

Go Africa... Go Germany 2010/11

Call for Papers

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb) is granting fellowships to students and young graduates enabling them to take part in a five-week seminar to be held from 14th August to 4th September 2010 in Germany and in March 2011 in South Africa.

By organising a five-week exchange programme, which is implemented for the fourth time at the initiative of the Federal President, the Federal Agency for Civic Education is aiming to help overcome the lack of knowledge that exists between African reality and German perception and, vice versa, between German reality and African perception. The personal, intercultural encounter between young and upcoming academics and the interdisciplinary exchange are aimed at promoting advanced professional training and at acquiring multipliers for a German-African future that is based on the spirit of partnership.

The fellowship holders are invited to take part in an education programme that will encompass both talks with political decision-makers, personalities from civil society and industry, academics and journalists from both countries and will give participants the opportunity to take part in political and cultural events and excursions. The participants are to contribute towards implementing the programme by assisting in organising lectures and facilitating group discussions. They will also draw up an interdisciplinary strategy paper on an academic subject that will be prepared in Germany and will be written between September 2010 and April 2011.

The event is directed at students and young graduates from Germany, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Applicants should be between 21 and 28 years old and be studying or have a degree in political science, modern history, international relations, economics, business administration, African studies, cultural studies, media and communication studies or law.

The seminar will be delivered in English; the number of participants is limited to 24, twelve from African countries and twelve from Germany. The Federal Agency for Civic Education will cover the costs. Furthermore, there will be an obligatory preparatory seminar for the German participants on 25th-26th June 2010. For more detailed information about the Federal Agency for Civic Education, please visit the website: www.bpb.de.

Students and graduates who are interested can apply to the Federal Agency for Civic Education by submitting an essay comprising a maximum of three A4 pages (approx. 6,000 characters) written in English. The essay must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae in tabular form, a letter of motivation comprising no more than one A4 page and a photograph (the following information must be provided: surname, first name, gender, date of birth, profession, job/field of study, place of study, place of work and place of residence). Applicants must also issue a declaration stating that they wrote the essay

without any help from third parties. Please note that the Federal Agency for Civic Education is not able to cover costs for obtaining visas of the German participants or for vaccinations. The acceptance of African participants to the programme only becomes final, when the German Embassy in the participant's home country has issued the relevant visa. There is no possibility to legally claim the participation in the programme. **A further condition for receiving a grant is that applicants must be able to participate for the entire period.**

Full applications must be emailed to the Federal Agency for Civic Education at goafrica@bpb.de by 15 March 2010.

You may choose any one of the following topics for your essay. It is compulsory to answer all three questions.

1. Germany and South Africa caught up in football fever

The 18th World Cup was broadcast from twelve different cities in Germany between 9 June and 9 July 2006. 32 nations had travelled to the Federal Republic, 147 goals were scored in 64 matches, over 15,000 journalists covered the World Cup and a total of approximately 3,300,000 spectators watched the matches in stadiums that were a complete sell out – and this figure does not even include the large number of spectators who watched from public viewing places.

Germany seized this opportunity to correct the image people tend to have of Germans as an ever serious, unfriendly and at worst pro-Nazi nation. Under the motto "A Time to make Friends" (Zu Gast bei Freunden), millions of people celebrated a football extravaganza for an entire month. It cannot and indeed should not be measured in numbers what contribution this World Cup did to foster the integration of Turks, Russians, Albanians and people from many other nationalities into German society.

The 19th World Cup is now to be broadcast from South Africa from 11 June to 11 July 2010, the first time from the African continent. The airports in Johannesburg and Cape Town are being extended, a whole new airport is being built in Durban, 20,000 kilometres of the existing rail network is being modernised, around 1,000 buses are to be made available and a new metro line, the *Gautrain*, is being installed between Pretoria and Johannesburg. In addition, police officers and security forces throughout the whole of South Africa as well as taxi drivers and bus drivers are undergoing training specifically to prepare them for the World Cup and the challenges it will present them with. According to South Africa's application documents, the investment made in the 2010 World Cup will total US\$ 825 billion.

The fact that the 2010 FIFA World Cup is being hosted in South Africa is intended to be a beacon of hope which is reflected in this year's motto: "Ke Nako. Celebrate Africa's Humanity". This translates into "It is time to celebrate Africa's humanity". However, the euphoria over the World Cup should not conceal the fact that South Africa is still afflicted by huge economic, social and political problems.

- 1.1 Please explain what interdependencies exist between politics and sport and how they are reflected in the political and social trends in Germany and South Africa. Looking at it from the outside, what impact do you think this is having on people's perception of the two countries?
- 1.2 What development opportunities and prospects do you think hosting the World Cup will offer South Africa – in economic, political and social terms?
- 1.3 How would you rate the role elite sport plays in social development in Germany and South Africa?

2. Do elections guarantee democratic development?

In April 2009, South Africa held democratic elections for the fourth time since its apartheid regime ended. The government party *African National Congress (ANC)* managed to further consolidate its dominant position in the political system, winning 65.9% of the votes. Shortly before, disappointed supporters of the ANC had formed a new party *Congress of the People (COPE)*. This new party immediately gained 7.4% of the votes at its first national election and it remains to be seen to what extent COPE will manage to position itself as a serious opposition party. The second strongest party to emerge from the elections was the *Democratic Alliance (DA)* led by the mayor of Cape Town, Helen Zille.

In Germany, democratic elections were held in October 2009 for the 17th time since the end of the Second World War. Germany has now established a five-party system. While the two large political parties the *Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union, CDU)* and the *Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, SPD)* have both lost voters and members in recent years, the small opposition parties like the *Free Democratic Party (Freie Demokratische Partei, FDP)*, *Alliance 90/ The Greens (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)* and above all the Left (*Die Linke*) have gained ground.

This shows that party diversity continues to flourish in Germany and the opposition in South Africa is beginning to chip away slowly but surely at the near-omnipotence of the ANC. The different voting systems in both countries have contributed in no small measure to the dominance of the ANC and the party landscape in Germany which is much more diverse by comparison. Whereas Germany uses a mixture of proportional and majority representation, South Africa has purely proportional representation. Furthermore, the President in South Africa's political system has a wide range of powers that were deliberately abolished in the federal German system for historical reasons.

- 2.1 Please compare the voting system in Germany and South Africa and pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of both systems.
- 2.2 Please explain the position of the President in the political system in Germany and South Africa. Explain also to what extent the different positions of the presidents in both systems affect day-to-day and international politics.
- 2.3 Jacob Zuma's election as South Africa's new President met with a very mixed response in the international community for several reasons. What factors are crucial in Germany and Africa for the choice of leading figures? Please point out the differences and similarities and explain what is causing any differences that may exist.

3. South Africa – the economic driver of the African continent

In 2007, South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) totalled US\$ 283 billion. With growth rates of up to 5% and a by and large liberal economic policy under former President Thabo Mbeki, the country gradually progressed to become a leading economic power in the region and on the African continent. When the global financial and economic crisis reached the shores of South Africa in late 2008, however, economic growth fell to minus 1.8%, reaching its lowest ebb so far at 6.4% by the first quarter of 2009. Experts are speaking of the first recession to hit South Africa in 17 years. Nonetheless, South Africa continues to be the country with the strongest economy in Africa. The manufacturing industry is steadily gaining momentum and the infrastructure measures currently being implemented are promoting the expansion of the construction industry.

Germany and the USA were South Africa's most important global foreign trade partners until 2008. However, at the beginning of the year 2009, signs of a change in trend began to emerge. China overtook the USA and Germany, further expanding its supremacy on the continent.

Although it is experiencing a mainly positive economic development, South Africa is still afflicted by growing poverty, mass unemployment, high crime rates and growing xenophobia that manifested itself as recently as in the summer of 2008 in the violent riots that erupted against refugees from Zimbabwe. This social tension within the country has a negative impact on the investment climate. It remains to be seen to which extent the new President Jacob Zuma will manage to solve the country's domestic problems so that South Africa can continue to be Africa's economic driver.

- 3.1 How do you think bilateral trade and economic relations between Germany and South Africa will continue to develop? What obstacles do exist at present that need to be overcome? Please identify potential prospects and solution approaches and explain your views.
- 3.2 South Africa's growing poverty, HIV/AIDS, spiralling crime rates and the social tension associated with the latter have been identified as obstacles to the country's economic and political development. Please explain the extent to which these social problems are affecting the country's economic prospects.
- 3.3 What role will South Africa play in future within the framework of the G20? Please explain your views.