

Global Citizenship Seminar 12
*Colleges and Universities: The Path
to Global Citizenship*
July 9 – 16, 2017

General Information

The Global Citizenship Alliance (GCA) is excited to add a new location for convening their seminars – Potsdam is the capital of Brandenburg, Germany, and is located right outside Berlin – approximately a 20-30 minute train ride away. A city the size of Salzburg, Potsdam is surrounded by the waters of



the Havel river and very rich in history. Situated in former East Germany, it combines baroque grandeur and its more recent past. One of its legacies is Prussia's Frederick the Great and his beautiful palace Sanssouci with its famous gardens, but it is also renowned for its film studios located in Potsdam Babelsberg, which were the rival of

Hollywood in the early days of movie history and where today many famous movie directors shoot their films – e.g. Spielberg (Bridge of Spies) and Tarantino. In addition, Potsdam is also a city of science with a lot of world class research institutions based there, like the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research. We are positive that the participants this summer will be enchanted by the beauty and historic splendor of the location. Participants will be housed in the Mercure Hotel Potsdam City across the street from the Old Market on the banks of the Havel river, right by the boat docks.

All participants should complete and submit the participant information form and email a photo no later than June 20.

Arrival and Departure

The seminar will begin on **July 9** with a reception at 5:30 pm at the Mercure. Participants should plan to arrive on the 9th. Check-in time is officially 3:00 pm, however in many cases an earlier check-in may be possible. **July 16** is reserved solely for departures.



Check-out time is noon. If you would like to book a room for an earlier arrival or later departure, please contact the Mercure's Reception team via email (info@mercure-hotel-potsdam.de) or phone (+49 331 2722) to check availability and reserve a room. Please indicate that you are participating in the Global Citizenship Alliance.

Travel to Potsdam

For those traveling to Potsdam via Berlin Tegel Airport, there are train connections to Potsdam. Upon arrival, participants should take either the



Bus X9 or Bus 109. Both buses go to Zoo Station (€2.70 one way). From there, participants should take the RE trains (Regional

Express) or the S-Bahn to Potsdam Hauptbahnhof (main station). The Mercure is within walking distance of the main station and is the tallest building in sight. For additional info on public transport from Tegel Airport to Potsdam, please visit this link [airport transfer](#) There is also a shuttle service that may be the best option for groups [airport shuttle](#) If you have additional questions regarding travel, please contact Astrid Schroeder.

Accommodations

Participants are housed in single rooms in the Mercure Hotel Potsdam City. Electric current in Germany is 220 volts, meaning that you will need a converter and/or adapter in order to use electronic appliances that have a standard American 120 volt plug.

Meals



Breakfast and dinner are served buffet style in the Mercure. *It is important that you let us know in advance on the Bio Information Form if*

you are a vegetarian or if you have any other specific dietary requirements. The kitchen staff at the Mercure can accommodate most requests provided we know about them in advance. *Ich würde als Teilnehmer hier noch weitere Informationen zu Lunch und Dinner erwarten.*

Clothing

Dress at the Seminar is generally informal. Participants are also encouraged to bring a pair of comfortable walking shoes.

The weather in Potsdam tends to be pleasant and warm in the summer. Daytime high temperatures generally average around 24-28 degrees Celsius (75-82°F) but any given week can see warmer or cooler temperatures. Participants are encouraged to check the Potsdam/Brandenburg weather forecast shortly before traveling to Potsdam and pack appropriately.

Excursions and Social Activities

There is one free day, except for one morning lecture, for participants to take a self-guided walking tour of Potsdam or enjoy the surrounding areas. Information regarding various guided tours and excursions can be found at the Reception desk

and the Reception team is happy to assist with bookings. Other social activities include a tour of Sanssouci Palace and gardens.



Seminar Materials Online

All participants will receive access to a Dropbox where all seminar related materials will be posted. These include powerpoints and other presentation materials (pending approval of each speaker), photos from the seminar, and any other materials.

Wireless

Wireless access is available free of charge throughout the hotel and in all rooms.

Money

The currency in Germany is the Euro. American dollars can be exchanged at most banks. Be aware that many banks are only open in the morning from 8:30 to 12:30 and in the afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00. American ATM cards and most common credit cards can be used to withdraw money from German ATM machines.

Telephone

You can make direct calls from your room, but beware that international calls from Germany are expensive. Usually the best options are to use the internet calling service Skype (www.skype.com) or buy a pre-paid phone card. For international phone cards that are bought in the US, you are often required to find the local access number for the country from which you are calling. This can usually be done by looking on the provider's website. Please note that calling a 1-800 number from Germany is **not** free and is charged the same as making a long distance phone call. Your family and friends can call you by dialing +49 331 2722. The Reception staff will either forward the call to your room or take a message.

Medical Care

In general, we recommend that all participants of our programs obtain adequate travel insurance. If a medical problem arises, the GCA team in Potsdam will assist you in finding an appropriate doctor. **Please notify us of any medical conditions you may have that could require attention during your stay.** You should bring with you any personal prescription medicines you normally take.

Mailing Addresses

Mailing and contact information for GCA team members and for participants during the seminar:

Mercure Hotel Potsdam City

Lange Brücke

14467 Potsdam

Deutschland

ph: +49 331 272-2

fax: +49 331 272-233

Room Reservation: +49 331 272-2419

info@mercure-hotel-potsdam.de

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of the GCA team members listed below with any questions concerning the upcoming program.

Ms. Astrid Schröder, COO, Global Citizenship

Alliance

Email: aschroeder@globalcitizenshipalliance.org

Dr. Jochen Fried, President, Global Citizenship

Alliance

Email: jfried@globalcitizenshipalliance.org