



!!! EXTENDED DEADLINE !!!
February 26th 2012



DAAD-Study tour 2012

Living Green in Stuttgart and Freiburg – promises and challenges of urban sustainability in Germany's South-West

Date: 25 May 2012 to 02 June 2012

Organized by: *The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University and Le Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes at Université de Montréal*

Supported by: The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Graduate students from across Canada are invited to apply to participate in an interdisciplinary 9-day study tour to Freiburg and Stuttgart providing unique first hand insights into current debates about sustainable development and its application. Successful applicants will be awarded a DAAD travel grant covering most of the expenses for air-travel, local transportation, accommodation and cultural events. To augment the support from the DAAD, student participants are asked for an **individual contribution of \$400**. Although some restrictions to booking flights may apply, students should note that they may also travel to Europe before the tour begins or remain there after it ends in order to meet other needs (e.g. language courses, research etc.). Expenses for meals will be participants' responsibility, kitchen facilities will be available in our hostels during most of the tour.

The DAAD-Study Tour 2012 will take us to the federal province of Baden-Württemberg, mainly to Stuttgart and Freiburg, where we want to explore through discussions and meetings with stakeholders from different parts of society how ideas about sustainability and green urbanity are created and which obstacles they meet when put into practice.

Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg's capital, is since the 2011 elections the seat of Germany's first provincial government dominated by the Green Party. It rose to power in the midst of heavy public protests over "Stuttgart 21" - a multi-billion dollar project that intends to turn the city into a major hub for central European railway traffic, but it also charges the public sector with a heavy debt burden, it involves large scale demolitions of historical cityscape, controversial changes to its public spaces and negative impacts on the natural environment. The ongoing public debate has raised the question: how can technologically driven and market compliant forms of sustainability, such as Green Transportation networks, be financed in times of the financial crisis and how can they accommodate the concerns of environmental protectionists and urban conservationists for whom sustainability takes on a very different, local meaning?

Freiburg im Breisgau has a world-renowned reputation for its sustainability policies and attitudes – especially in putting these ideas and ideals into practice. Situated in the picturesque Black Forest in the south-west of Germany, Freiburg's history reaches back more than a thousand years, and yet the city has become a future model for integrating

economy and ecology into sustainable forms of urbanity (at the Expo 2010 in Shanghai Freiburg presented itself as the “Green City” to the world’s eyes). Political driving forces and critical observers in this process have been, for example, the Green Party, the city’s Sustainability Board or civic stakeholders such as the BUND (Union for the environment and nature conservation Germany). Freiburg provides education at all levels (from “Forest Kindergartens” to university programs) to implement sustainable thinking. However, the limited outreach of such political and civic engagement is grotesquely underscored by the presence of a regularly malfunctioning nuclear power plant just 20km across the border to France. Is this a contradiction paradigmatic to all efforts of living green in an economically driven society?

Application is open to all students currently enrolled in a graduate program at a Canadian university. While students with a strong background in German may be favored, those with no or limited language skills are also encouraged to apply. It has to be noticed, though, that the study tour will be mainly conducted in German.

The organizers encourage students to extend their stay in Germany before or after the Study Tour (doing language courses and/ or an internship with a German institution or company or a research stay to advance their individual theses).

To learn more about DAAD funded language programs, please see the “scholarships and grants” section at <http://www.daad.org>, or contact the DAAD Information Centre for Canada at <http://www.daad-canada.ca>.

Successful applicants will be provided an extensive introductory reader and are obliged to make a substantive contribution to the success of the tour both by serving as a discussion facilitator during one of the tour's half-day modules and by contributing to some kind of joint publication upon the tour's completion, for example on the website of Canadian DAAD-Study Tours at <https://sites.google.com/site/ccgesstudytour/>.

A complete application includes: (scans of documents will be accepted)

- Summary Page (please download from: <https://sites.google.com/site/ccgesstudytour/tour-2012/summary-page-for-application>)
- Letter of Interest **in English, French or German** outlining why you wish to participate and how the tour would complement your graduate program (2 pages max.)
- Documentation demonstrating German-language skills (e.g. high school or university transcripts, DaF test results, etc.)
- Transcripts from Post-Secondary Study
- An indication whether you are seeking course credit for participating in the study tour in your own program of study. Please note that it is each student’s responsibility to clarify the requirements with your home institutions well in advance of the tour!

Applications should be submitted electronically and in one single pdf-document **before 26 February 2012** (extended deadline!!!) to the organizers of the Study Tour:

Prof. Ulrich Ufer (ulrich.ufer@umontreal.ca) and
Björn Brömmelsiek (bjoern.broemmelsiek@umontreal.ca)