which might be very useful for my future career.

The Deutschlandstipendium also offered some more interesting activities, however, unfortunately not all activities took place since not enough students registered for the activities. Still, in general the offerings were attractive and very useful for developing soft skills which might be needed in the business world.

I am very grateful to be a part of this scholarship –  
Thank you very much!



## KATRIN STIERLE

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

### **SPONSOR**

Graf Sparkasse Duisburg

### **INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME**

I remember the time during my own Freshtival week when ArbeiterKind.de gave talks on scholarships and how to apply for them. This encouraged me to apply for the Deutschlandstipendium at the end of my 2nd semester at Hochschule Rhein-Waal. I was quite nervous during the summer break but when I finally received the letter of acceptance, being nervous turned into excitement about what would await me during the following year.

The scholarship dinner at Kleve was a great opportunity to get to know my sponsor Sparkasse Duisburg who I had an appointment with only few days later. We set up an individual sponsorship program whose highlight was the co-direction of a seminar for apprentices. I really enjoyed cooperating and staying in close touch throughout the whole year. The experience I made during that time helped me develop and improve several skills such as time management and conscientious, reliable standard of work. Furthermore, I appreciate that I could apply improved ability in leadership and presentation skills to my job as a student tutor for statistics right away.

As the financial aid gave me the opportunity to reinvest my time into voluntary work at university instead of working as a cashier, I could volunteer at the AStA's LGBTQI department as well as at the Student Parliament and ArbeiterKind.de.

All in all, I had a great time with Sparkasse Duisburg which compensates the fact that I was, unfortunately, unable to attend events the scholars were invited to because of collision with my schedule. I am very pleased to be part of the Deutschlandstipendium and deeply grateful for the amazing people I got to know as well as all the experience I made.



## JAKOB VÖGERL

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Sustainable Agriculture

### **SPONSOR**

RAG-Stiftung

### **A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE**

I was unbelievably happy when I learned that I was selected for a Deutschlandstipendium. With the help of this scholarship and my job as a student assistant at Rhine-Waal University, I was able to stand on my own two feet financially. That was a great relief for my parents and a major step towards my own independence.

In the first two semesters of study we focused largely on the fundamentals. In the 3rd semester we began exploring more interesting topics with much more depth. In lectures I learned a lot about complex processes in food production and was able to apply this

new knowledge in various lab courses in my degree programme. That is where I discovered an interest in plant science and research. What I find most interesting are innovative farming methods, for example vertical gardening in cities.

I also spent some of the time between semesters gathering additional research experience. For example, I contributed research to an ongoing project of a professor at Rhine-Waal University as an introduction to professional scholarly work. This experience in particular will certainly be very useful for my thesis in the not-too-distant future.

I really looked forward to my fourth semester because it was the point at which I could start choosing electives and gathering experience in emphasis areas. I also learned at the start of the semester that I had been accepted for a six-month internship in Bolivia.

Thanks to the Deutschlandstipendium I was able to save up enough money to take advantage of this opportunity and start my internship in August 2018, where I work with an organisation dedicated to research and development projects for local farming. The Deutschlandstipendium offered many freedoms and opened many doors for me. I am deeply grateful for being selected and can look back at a very successful year.



## **FREYA MALEEN WAGENFÜHR**

### **NATIONALITY**

German

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Psychology

### **SPONSOR**

Wellings Hotel zur Linde GmbH

### **AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE**

In 2017, I waited all summer long for a decision on my Deutschlandstipendium application. It was such an amazing feeling when I received the acceptance letter because I knew what the Deutschlandstipendium stood for. Naturally, it offers financial support, but more importantly it opens the door to many invaluable experiences and other intangible benefits.

I was scheduled to meet with my donor, the company Welling GmbH, at the scholarship dinner on Kleve Campus, but they were unable to take part due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict. Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to once again deeply thank them for supporting my studies in 2017 and 2018. The Scholarship Dinner was an amazing experience and a fond memory to this day. I was able to meet and converse with many other donors and establish important contacts with regional companies, but beyond that the dinner had such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that everyone ended up having a good time. I never would have thought that this one evening could offer so many interesting experiences.

During the semester we were offered many other opportunities to hone our skills, for example in workshops. These opportunities were also useful networking tools among scholarship winners. This was another useful experience with its own range of benefits.

All in all, I am very happy and grateful to have been a part of this amazing scholarship programme and I hope that I will have the privilege to be selected again in the coming semesters.



## ALTAY YUZEIR

### **NATIONALITY**

Bulgarian

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Bioengineering

### **SPONSOR**

Unternehmervverband der Metallindustrie  
Ruhr-Niederrhein e.V.

### **ADMIRABLE PHILANTROPY**

I have been receiving the Germany scholarship since September 2017. It has allowed me to keep and improve my academic achievements, as well as improve my German language and soft skills.

As of April 2017 I have been working for TutorABC.com, a service for online English language tutoring. The summer term of 2017, I have been working on a constant basis in order to meet my financial necessities. Due to this reason I was unable to take part in German language classes and other extracurricular activities, I was interested in and had difficulties keeping up with my university activities.

Receiving the Germany scholarship has greatly improved my personal and academic life, as I didn't need to work as much and was able to enroll myself and successfully complete two German language courses, offered by HSRW, improving my German skills up to the level of B1. As I believe software skills are of at most importance for today's industry, I have completed a number of MatLab™ courses, offered for our university, something which would not have been possible without the free time, which this scholarship has given me.

I truly hope, the scholarship will be granted once more to me, for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year, in order to continue improving my scores and personal skills, especially German language skills. My goal is to acquire at least a B2, or even C1 level certificate from a well-established organization, like the Goethe institute. I have also started visiting various educational events, organized by ASTA and the Welcome Center.

Considering of the above, I can say that I am very grateful to all of the companies, supporting every deserving talent and to the country of Germany itself for the willingness and openness towards international students. I find this philanthropy admirable and hope this practice never stops.



## FELICIA ZLATI

### **NATIONALITY**

Moldova

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

Bioengineering

### **SPONSOR**

Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. -  
c/o Niederrheinische IHK

### **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

I have always been fascinated by science. When I decided to move to Germany to study bioengineering, I knew it would not be easy. I knew it would be an intellectual, social and financial challenge for me. The Germany Scholarship has managed to help me in all of those aspects. It had a significant impact on my professional development, it offered me the opportunity to participate in exciting social events and it supported me in financing my studies.

Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to concentrate more on furthering my knowledge in my field of study. It allowed me to work a few hours per week at the university as a student assistant in mathematics, as well as in some laboratories, since I did not need a better-paid and a more time demanding job anymore. This had an important role in my self-development and thus aided me in getting an internship position at F. Hoffmann-La Roche in Basel, Switzerland, which was a great and important experience for me.

Furthermore, I have met a lot of interesting and amazing people during the scholarship period. I am very grateful for the meetings we had, where I could get in touch with other scholars, as well as with several company and foundation representatives. These were great occasions to share inspiring ideas and valuable pieces of advice regarding our career paths.

The experience of being a Germany Scholarship holder has definitely exceeded my expectations and I am thankful for everything that this scholarship comprises. It has opened my eyes to new horizons and has made me more confident and ambitious.



## SCHOLARSHIP DINNER





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## SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS AT RHINE-WAAL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES MEET THEIR SPONSORS

Thanks to the support and commitment of Lower Rhine companies and private sponsors, many talented young students at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences were awarded a Deutschlandstipendium for the 2017-18 academic year. To thank sponsors for their generosity, Rhine-Waal University's three support organisations invited them to the annual Scholarship Dinner held in the campus dining facility in Kleve.

While the financial benefits of the Deutschlandstipendium are clear, for Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences and its support organisations the most important benefit is the opportunity to establish lasting contact between sponsors and students – many of whom will potentially enter the regional workforce after graduation. “We are proud of your achievements and to celebrate this newest honour with you today”, praised Dr. Heide Naderer, President of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, in her address to the newest scholarship winners. She continued, stressing the importance of this scholarship for students and how it forced the jury to make many difficult choices. Afterwards, students were called up to receive from President Dr. Naderer the official scholarship certificate signed by the Federal Minister of Education, Anja Karliczek.

During the ensuing dinner buffet, sponsors and students sat together and got to know each other better. Students also engaged in interesting conversations with local business representatives and other members of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences on their studies, career goals and aspirations, establishing unexpected new contacts this way as well.

In the academic year 2017-18, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences was privileged to be able to award 243,000 euros in scholarships to 78 of its top students.

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## 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:

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- Fluxana GmbH & Co. KG
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- Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal – Campus Cleve e.V.
- Förderverein Hochschule Rhein-Waal e.V. c/o Niederrheinische IHK
- Grafschafter Lions Club Moers
- Heinz Trox-Stiftung
- Katholisches Karl-Leisner-Klinikum gGmbH
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