



My Germany - Your Germany?





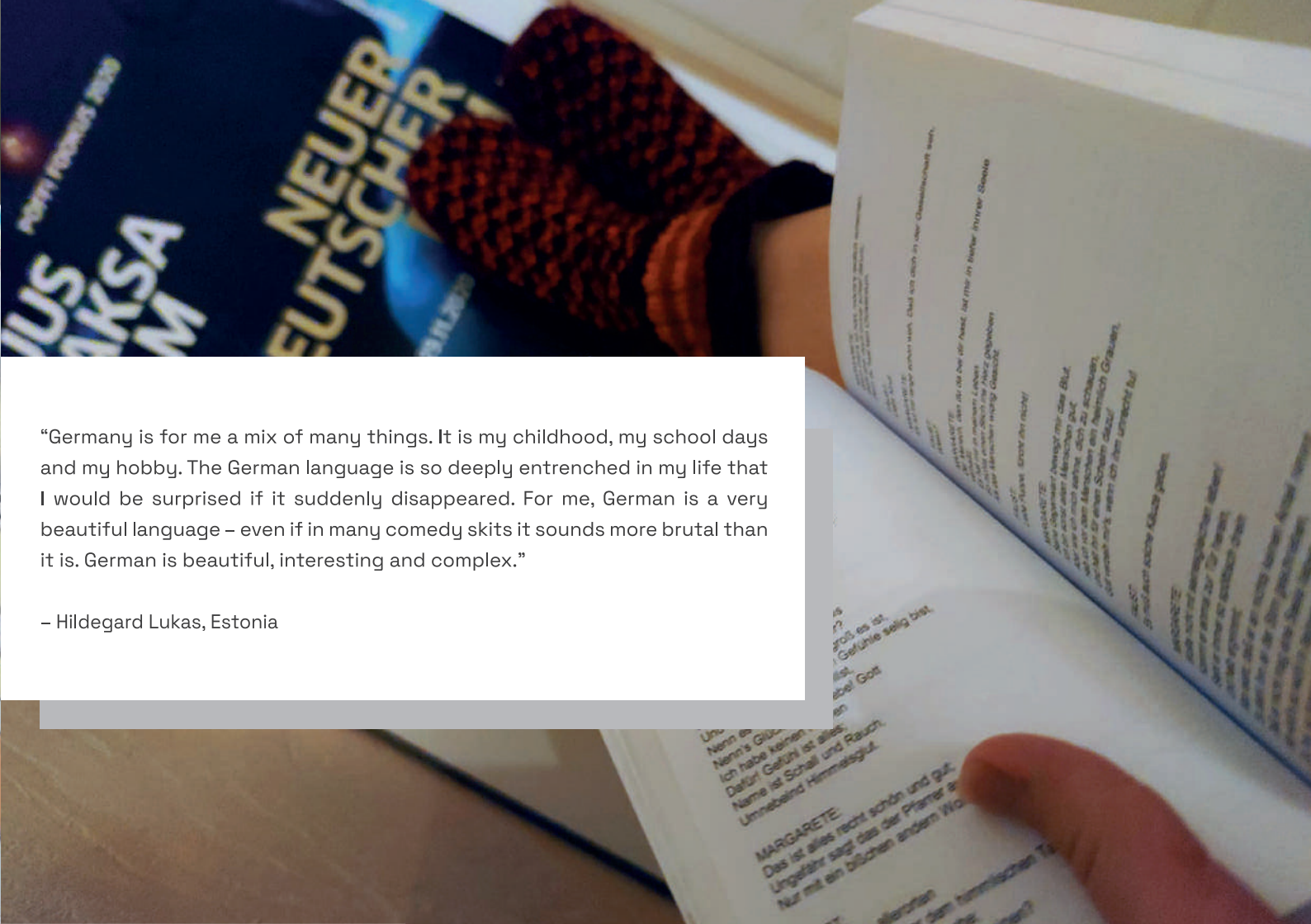
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Publisher
DAAD Information Centre in Riga for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
Kaiju iela 1-402
LV-1658 Riga, Latvia
+371 / 6722 8800
ic@daad.lv
www.daad.lv/en/it

Facebook: DAAD_Riga
Instagram: DAAD_Estonia.Latvia.Lithuania
Office hours: Monday and Thursday 2:00 to 6:00 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
and by individual appointment


Text: Nathalie Banehr, Heiko F. Marten
Edited by: Heiko F. Marten, Nathalie Banehr, Ieva Dzeme
On behalf of Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)
Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn, Germany
www.daad.de

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"Germany is for me a mix of many things. It is my childhood, my school days and my hobby. The German language is so deeply entrenched in my life that I would be surprised if it suddenly disappeared. For me, German is a very beautiful language – even if in many comedy skits it sounds more brutal than it is. German is beautiful, interesting and complex."

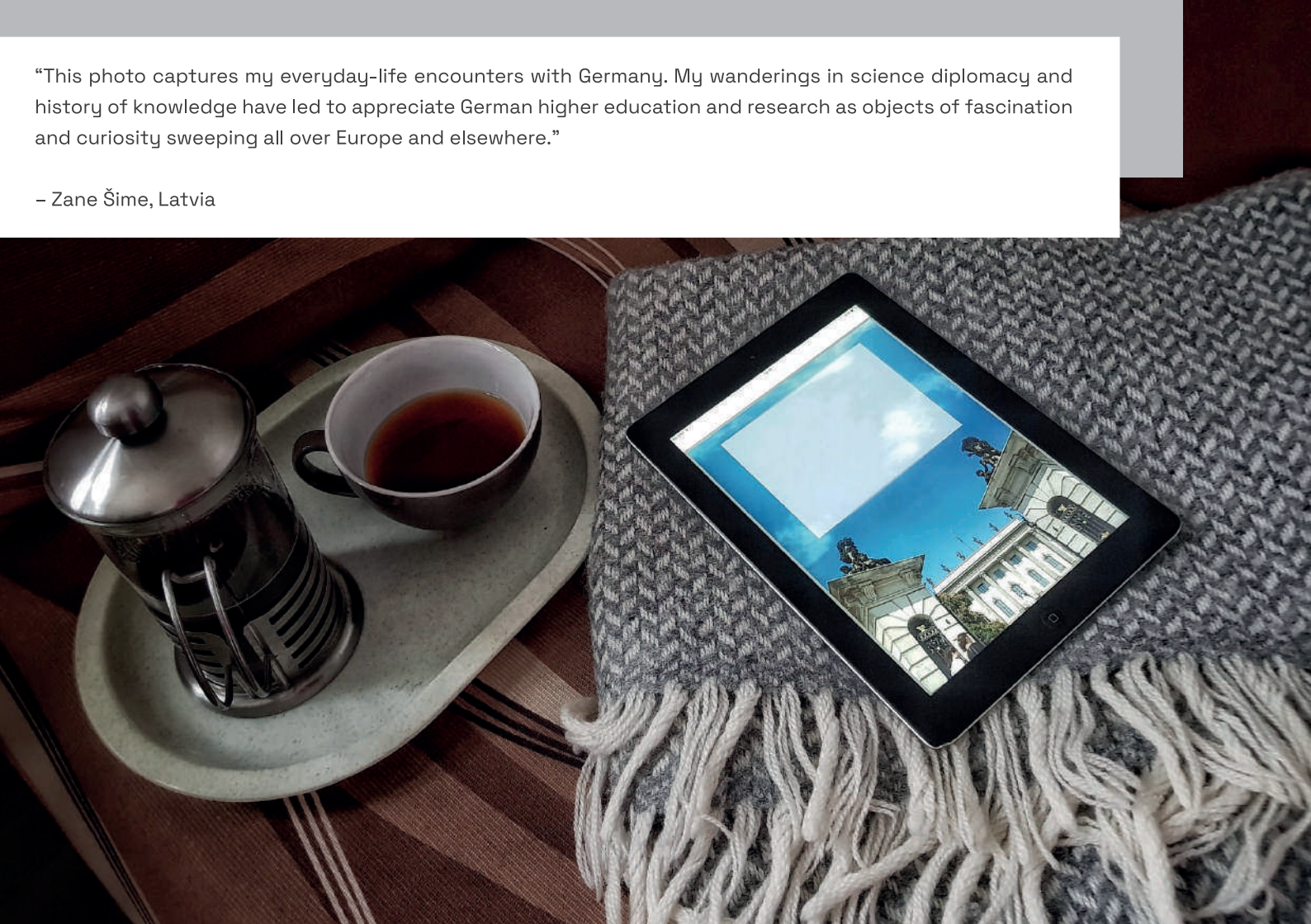
– Hildegard Lukas, Estonia



"Everyone knows Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart and Hamburg (...). But when the pandemic hit, I was a volunteer in the European Voluntary Service (European Solidarity Corps) in Rostock and stayed there till July (the end of my service). Rostock is a city close to the Baltic Sea, and there I learned a lot about the concept of 'Baltic Sea region': how our common sea divides and connects us economically, culturally and politically and how similar the people of the Baltic Sea countries are – regardless of whether we call our sea 'Ostsee' ('East Sea'), 'Läänemeri' (literally 'West Sea') or 'Baltic Sea'. Inspired by my all-encompassing love for the sea, I want to continue my studies of cultural sciences in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania."

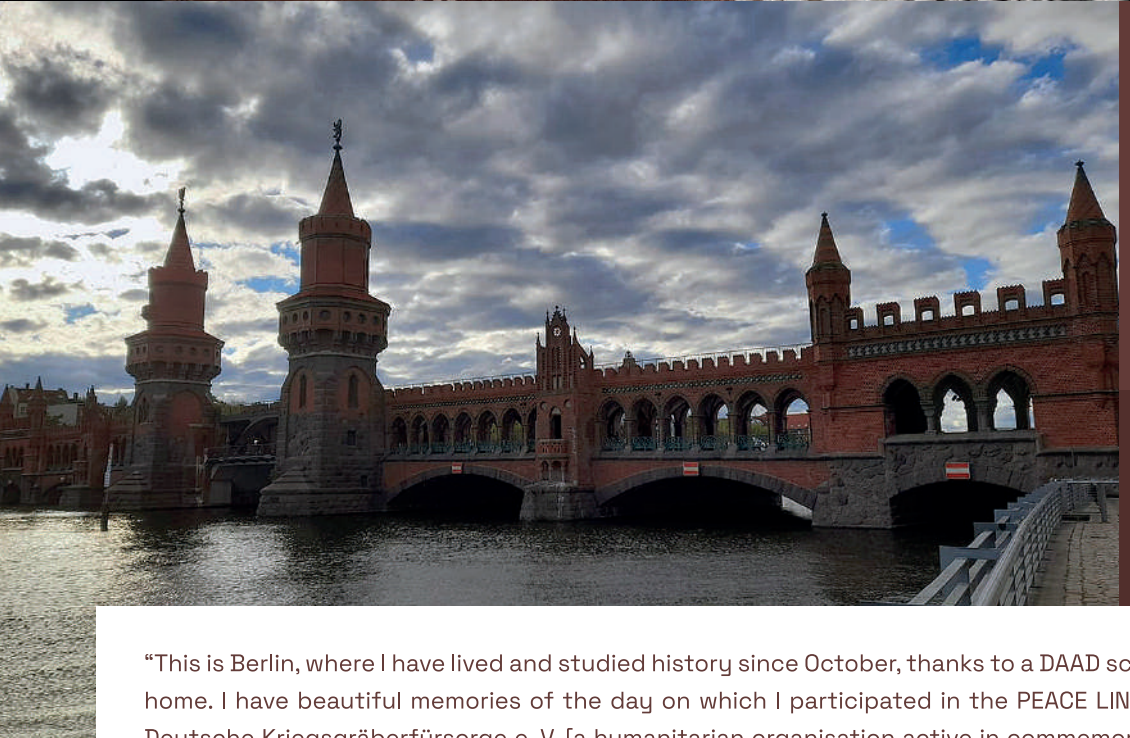


– Saara Mildeberg, Estonia



"This photo captures my everyday-life encounters with Germany. My wanderings in science diplomacy and history of knowledge have led to appreciate German higher education and research as objects of fascination and curiosity sweeping all over Europe and elsewhere."

– Zane Šime, Latvia



"This is Berlin, where I have lived and studied history since October, thanks to a DAAD scholarship – Berlin is my new home. I have beautiful memories of the day on which I participated in the PEACE LINE project of the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V. [a humanitarian organisation active in commemorating war-time victims and in enhancing understanding between young people from different countries] and took this gorgeous picture. [This is why] 2020 will not remain in my memories as the year of Corona, but as the year of many opportunities and adventures that Germany made possible for me, regardless of Corona! I'm thankful for that!

I'm hoping to go ahead in my master programme, to start planning for my doctorate and to continue participating in many conferences and projects. Of course, Germany remains essential for me in all of these plans."

– Roberta Bartkutė, Lithuania



"I will have a lot of experiences with the German language since I study translation and interpretation at Ventspils University of Applied Sciences and learn German. I will also drive my favourite car – Volkswagen Golf (not the one in the picture) –, wear nice socks from 'Nur Die', read something in German (definitely something from E. M. Remarque) and watch new episodes of the police series 'Hubert ohne Staller' with my father."

– Krista Strujeviča, Latvia



Welcome to the DAAD Information Centre in Riga for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania!

Germany and the Baltic states share a long, common history. In 2021, we celebrate 100 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and the Baltic states and the 30th anniversary of the renewal of these relations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all seem to be moving even closer together – at least virtually.

The beautiful, creative and well-reflected contributions to our photo contest, which the DAAD Information Centre Riga organised during Christmas time 2020, illustrate how vivid and present Germany is in the Baltic states even now. People from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were invited to share their pictures and views of Germany and describe them with regard to their hopes for the future. In this leaflet, we show you some of these contributions and thereby provide insight into the variety of personal connections between people from the Baltic states and Germany – language, friendships, studying, volunteer services, and much more. Have fun discovering them!



Your DAAD Information Centre Riga



A voluntary service or internship in Germany has many advantages:

- immersion in the German language;
- study or career orientation and experience;
- immersion in another culture and understanding of different perspectives on life, acquisition of intercultural competencies.

For EU citizens, a voluntary service or internship in Germany is possible without problems.

A voluntary service:

- is possible in many areas, e.g. in welfare institutions like kindergartens or hospitals, in heritage conversation, e.g. at a handicraft workshop, in environment or nature conservation, and
 - lasts usually between 6 and 12 months.
- More information is available online, e.g. at <https://archiv.igjd.de/en/voluntary-services-in-germany/voluntary-services-for-interested-overseas-applicants>.



An internship:

- is possible at e.g. companies, research centres, governmental institutions or organisations,
- is obligatory in many study programmes in Germany

- and can be supported financially through Erasmus+ (more information available here: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/traineeships-students_en).

More information on internships is available at e.g. the employment agency (www.arbeitsagentur.de/en), universities' International Offices or on the following websites:

www.iaeste.org, <https://aiesec.org>
www.funding-guide.de -> filter: Internship
www.praktikum-und-thesis.de/praktikumsstellen/
www.jobware.de/jobsuche -> filter: Praktikum
www.absolventa.de/praktikum
www.meinpraktikum.de
www.academics.de/stellenanzeigen -> filter: Praktikant/in

The German-Baltic Youth Foundation (Deutsch-Baltisches Jugendwerk, www.dbjw.deutsch-balten.de) also organises seminars and events to foster the cooperation between young people from Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The DAAD offers a variety of scholarships, e.g.:

- study scholarships for graduates with at least a BA in any academic field to study in a Master's or similar programme at a German university (10 to 24 months),

- for study visits or study internships in Germany – groups of foreign students can visit higher education institutions in Germany for 7 to 12 days,

- research grants which allow foreign PhD students, post-docs and other young academics to conduct research and continue their education in Germany (1 to 12 months),

- research stays for university academics and scientists (1 to 3 months).

More information (as well as information on, inter alia, other scholarships or funding opportunities for projects) is available here: www.funding-guide.de/en, www.daad.lv/ee/lt.



You may not only study in Germany, you could also turn German into a subject of study and a career, e.g.:

- **German as a foreign language:** Apart from German language skills, these study programmes focus on education and didactics. Graduates often work as German teachers who teach German language, literature and culture to children or adults who did not learn German as their mother tongue.

- **Translation and / or interpretation:** In addition to high language competence, cultural knowledge is the key component of these studies. Graduates work in many different areas, e.g. in conference interpreting, business or literary translation.

- **German philology:** Traditionally, linguistics and literature are at the core of these programmes. After graduating, German philologists work e.g. in journalism, publishing or start an academic career at university.

At many universities, students enrolled in other fields can attend German classes as part of their studies. German language skills are fundamental for many areas of studies or academic research in the Baltic countries, e.g.:

- historians have to read sources in German;
- lawyers can draw on German academic literature since the Baltic legal systems are largely based on German traditions;
- students of economics have much better chances of building a successful career in a company related to – Germany if they are proficient in German;
- students of medicine will hardly find a clinical traineeship or a job in Germany without German language skills.

More information can be found e.g. here: www.daad.lv/ee/lt → “German Philology”



German is not only spoken in Germany, but also in Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, in South Tyrol and the borderlands of Belgium and Denmark. In addition, German is a minority and heritage language in many other countries – and it is the language with the highest number of native speakers in the EU.

German is also traditionally learned as a foreign language in many parts of Europe.

It is a historical language of culture and science, especially in the Baltic countries.

German language skills create career opportunities in Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – Germany is one of the major trading partners of the Baltic countries and many German companies, organisations and brands are present in the Baltic states.

To improve one's German language skills, students can apply for a DAAD scholarship for University Summer Courses in Germany. With the scholarship, you can attend a four-week language course or a summer school on a specific topic at one of many universities in Germany. The courses take place at different times between June and September. More information is available here: www.daad.de/sommerkurse.

You can also learn German at many branches of the Goethe Institute (in Germany, the Baltic states or elsewhere), at schools and universities in the Baltic states, as well as online, e.g. with Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO).



Germany offers approximately 400 universities and more than 20,000 study programmes.

There are 3 types of institutions of higher education:

- universities with more theoretical and scientifically oriented programmes,
- universities of applied sciences (HAW) for more practically oriented programmes,
- academies of music, art or film.

Studying and conducting research are possible in German and English.

There are no tuition fees at state-financed universities (more than 90% of students are enrolled in these study programmes).

German universities have a consistently high academic quality.

Germany has long-standing academic traditions with an attractive mix of historic universities, some of which have existed since the Middle Ages, and young universities which were founded during the last decades.

EU citizens do not need a residence permit.

Germany offers highly diverse cultural activities, an abundance of beautiful landscapes and an active student life.

Life in Germany is relatively cheap, compared to many other countries.

Despite some differences, Germany is still close to the Baltic states – both culturally and geographically.



In addition to on-site programmes, Germany offers also long-distance studies – and not only since the Corona pandemic: from engineering to economics and German as a foreign language – there is something for everyone.

You can study online at a distance university or at a brick-and-mortar institution:

- The FernUni Hagen is the only state university in Germany that offers only distance learning – and it has done so since 1975. It is Germany's biggest university, thanks to its approximately 76,000 students.

- Many brick-and-mortar universities offer virtual study programmes – their number has increased considerably during Covid times.

This is how distance learning works:

- The learning content is sent to the students.
- Lectures and seminars take place online: live as video conferences or presentations, or available at any time as podcasts or videos.
- Exams can be taken either online or on-site at local examination centres.

More information is available e.g. here: www.hochschulkompass.de/en -> “distance studies”



The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD) is a joint association of German institutions of higher education and student bodies.

The DAAD's general goals are:

- Scholarships for the best: In 2019, the DAAD funded more than 145,000 German and international students and scholars worldwide through international exchange programmes and research projects.

- Structures for internationalisation: The DAAD creates higher education structures that enable international qualification, mobility and dialogue and thereby improve the quality of research and teaching.

- Expertise for academic collaboration: The DAAD provides expertise on cultures of education and science systems worldwide so that cooperation can be shaped successfully.

More information on the DAAD as well as on studies and life in Germany can be found on the DAAD homepage (www.daad.de/en) and the website of the DAAD Information Centre Riga (www.daad.lv/ee/lt).

Useful links at a glance:

DAAD: www.daad.lv/ee/lt, www.daad.de/en
Studying in Germany: www.study-in-germany.de/en, www.hochschulkompass.de/en, www.myguide.de/en
Study programmes in English: www.daad.de/international-programmes
Research in Germany: www.research-in-germany.org, www.gerit.org/en
Finding scholarships: www.funding-guide.de/en

Partner organisations:

German Embassies in Vilnius, Tallinn and Riga: www.wilna.diplo.de, www.tallinn.diplo.de, www.riga.diplo.de
Goethe Institutes: www.goethe.de
Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA): www.auslandsschulwesen.de
German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK): www.ahk.de/en/lithuania /[estonia](http://www.ahk.de/en/estonia) /[latvia](http://www.ahk.de/en/latvia)
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung: www.kas.de/en/web /[litauen](http://www.kas.de/en/litauen) /[estland](http://www.kas.de/en/estland) /[lettland](http://www.kas.de/en/lettland)
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung: www.fes.de/standorte/fes-international /[litauen](http://www.fes.de/en/litauen) /[estland](http://www.fes.de/en/estland) /[lettland](http://www.fes.de/en/lettland)
Deutsche Schule Riga: www.deutscheschuleriga.lv
Contact office for universities in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania: www.hochschulen-mv.lv
Baltic-German University Liaison Office: www.hochschulkontor.lv