

THE SESB NEWSLETTER

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**EUROPEAN
YEAR OF
YOUTH**

WHAT EUROPE MEANS TO ME?

It can be very difficult to narrow your list down to just a few destinations; predicting where in the world your life journey will bring you to, is just close to impossible.

I had no intention of living and studying in Europe; as a Kenyan, I require the sun and heat. It can get seriously chilly here in Berlin, and from my perspective, when I arrived, in those first few weeks, I thought that the sun wasn't shining as brightly as it used to. However, I now find myself, four years later, still here in Berlin, studying at HLS, enjoying a great number of most epic moments in school, traveling around the country a bit and also surprisingly, I am starting to enjoy some elements of the cool climate.

There is a lot to say about Europe, so I will break it down to a nutshell; Human rights and dignity are two of Europe's most valuable assets. One difference I notice here in Berlin, is that there are at least some homeless shelters dotted across the city. A roof over a human being's head is a human right that is not always possible in Kenya. Here, there are hardly any humans sleeping in the cold unless they choose to. I am talking about camping here! The German government also works to reintegrate the homeless into society, so that they are not forgotten. Such experiences have taught me that this is an environment and a way of life that I would very much like to stay in. Creativity is something that's very primal to human life. Europe provides a liveliness and energy of new ideas, creativity, and the easy going-ness. Health care! Europe provides access the best specialists and technology to ensure there are suffice platforms to enhance the good health of it's citizens.

Friendships! In my experience as a student moving to Europe and trying to make friends with people who also like the types of things I do for fun, things were a little difficult at first. Those difficulties I encountered when meeting new people, were unmistakably linked to the differences between Kenyan and European culture and school settings. I was often sad at first because of language barriers, but now I am so grateful for both my European and international friends that I have met here. Because of how wonderful, friendly, and polite the people can be here, this unexpected point in my life journey has become a life-changing experience, that I will cherish throughout my time in Europe and my whole life.

Food is very much part and parcel of a person, wherever they are on the planet. Europe has given me a different 'glimpse' with regard to food. Take for example, bread! There is a long tradition of bread-baking, and Europe is right to take pride in the many delicious varieties of bread that are available here. European cuisine is also rich in different types of delicious traditional foods, as well as vegetarian and vegan foods. You may be a picky eater, but in Europe, you will always have a lot of choices as to what to eat and drink. As I enjoy my stay in this beautiful continent, I will continue to enjoy the many sumptuous different kinds of cuisine, which give me totally new ideas about my meals choices.

Being in Europe has filled my mind with different kinds and styles of architecture, the signs of which are evident all across Berlin. Its palaces, castles, cathedrals and monuments tell the story of Europe in the best way.

So Europe was never the place that I thought I would end up in, to study, to work, to live or to stay but as it happens, Europe has turned out to really mean a lot to me!

Written by Ann Pauline M

DISCOVER EU - TRAVEL PASS

When my HLS SESB teachers told me about the Discover EU competition to win a travel pass, I applied straight away. I couldn't believe it when I received an email to say that I **had won!** So now, I will be travelling across Europe, later this year with a few of my friends.

Every year since 2018, the European Parliament has been promoting an initiative called Discover EU, which aims to create a generation of European citizens. One of the ways it does this, is to offer young people the chance to apply for one of 70,000 travel passes issued every year. These passes can be used to travel by train in 33 countries for free.

The next registration window will open in September 2022 and I highly recommend that everyone who meets the requirements, register to try and win one of the travel passes.

In the coming winter holidays, I will begin a journey that will see me explore the countries of Eastern Europe, and if possible I will go as far as Turkey, a country that although not a member of the European Union participates in the project. For the time being, my route is not definite as the railway companies do not publish train timetables that far in advance and therefore do not allow reservations. I recommend night trains to all those considering taking part in the initiative, by allocating part of the budget to this type of train it is possible to save a lot of money that would otherwise be spent on hostels or hotels.

My advice is to apply for the travel pass, even if you are not sure of exactly which countries you would like to visit. If you then get selected, you'll have the opportunity to plan your trip properly with the help of a Discover EU agent.

Last tip go with friends, it will be even more fun.

You can register once the next window opens in September at the website below and you can also check out all the rules in advance.

https://europa.eu/youth/discovereu_en

Written by Fredi D

"This was the first real experience of my life that I will carry in my heart forever."



"Thanks to this journey, I've had the opportunity to reflect on values such as freedom and social justice. I learned a lot more about European history while travelling than I ever did at school. All the cities that I visited charmed me in their own way; travelling really opens the mind."
Andrea, Italian



ANDREA'S JOURNEY

#DiscoverEU

THERE'S MORE THAN YOU KNOW

 EuropeanYouthEU

 @EuropeanYouthEU



EUROPEAN UNION

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE



Dear students,

I am sure many of you have thought about your future and what you want to do once you are done with school. While some of you might already have a plan, others might have no idea. I have to admit that, personally, I am still not 100% sure where I want to work later, that is why the internship we did in March was really helpful to narrow down what I want to do later on.

I completed my internship at the Neukölln District Court (Amtsgericht Neukölln), which at first seemed very intimidating, but I was lucky enough to have worked with very friendly people, that always helped me. This specific district court only focuses on civil law, which means it only deals with legal interactions between citizens. I was only there for a week, but had the opportunity to get to know a lot of different departments, since I would get to a different one everyday. One of them was the compulsory auction, I felt the most comfortable there and got to know the tasks that had to be done the best.

A Rechtspfleger is similar to a judge with similar or even the same tasks. They take on cases, work with different people to find evidence and hold court hearings. Sadly, I wasn't able to attend a court hearing of a compulsory auction, however, I got the opportunity to go a court hearing where evidence was being collected. In this specific hearing witnesses were giving their testimonies.

Another department I really enjoyed working in was in the estate, this department takes care of everything concerning heritage. While working there, I collected information of heirs that either wanted to receive their heritage or wanted to deny it. Surprisingly, there are a lot more people that deny their heritage, than there are people wanting to receive it.

I was a little disappointed that the internship was only for a week, but it gave me a great opportunity to take a closer look at jobs that might be of interest to me, although, I do have to say that being a Rechtspfleger would not be a job I would want to do, but figuring that out was also very helpful.

If you have the opportunity to do internships in your vacation or whilst at HLS, definitely do it because it really helps if you want to figure out where your career path maybe lie later in life.

Written by Shaniqua M

The background of the page features a photograph of several colorful buildings in Szczecin, Poland. On the left is a yellow building, in the center is a pink and white building with a large dome, and on the right is a blue building with white decorative elements. The text is overlaid on this image.

HLS SESB VISITS SZCZECZIN

On Tuesday 17th May 2022 the SESB classes visited the Polish city Szczecin. The day started at 9:15am with all students meeting at Berlin Hauptbahnhof, before proceeding by train and bus towards Szczecin. At Szczecin train station we were greeted by a teacher and a few students from Bohaterów Monte Cassino School, which is a bilingual Polish/German school. All students then made their way to the host school where we were greeted warmly by the entire class and faculty. After exchanging experiences and building new connections for a potential partnership the students proceeded to take a tour through Szczecin's new and old town. The tour guided the students through various historical locations, which were both educationally and architecturally prominent. The most spectacular part of the tour was the Ducal Castle, which was the seat of the Dukes of Pomerania-Stettin, who ruled over the Duchy of Pomerania from 1121 to 1637. Post-tour, the students had an hour of free time, at Szczecin's biggest mall, which most students used to try some of Szczecin's local cuisine. After rejuvenating their energy supplies, the students and teachers made their way to the train station in order to commence their journey back home. The whole group arrived back at Berlin Hauptbahnhof at 8.30pm. The entire day-trip to Szczecin was a great success, resulting in the forming of new and meaningful experiences and friendships.

SZCECZIN PHOTOS



HLS 555B TEAM
MATTHIAS SCHNEIDER
DEBORAH SMART
IMAGES - CREATIVE COMMONS/DEBORAH SMART/DISCOVER EU