

Your Name

Date

Personal Statement of Interest - Hertie School of Governance Exchange program

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

Studying abroad provides students with an opportunity to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. Studying abroad at the Hertie School of Governance would be invaluable to my current academic program as well as my future career goals. With my focus in international policy, living in another country and learning about foreign policy would give me an understanding of public policy in a global context. With today's highly globalized world, it is vital to understand how other countries create and implement policies, which enables countries to develop and maintain peaceful relationships. I plan to work for the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the Office of International Affairs, and an opportunity understanding and experiencing another country's governance will give me tools that I cannot obtain in a U.S. classroom. I will have a better understanding of trade relationships and other policies that require mutually beneficial exchanges between the U.S. and Germany.

Germany is an economic power in Europe, and it faces similar issue to the United States. Having a firsthand experience in another country is crucial to learning about foreign policy. Similar to learning a language, one understands a subject to its fullest when immersed within the culture. By living and studying in Germany, I will be able to apply concepts and theories to which I have been exposed within the classroom setting. Also, studying at Hertie will enable me to interact with non-U.S. students in a different educational system, thus giving me a more expanded and global perspective. Through my discourse and interactions with Hertie classmates as well as viewing German life, I will gain a better understanding of foreign policy and domestic policies by viewing how the German government funds, promotes and designs social and educational policies.

During my undergraduate years, I was able to study abroad at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) University, in Johannesburg, South Africa. During this semester, I was able to visit Parliament on multiple occasions and partake in current issues of the time. For example, one controversy of the time was the government's attempt to pass a bill known as the

Protection of Information Act. This bill was highly opposed by media entities and the citizens of the country because it gave extra protection to government officials and halted full disclosure of governmental activities. Media outlets feared that this gave government too much power and infringed upon freedom of the press, two major issues of the apartheid era. As a U.S. citizen, I had never experienced this type of social and governmental issue, and I never would have within my own country.

In my fall quarter at UCLA, I had the fortunate pleasure of meeting and growing close with the Hertie students, and I learned more from these classmates about policy structures in other countries than I did in many of my core classes. An experience studying at Hertie would give me a similar opportunity but with even greater benefits. As a representative of UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, I would be an excellent candidate for strengthening the already established relationship between Hertie and UCLA.

List of Proposed Classes

The Policy Process: Social Policy

The Policy Process: Transitional Environments- Countries under Development

The Policy Process: Foreign Policy

The Policy Process: Global Governance

The Development of Governance: Perspectives on Policy Analysis & Governance in a Globalizing World