

University                      Program                      First Name Last Name

Dear Waterloo Centre for German Studies Awards Committee,

My name is XXX. I am a student at XXX, where I am finishing up my third year of university as a History major. I am applying for the Stork Award in German Studies and I will be attending the XXX program in May and June. I attended the virtual program last year, and while it was an excellent learning experience, I am very much looking forward to attending in person this year. I know the immersive experience will be highly beneficial.

My university education is the first time I have had the opportunity to study German, but it is something I have always wanted to learn. Not only is it a fascinating language to me, but it is the language of my ancestors on my father's side. My Opa immigrated to Canada with his family after the second World War, and I have grown up hearing stories that have made me long to visit Germany and to connect with extended family that I have previously been unable to communicate with. I am moving into my fourth year of German coursework, and it has been difficult, but I am understanding more each day and slowly progressing in fluency. Taking these university courses has really given me a greater appreciation for the German culture and has helped me feel more of a connection to my heritage.

Family history aside, I am also pursuing a degree in History with minors in German and French. I have a special interest in the First and Second World Wars, and knowing German will give me a deeper understanding of the circumstances leading up to and surrounding these conflicts. During the school year, I work hard on my German studies, however, it is of course necessary to also focus on my other coursework. I feel like I have come a long way in learning German thus far, but I know what a valuable experience it will be to be able to focus my attention solely on improving my German during the XXX program. Being able to participate in this kind of immersive program will also be invaluable for my future professional development.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Name

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Program

Name

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is XXX, and I am a first-year student History and Germanic Studies student at the University of Victoria. I am writing in application for funding for my participation in the program NAME. The program takes place in Kassel, Germany, and is an incredible opportunity for developing language skills, learning about German culture and history, and expanding Germanic studies education beyond the classroom.

The XXX is at the intersection of my two main academic interests—History and German. In providing a full immersion experience including accommodation with a German-speaking host-family, as well as an emphasis on cultural exploration of Kassel and Germany more broadly, the XXX helps participants gain a well-rounded and nuanced perspective on the center of the German-speaking world. Having spent a year in France while in elementary school, I have experienced the transformative effect that living in a language has on one's level of fluency. I have no previous experience living in a German-speaking country, and I am greatly looking forward to improving my German skills at the XXX this summer. The program's cultural components, including excursions to Trier and to Berlin, will also provide valuable opportunities to further my historical education in an extra-curricular context.

My motivations for learning German are twofold. I am primarily interested in the language because of my studies in History. Many of the courses I plan to take in the coming semesters are related to 20th century Europe, and I am therefore eager to spend time in Germany and to learn the language to better understand the places and people whose histories have been most directly impacted by the subject of my studies at UVic. I am also interested in German because of family connections. My maternal grandmother is from Berlin, and my father also speaks German.

Beyond the academic education offered by the XXX, I believe that spending time in an environment where one must communicate almost entirely in a second or third language helps build empathy, open-mindedness, and patience. Experience working alongside people from varied backgrounds and with diverse perspectives will provide valuable lessons that I will draw on in future academic and extra-curricular endeavours.

I am also very interested in language education. I am bilingual in French and English, and I plan to apply for a program leader position for the French for the Future 2022 National Youth Ambassador Forum in August. Continuing my own German education in the intensive, extra-curricular context provided by the XXX will help me gain further insight into the language learning process, which I hope to apply in future language education work.

I would be very grateful for any funding assistance that would help make my participation in the XXX possible. Thank you very much for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

NAME