



YTL Program

Bringing together the next generation of leaders

Program Concept

The YTL program is a truly transatlantic immersive leadership exchange format between Canada and Germany. While aimed at building a sustainable network of (young) leaders, the program's core element consists of two-week study trips to Germany and Canada on an annually rotating basis. Its participants are to be empowered to play an active role during and also after the program. The participating young leaders are strongly encouraged to keep the spirit of this exchange alive also after the respective visits by, for instance, becoming active members in the organizing association of the program (German-Canadian Association – see page 3 for details) or one of its partners (i.e. Canada Meets Germany Network e. V.), assisting with the planning of future country visits and/or alumni events, collaborating with other community leaders and by taking any other initiatives to foster the transatlantic network. The program's vision is to discover and bring together the next generation of young leaders who share a similar interest, enthusiasm and commitment for the transatlantic relationship.

Program Goals

The goal of the program is to:

- Help the participants discover new perspectives at a transatlantic level while providing first-hand experience (discussions, activities etc.)
- Encourage local and regional participation of community leaders
- Allow for the exchange of best-practice solutions in different societal areas
- Develop interpersonal bonds between participants
- Build a transatlantic network for life-long learning and exchange

Target Group of Participants

The participants of the program are:

- German and Canadian young community and/or professional leaders who have already stood out through their professional and/or personal impact on a local and/or regional community (in Canada or Germany)
- Expected to be in the age range of 27-37 (exceptions are welcomed)
- Showing an interest in the German-Canadian relationship at some level
- Willing to travel internationally
- Selected by means of an application procedure



Program Details for 2022

In 2022, the cornerstones of the study trip are the following:

- Period of travel: September 11th – 23rd
- Destinations: Munich & Berlin
- Number of participants: 14 (7 Germans & 7 Canadians)
- YTL will organize (not fund) accommodation (Airbnb) and the commute between destinations including the field trips

The interdisciplinary program will include:

- Exchange with representatives of the civil society
- Discussions with scientists from various disciplines
- Formal discussions among the participants regarding the German-Canadian and transatlantic relationships, and other topics, with representatives from different fields
- Field trips and hands-on activities

Topics that will be covered during YTL are the following:

- Modern Mobility solutions: The mobility demands have substantially changed over the last years. We have seen an increase in sharing services, new ways of micro mobility, and the change to sustainable mobility. In Germany, where one of the economic backbones is the automotive industry, the discussion about these new solutions is fully underway. To explore how and with which different types, we will define our mobility in the future, we are going to visit research entities, start-ups, and well-established companies to learn from them, and see new solutions for large scale and private mobility.
- Current politics in the context of European history: 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of German reunification. In Berlin, we will explore different crucial places of this time and learn how life was in a divided city. But we will not only be looking into the past but also towards the present and future. We will discuss the current state of European and transatlantic politics and what role Germany and Canada can play in this respect. Topics will be around the German presidency of the G7, security policies, and transatlantic politics from a German perspective.
- The cultural bridge across the Atlantic: Europe and Germany are well known for their rich cultural heritage. All cities, we will be visiting, have a rich cultural life. Canada has this variety in cultural life as well. We will include a number of cultural events, visits and talks to this year's program.



Program Organizers

The YTL program is organized by the Cologne-based German Canadian Association (DKG). The organization runs three programs, the work & travel program WSP for students, the internship program for young professionals and the YTL program for young leaders. The German-Canadian Association (DKG) is a non-profit organization founded in 1951, which aims to advance the economic, cultural and social links between Germany and Canada. Since 1965, the DKG organizes a work & travel program for German students travelling to Canada. Since 2012, the association offers professional internships for German students in Canada. Over the course of their programs' existence, more than 3,400 students have visited Canada. Besides its programs, the German Canadian Association organizes a wide range of events in Germany to strengthen bilateral relations.

Supporting Partners

The program is supported by a number of German- and Canadian-based organizations, which are also actively shaping the German Canadian discourse. One of the founding partners is:

Canada Meets Germany Network e. V., formerly Canada Meets Germany Alumni Forum e.V., was founded in 2009 as an alumni association for (former) participants of the 'Canada Meets Germany – A Forum for Young Leaders' program. Today, the membership in the CMG Network is not limited to alumni of the former program, but it is open to all people interested in German Canadian exchange. Its main activity is the German Canadian Concourse, a yearly transatlantic conference organized in Canada and Germany covering innovative topics of interest to both countries, Canada and Germany (www.germancanadianconcourse.org).