



GOODWILL IN ACTION
Since 1967
Founded in Melbourne, Victoria

SAGSE

Scholarships for Australian-German Student Exchange Inc
Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria

GPO Box 2539 Melbourne VIC 3001 www.sagse.org.au info@sagse.org.au

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION 2016/2017

Closing date for all applications: May 30, 2016

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Background

The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange, now known as Scholarships for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) was founded in 1967 by Mr Fritz von Einem-Joosten, a German businessman.

Fritz von Einem-Joosten's aim was to foster international understanding by means of a German-Australian youth exchange. To this end he sought sponsorship from a number of prominent German firms operating in Australia. Since then, SAGSE, a not for profit organisation run entirely by volunteers, has been able to give hundreds of VCE secondary school students of German the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the language and become familiar with the German way of life by living in the country for a period of time.

Included in the membership of the organisation are Victorian and Australian businesses, secondary schools and representatives of Victorian universities.

Benefits for Scholarship Holders

Scholarship winners will travel to Germany in late November of the year in which they apply, and stay with selected families. They will be shown around by their hosts during the school holidays and celebrate Christmas with them. **They must, however attend school with their host brothers/sisters.** They will return to Australia in early February of the following year.

The scholarship provides for all air travel, Berlin Camp and accommodation during the home-stay segment of the exchange.

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

Sponsors



Allens >< Linklaters



Corporate Members

Machinery Forum, Porsche Cars, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, CHT Australia, RSM Bird Cameron
Bosch Australia, Sick Pty Ltd, Westfalia Automotive Australia

School Members

Billanook College, Carey Baptist Grammar School, Catholic Ladies College, Korowa Anglican Girls School
Westbourne Grammar, Presbyterian Ladies College, Oberon High School, Deutsche Schule Melbourne
Scotch College, Star of the Sea College, Trinity Grammar School, MacRobertson Girls High School
Dimboola Memorial Secondary College, Mentone Girls' Grammar School, Viewbank College



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Selection Criteria

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

- they are Australian citizens
- they are in Year 11 or 12 at a Victorian secondary school and are studying VCE German

Suitable candidates will possess the following essential qualities:

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

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

Student Letter of Application

As part of the student's application (see Application Forms) applicants are expected to write a personal letter which **must** include addressing the following **Key Selection Criteria**.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Ability to communicate effectively
2. General knowledge in relation to Australia and Germany
3. Ability to live in a host family/fit in with the exchange environment.
4. Capacity to represent Australia and SAGSE as a suitable ambassador
5. German conversation skills

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

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

Selection of Scholars

All eligible applications will be considered and a short list drawn up. The selected group will be interviewed by a Selection Panel. From this group, a number of scholarship winners will be selected. When the scholarships are awarded, the next four candidates will be placed on a reserve list and awarded scholarships should any of the winners be unable to accept their award.

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



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Conditions of the Scholarship

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

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

Back in Australia

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

Additional Costs to Scholars

It is a condition of acceptance that the scholar's family take out appropriate travel insurance for the duration of the scholarship. Students will also need to provide their own pocket money. Students are encouraged to participate in a number of additional activities hosted by the German Branch of the Society, such as a week-long camp in Berlin (compulsory) and a GASS camp. The conditions of the scholarship provide for the student group (following strict SAGSE guidelines) to undertake 5 days of independent travel within Germany. These activities all entail additional expenses totalling approximately \$AUS1,500. It may be possible for the Society to offset some of these costs, depending on airfare costs in any given year.

Application Forms

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

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

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

Completed applications must reach the following address by Monday May 30, 2016.

**Mrs Evelyn Voshege
Scholarship Selection Panel
Scholarships for Australian – German Student Exchange
23 Lingwell Road, Hawthorn East, VIC, 3123**

email: selection.vic@sagse.org.au

It is planned that interviews will be held on Sunday, July 31, 2016, preceded by the Kaffee und Kuchen on Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Please note that short listed candidates are required to attend both days in order to be considered for a scholarship. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by mail.

Please do not use courier, registered mail, or bulky folders to deliver applications.