

25
Years of
Academic
Exchange

The California
State University and
Baden-Württemberg

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 - 4 25 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

5 - 55 ALUMNI THROUGH 25 YEARS

56 - 57 PROSPECT AND FUTURE OF THE STATE-TO-STATE PROGRAM

25 YEARS STATE EXCHANGE – THE BEGINNINGS

The “state-to-state” relationship was an innovative idea to allow for the exchange of students between California and Baden-Württemberg. Built on existing partnerships, it expanded their reach and with financial support from both sides allowed for more and more students from more academic fields the opportunity to study abroad as exchange students.

CSU IP is a systemwide program established in 1963 operating within the CSU Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach. Through its programs it aims to encourage academic integration, develop intercultural communication skills, and encourage international understanding among CSU students and faculty. This program operates on a one-for-one exchange basis that allows students to spend a semester or year in the other country for their home country tuition.

This has been truly a partnership and we are pleased to share with you in this brochure the experiences of some of our students.

Leo Van Cleve
Assistant Vice Chancellor
California State University



25 YEARS STATE EXCHANGE – A SUCCESS STORY

Since beginning my position as Program Coordinator in 2001, I have had the pleasure to meet and accompany students in their exchange experience. In the 25 years of our state exchange, we have seen students transforming, gaining confidence, knowledge and cultural sensitivity. Some stories stick in my mind, but we never had the chance to get a full picture of the paths of life our alumni chose.

The 25th anniversary is not only a chance to celebrate one of the most successful state-to-state exchange programs between the USA and Germany, but also, to take a look back.

Where are our alumni today and how did the exchange transform their lives? We initiated an extensive alumni project to (re-) connect 25 generations of alumni and to find out how our alumni evaluate their exchange now sometimes many years and decades after their exchange. We are happy to present the result in this brochure and are looking forward to the next 25 years of evergrowing cooperation and friendship between California and Baden-Württemberg.

Anita Binder
Program Coordinator
Baden-Württemberg



The Road to the State-to-State Exchange

The California State University System (CSU) was created in 1960. In 1963 the CSU International Programs (CSU IP) were created, and Heidelberg University was among the first partnerships. In 1973, the CSU partnership with the University of Tübingen was established.

In 1995, the two bilateral agreements became a state-to-state exchange program with the first *General Agreement for Educational Exchange and Cooperation* between the California State University System and Baden-Württemberg, namely and today known as the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts. All CSU campuses were involved from the very beginning, while the number of participating universities on the Baden-Württemberg side increased with every year.

Today, this system-wide, cooperative exchange program has facilitated over 2,800 students the last 25 years to study abroad through a model that is unique by offering a high number of institutions who cooperate within the program.

CSU is the home of 23 campuses from north to south California that offers a broad and diverse spectrum of academic disciplines. In Baden-Württemberg, currently 23 different institutions of higher education including all nine Research Universities as well as selected Universities of Applied Sciences, Universities of Education, Universities of Music and Art and the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University cooperate with the program.

Connecting Alumni of 25 Years of Academic Exchange

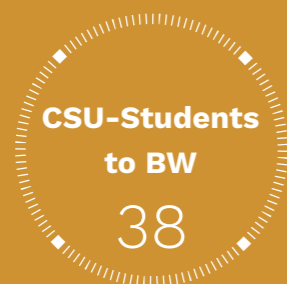
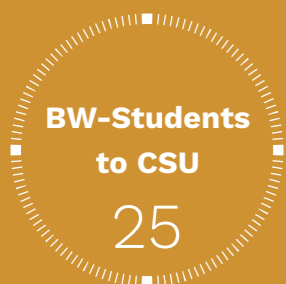
In order to (re-)connect with our alumni, we reached out to them with a questionnaire and an offer to join our LinkedIn Network. We have successfully tracked down and contacted about 580 alumni from the Baden-Württemberg side and more than 600 from the Californian side. Many of them gave us insights in their life stories and a personal retrospect on their exchange experience.

In the following pages, we hear the voices of selected alumni through 25 years of academic exchange and let them tell their stories.

LinkedIn Network



ACADEMIC YEAR 1994/1995



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- San José State University
- San Diego State University



DID YOU KNOW?

- On June 7th, 1995, the first *General Agreement for Educational Exchange and Cooperation* was signed by the then Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Research and Arts Klaus von Trotha, and the then Chancellor of the California State University, Dr. Barry Munitz and, with that, the state-to-state program was officially initiated.
- The exchange program is operated by the CSU International Programs and the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg.
- The University of Tübingen became the coordinating institution in Baden-Württemberg.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 1994/1995, Dr. Scott Fraser, is Professor of Physics at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
- Today, BW-alumna of 1994/1995, Barbara Knappmeyer, is working as Program Manager at *The New York Academy of Sciences, USA*.



KLAUS STODICK

UPS Atlanta

🏠 University of Tübingen

📍 San José State University

Connection to US today

Today, I work for UPS, based in Atlanta, a globally operating company. I am in touch with various nationalities and due to my work, I spend a lot of time speaking and writing English.

Impact of Exchange Experience

In terms of my English proficiency, it helped me a lot. In cultural terms, I developed a better understanding, e.g., for the diversity in the country and it changed my view on the political system. I learned about the political system and understood the federal system, compared to ours, much better. I developed a better understanding on immigration and the culture which is strong based on immigration too. On a social level, I was totally impressed by the open nature of the people.

Also, it broadened my view for seeking a job on an international level. In 2003, I became an international election observer and went twice for the OSCE to election observation missions abroad.

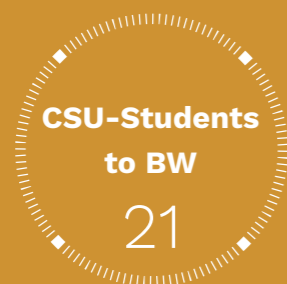
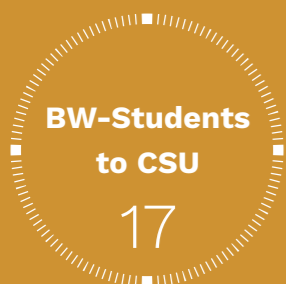


University of Tübingen



San José State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 1995/1996



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- **University of Stuttgart** +



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- **CSU Sacramento** +
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- San José State University
- San Diego State University



DR. MICHAELA RÖLL

Literary agent and founder of *michaela röhl literatur agentur*

- 🏠 University of Tübingen
- 📍 San Diego State University

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I traveled back to the US to attend a conference in San José, which had invited me as speaker to present a scientific paper on William Shakespeare that I had written during the exchange program. Also, the paper was later published in an American scientific magazine. Now, I work as a literary agent. Though my main focus lies on German publishing industry, I have collaborated with American agents, editors and authors and still occasionally do so, like on the US/Canadian edition of the bestseller "Darm mit Charme".

Impact of Exchange Experience

Dorothea Kehler, my professor at SDSU opened my eyes to a new and more creative way of scientific work. I discovered story telling in the Anglo-Saxon tradition. This influenced my PhD, for which I had study scholarships in the US, and now my work with literature as an agent. Our book market in Germany is largely influenced by American storytelling and the codes of the Californian film industry. Several of the authors I agent have had presentations of their books in the US, partly California. The stay gave also me new perspectives into the topics of race, class, gender. I met "affirmative action"-activists and immigrants from Latin America among others. We discussed topics such as the impact of religion, integration and gender fluidity, which are today in public debate again. The exchange fostered long lasting friendships, which help bridge the gap left by media coverage of political events like Donald Trump's presidency and the attack on the Capitol.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Udo Stelzer, who had been working as an assistant to the CSU Program since 1988, took over as Program Coordinator at the office at the University of Tübingen in 1995.
- Leo Van Cleve accepted the position as Associate Director of International Programs at the California State University.
- Today, BW-alumna of 1995/1996, Dr. Giesela Fritz, is working as Research Associate at the University of Stuttgart, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 1995/1996, Mehran Khadem-Awal, is a celebrated photographer.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 1995/1996, David Palomino, is Professor at the Environmental Studies Department at the University of San Diego, USA.

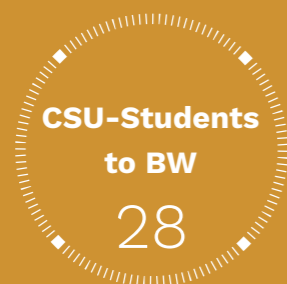
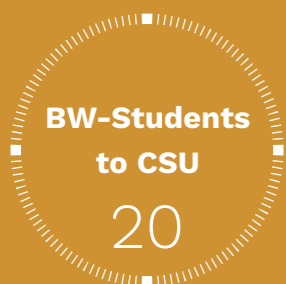


University of Tübingen



San Diego State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 1996/1997



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- Furtwangen University (HAW) +
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design +
- Reutlingen University (HAW) +

HAW = University of Applied Sciences



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University +
- CSU Northridge +



ANDREW GREENE

Senior Director, Global Business Excellence at Edwards Lifesciences

🏠 CSU Long Beach

📍 University of Tübingen, Reutlingen University

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

We have operations in München, and I have had the pleasure of traveling there on a number of occasions to work with the local team. Being able to speak the local language has been wonderful and really helped establish strong business relationships.

Impact of Exchange Experience

Living and studying in Tübingen was one of the highlights of my life and I continued to study German when I returned to the United States. I would say learning the language has provided me the most value since my time of residence in Germany. It has allowed me the opportunity to lead largescale initiatives at work, for which I would have not otherwise been considered. I have also developed an acute love of travel both for work and for pleasure to countries all around the world. I learned so much about myself, Germany, and Western European culture in general. Traveling from town to town and country to country was so easy as was meeting others. Learning the language as well as studying economics has proven to be extremely valuable throughout my career and I have a deep love of travel, public transportation, great food and beer as well as classical music as a result of my year abroad.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, CSU-alumna of 1996/1997, Janelle Moran, is working as Program Manager at the US Space Control Programs.
- Today, BW-alumna of 1996/1997, Prof. Dr. Eva Pirker, is Coordinator of the Center of Translation Studies of the English Studies Department at the Heinrich-Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany.



CSU Long Beach

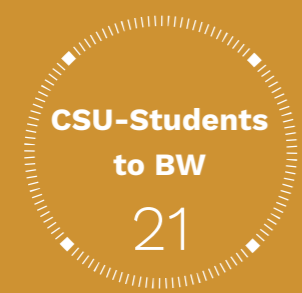
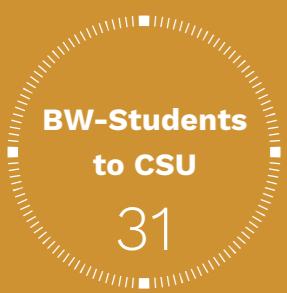


University of Tübingen



Reutlingen University

ACADEMIC YEAR 1997/1998



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen +
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Hohenheim +
- University of Stuttgart
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW) +



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Northridge



CONSTANTIN URBAN

Professor of Immunology at the Department of Clinical Microbiology, Umeå University

🏠 University of Stuttgart

📍 CSU Long Beach

Connection to the US after the Exchange

I am a scientist and have many colleagues in the US who are part of a broader network. I had active collaborations with researchers from Boston, MA and Buffalo, NY.

Impact of Exchange Experience

The academic exchange year had a decisive impact on my professional career. It improved my ability to freely communicate in English, the most important language for all scientists. It increased my self-consciousness, because I realized that I can cope in a new and foreign environment. It taught me a lot about the US university system, the US as a country and its people and it taught me a lot about myself. I gained new insight into socio-economic and political differences between Europe and the US. Being more aware of these differences helped me to identify positive and negative aspects from both systems. However, overall, the exchange year did not change my basic cultural, political and social values.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Leo Van Cleve was named Interim Director of International Programs at the California State University.
- The *Learn German in Germany* Program was established at the University of Tübingen. Today, the program, that is now called *Language and Culture Program*, is one of the most successful tracks of the state-to-state exchange program.
- A cooperation with the International Language School *Hermann-Hesse-Kolleg* in Horb am Neckar was initiated that offers CSU students to study German and live with a German guest family prior to the start of the semester.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 1997/1998, Lars Castellucci, is an elected Member of the German Parliament for the party SPD and is working as Vice Chairman of the Committee on the Interior and Home Affairs.
- Today, BW-alumna of 1997/1998, Maja Tillmann Salas, is working as a Participatory-Community Filmmaker for indigenous communities in China, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, and Mexico.
- Today, CSU alumna of 1997/98, Melissa Wach, is working as Head of the Project Management Office and and Digital Transformation Administration at CHT Group, Tübingen.

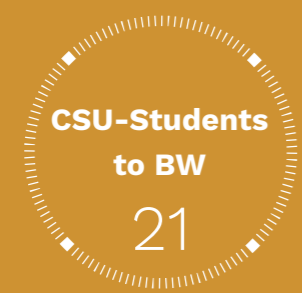
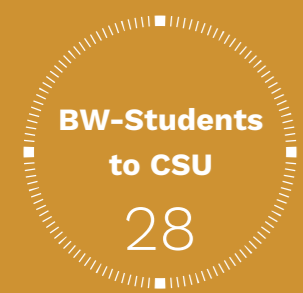


University of Stuttgart



CSU Long Beach

ACADEMIC YEAR 1998/1999



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Hohenheim
- University of Stuttgart



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Northridge



KEVIN PETER

Senior Software Engineer at Pixelberry Studios

- 🏠 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- 📍 University of Tübingen

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I stayed for another year and did an internship with Daimler, which not only gave me a lot of practical experience in my field, but also led to my German language abilities improving even more.

Impact of Exchange Experience

I gained a lot of knowledge regarding my field of study and it inspired an interest in languages that continues to this day. I've also been much more easily able to get interviews with companies in Germany, although I haven't accepted any offers at this point. I definitely gained a more international outlook and I found I absorbed some of the German political opinions from other students I came in contact with. I also became a lot more self-motivated, since the German university system requires that of its students much more than the university systems in California. I would also like to add that my time in Tübingen was really fantastic and the staff of the Baden-Württemberg-CSU exchange program were very good and helpful. I would love to live in Germany again in the future.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Tina Bach took over as Program Coordinator at the office at the University of Tübingen.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 1998/1999, Matthew Urmston, is Academic Coordinator at the University of Applied Sciences for Management & Communication in Vienna, Austria.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 1998/1999, Marisa Thigpen, is working as Program Services Coordinator for Academic Support and Learning Technologies at Skyline College in California, USA.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 1998/99, Dr. Andreas Heyl, is working as Chief Expert Safety, Reliability, Availability at Bosch Research, Renningen, Germany.

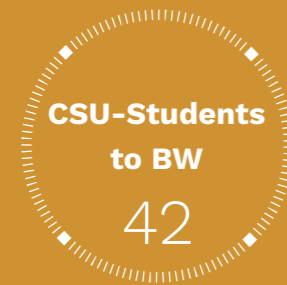
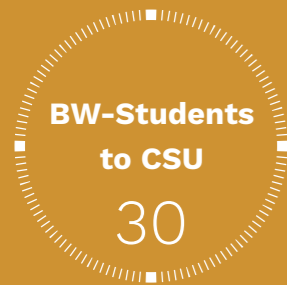


California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo



University of Tübingen

ACADEMIC YEAR 1999/2000



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Hohenheim



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Northridge



JÖRG JUNGHANNS

Vice President Europe - Intelligent Supply Chain Operations, at Capgemini

🏠 Furtwangen University

📍 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Connection to the US after the Exchange

I was back twice to California (San Francisco, Los Angeles) for business reasons. Another two times for private reasons, visiting and meeting friends from the times back when I was studying in California. And my job requires regular interaction with the USA, I have been many times in the US ever since.

Impact of Exchange Experience

It elevated my language skills to a level which is required in my professional environment - every day. Working and living in an intercultural environment laid the basis for an international career to follow. Last but not least, I am still holding friendships which originated in California, and which are still valuable today. Studying abroad was the first of many international working experiences and contributed to my overall intercultural competences. I also gathered a much more nuanced understanding of different cultures, worldviews, international and political matters. I also gained an understanding of how to deal with people from other cultures, and how not to give into stereotypes.



Furtwangen University



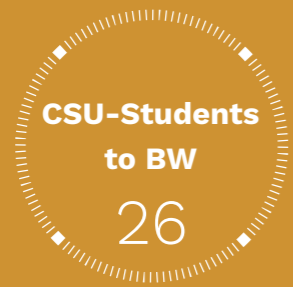
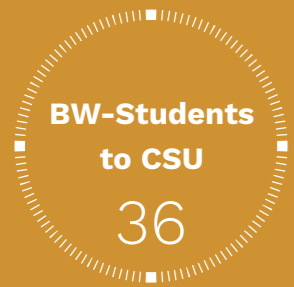
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo



DID YOU KNOW?

- Leo Van Cleve was named Director of International Programs at the California State University.
- Pia Hatzistrati took over as Program Coordinator at the office at the University of Tübingen.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 1999/2000, Henry Langstraat, is working as a Producer at Netflix.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 1999/2000, Dr. Robynne Flynn-Diez, is working as Associate Professor at the Institute for Translation and Interpreting at the Heidelberg University, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 1999/2000, Brent Chancellor, serves as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Rockland Symphony Orchestra and as a Cover Conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, as well as Interim Music Director of the Rutgers University Sinfonia.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 1999/2000, Prof. Dr. Lars Felgner, works as Lecturer for German Language at the Department of German with Dutch and Swedish at the Faculty of Arts of the University Ljubljana, Slovenia.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2000/2001



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Hohenheim
- University of Stuttgart



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Northridge



SASCHA MARKOVIC

Immigration & Career Consultant at einwanderungsberater.de

🏠 University of Hohenheim

📍 San Francisco State University

Impact of Exchange Experience

The courses in international relations at San Francisco State University have had a decisive impact on my further studies and my career plans. Back in Hohenheim, I changed my major from business administration to international economics and founded a Model United Nations Club, which is still active. After graduating, I worked for German development organizations in the Western Balkans for many years. I wouldn't say that my values changed after my stay, but rather that I became more aware of them. I was lucky to live in San Francisco, one of the most liberal and diverse cities in the world. That alone opens up new horizons and shows how enriching it can be for a society when people of different origins, identities, and lifestyles live together.

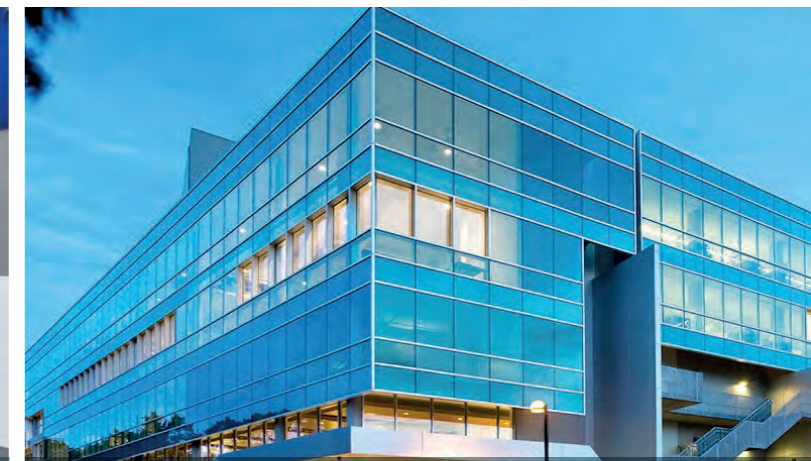


DID YOU KNOW?

- On May 23rd, 2000, the second *General Agreement for Educational Exchange and Cooperation* was signed by then Baden-Württemberg Minister for Science, Research and Arts Klaus von Trotha, and then Chancellor of the California State University, Dr. Charles B. Reed.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2000/2001, Thilo Pommerening, is working as Sustainability Manager at the International German Broadcaster *Deutsche Welle*.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2000/2001, Erin Hichman, is working as Director of Operations at Diversity Lab in California, USA.

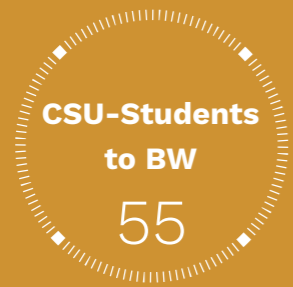
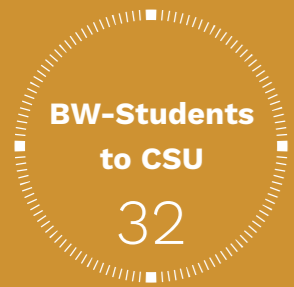


University of Hohenheim



San Francisco State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2001/2002



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Hohenheim
- University of Stuttgart
- **Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach** +
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State University
- Sonoma State University

DID YOU KNOW?

- Anita Binder took over as Program Coordinator at the office at the University of Tübingen. She coordinates the Program on the Baden-Württemberg side ever since.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2001/2002, Prof. Dr. Martin Gassebner, is Managing Director of the Microeconomics Department at the University of Hannover, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2001/2002, Dr. James Simon, is Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the California State University, Los Angeles.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2001/2002, Silas Huff, is Director of Orchestras at Washburn University, Kansas, USA.



DR. DENIS JIRON

Musician

🏠 CSU Northridge

📍 University of Music Trossingen

Connection to the Germany after the Exchange

I was so smitten with Germany that immediately after the CSU exchange I attended the Mannheim Conservatory for Music and Performing Arts (from 2002-2003). Later, I toured with the *Philharmonie der Nationen*, Hamburg from 2004-2007. We performed concerts in countless towns and cities in Germany as well as other destinations in Europe and Asia. Finally, I won a position with the *Hofer Symphoniker*, Hof from 2012-2015.

Impact of Exchange Experience

I made lifelong friendships and business relationships. My time in Germany fundamentally changed the way I view the world; this influence was so enormous that I cannot explain it in only a few words. This stay also had a big influence on my views concerning social welfare and politics. I saw the positive influence a social democracy can have on everyday people when done well. I also learned a lot about racism and xenophobia. My parents were immigrants to the US, but my understanding and scope of immigration widened because of my German experience. I've experienced racism and xenophobia in both the US and in Germany, but I felt it more acutely in Germany. This was, however, a minority. Most Germans I met were warm and welcoming. I firmly believe all Americans should spend time living abroad. It will only enrich your understanding of the world and yourself.

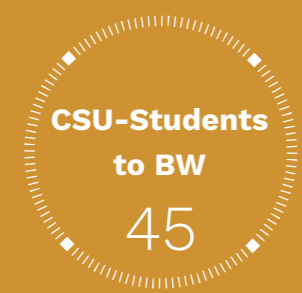
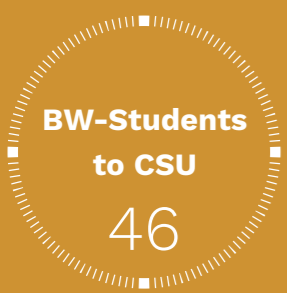


CSU Northridge



University of Music Trossingen

ACADEMIC YEAR 2002/2003



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- **Stuttgart Media University (HAW) +**
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- University of Stuttgart
- **Ulm University +**
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- Reutlingen University (HAW)



Participating CSU-Campuses

- **CSU Monterey Bay +**
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Sonoma State University
- **CSU San Marcos +**



STEPHANIE WÖSSNER

Freelance speaker & consultant, Team Leader Innovation, Landesmedienzentrum Baden-Württemberg

🏠 University of Tübingen

📍 San Francisco State University

Connection to the US after the Exchange

After 10 years of teaching at the high school level, I am currently working in the field of innovation in education. My expertise is in Extended Reality, Game-based Learning, Artificial intelligence, Design & Futures Thinking. The US is where I am getting most of my information from to do my job well. I also still have friends there.

Impact of Exchange Experience

During my time in the US, I made a lot of friends. I actually met some of my best friends at San Francisco State University. I've also kept in touch with some of my professors. I went to visit a few times and met up with some of my friends in Germany. In June, I'll spend a week with one of them in Southern France. My professional life wasn't directly touched by my stay abroad because I already spoke English fluently when I left and I got a teaching degree. However, in the past twenty years, my time at an American university and the experiences I made in San Francisco did change my way of thinking about learning and life in general.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, BW-alumna of 2002/2003, Nadyne Saint-Cast, is Member of the State Parliament for the Freiburg Constituency for the party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2002/2003, Dr. Paul Ginno, is working as Staff Scientist at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2002/2003, Danielle Pattee, is working as Financial Aid Outreach Counsellor at San Francisco State University.

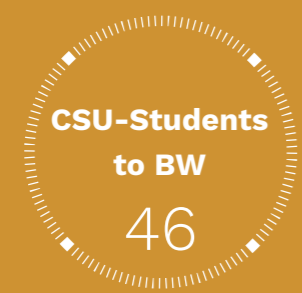
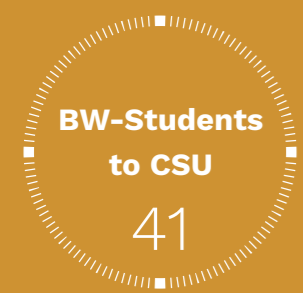


University of Tübingen



San Francisco State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2003/2004



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design
- University of Stuttgart
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Ulm University



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Sonoma State University
- CSU San Marcos



DOMINIC ADAMIETZ

Project Manager & Identity Access Management at Three Two Four

🏠 University of Tübingen

📍 CSU Long Beach

Connection to the US after the Exchange

I permanently relocated to South Pasadena, CA in 2019 with my family. I run my own company; an IT consultancy registered in California. I am a permanent US resident based on a marriage green card.

Impact of Exchange Experience

The impact has been huge. First and foremost, it gave me a different perspective. Studying abroad in general helps you think outside of the German bubble in every social, cultural, political, etc way possible. I also met my future wife while attending Cal State Long Beach. After coming back to Tübingen to finish my degree, I moved to London with my then girlfriend, and after 15 years in the UK we decided to move to California in 2019.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A record-setting eight CSU students extended their exchange for a second year.
- For the first time in the state program, CSU students had the opportunity to take fashion-designing courses at Reutlingen University.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2003/2004, Andreas Preponis, is Adjunct Professor for Music at the Music Department of Cypress College, Long Beach, USA.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2003/2004, Nina Brandt, is working in Program Development (Capacity Development) at United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2003/2004, Robert Heer III, is working as General Manager Customer Success for Middle and Eastern Europe at SAP, Walldorf, Germany.

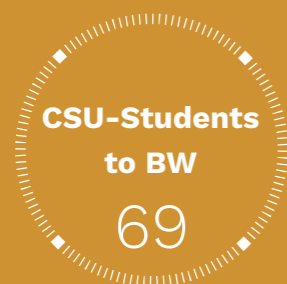
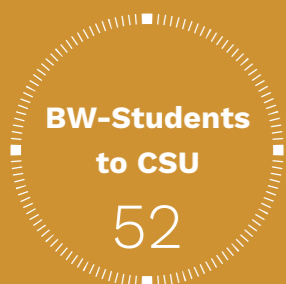


University of Tübingen



CSU Long Beach

ACADEMIC YEAR 2004/2005



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design
- University of Stuttgart
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- **University of Freiburg** +
- University of Hohenheim



Participating CSU-Campuses

- **CSU San Bernardino** +
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Sacramento



DAVID JEFFCOACH

PAACS Surgeon at Soddo Christian Hospital, Ethiopia

🏠 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

📍 University of Tübingen

Impact of Exchange Experience

It was a formative year for me. I developed an interest in medicine while in Germany and worked as a volunteer at the University Hospital Tübingen. I later went on to medical school in the USA and am now a trauma surgeon living and working in Ethiopia. That year was key to gaining a global perspective. I currently work very closely with many European volunteers and research colleagues in my role training surgeons in Ethiopia. While studying in Germany I not only learned a lot about German culture, but more importantly, it challenged me to examine my own cultural background, biases, and values. This knowledge is key when working successfully in a multinational team. I would say I look back most fondly on my time making lasting friendships. As an exchange student you meet so many diverse people who let you into their lives. They influenced my world view and I imagine I did the same.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, BW-alumna of 2004/2005, Katja Beck, is working in the German Public Broadcasting Cooperation Südwestrundfunk (SWR: Southwest Broadcasting) as Team Leader for Distribution Management.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2004/2005, Christopher Cook, is working as the Associate Director of International Travel Health & Safety at Cornell University, New York, USA.

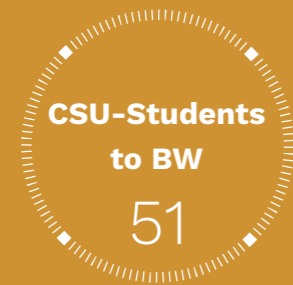
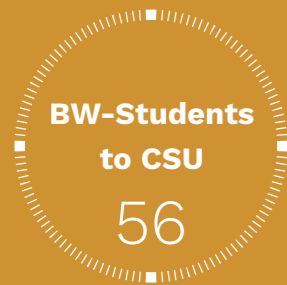


California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo



University of Tübingen

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design
- University of Stuttgart
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- University of Freiburg
- University of Hohenheim
- **University of Mannheim +**
- **University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe +**



Participating CSU-Campuses

- **CSU Channel Islands +**
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- **CSU Dominguez Hills +**
- CSU Sacramento
- San José State University



SONJA PERRY

Group Product Manager at Etsy

- 🏠 Heidelberg University
- 📍 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I've been living in California almost continuously since 2005. After graduating from Cal Poly, I pursued a Master 's degree in Conference Interpretation in Monterey, CA, and I currently work at Etsy as a Group Product Manager.

Impact of Exchange Experience

I'll be forever grateful for the exchange program, because it's how I met my husband and how I got to know his home country. He came to Germany as an exchange student from Cal Poly and we met during his last semester abroad. We moved in together and got married within a few months. After a couple of years together in Germany, I wanted to experience the US for a year and decided to join the exchange program. I fell in love with California and still live here today with my husband and our 2 sons. Before coming to the United States, I believed the general stereotypes about Americans, and I never would have thought that I'd move here permanently. But through my husband and living in California I was exposed to a much greater degree of diversity and I've grown to become more aware of racial and gender disparities, which prompted me to be more mindful about creating and contributing to a more inclusive environment.

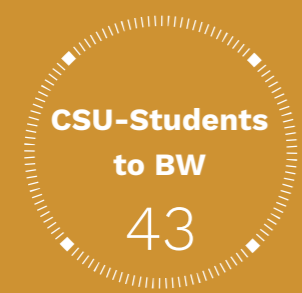


DID YOU KNOW?

- On May 24th, 2005, the third *General Agreement for Educational Exchange and Cooperation* was signed by then Baden-Württemberg Minister for Science, Research and Arts Prof. Dr. Peter Frankenberg, and then Chancellor of the California State University, Dr. Charles B. Reed.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2005/2006, Anna-Joy Kühlwein, is working as Senior Investment Analyst at Landesbank Baden-Württemberg.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2005/2006, Gökhan Hanilci, is working as IT Integration Manager at Daimler AG.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2005/2006, Dr. Andrew Wold, is working as Principal Research Engineer for Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation at the University of Linköping, Sweden.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2005/2006, Heidi Seretan, is working as Special Education Teacher & Department Head at San Francisco Unified School District, USA.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- **University of Education Ludwigsburg** +
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- **CSU Stanislaus** +
- CSU Sacramento



EVA SIEGEL

Senior Art Director at HRZN GMBH

- 🏠 University of Mannheim
- 📍 CSU Long Beach

Impact of Exchange Experience

The stay in California gave me more self-consciousness. Personally, and professionally. I was able to learn things and take classes I couldn't take in Germany. With what I learned at Cal State Long Beach, I was able to get an internship in pattern design in Vienna, which gained me my first job, where designing patterns was a skill, they were looking for and it made me stand out. The approach of how to do things and how to live your life is very different to Germany and I still profit from that experience. I got a deeper insight into another country, culture and social life. That is something you don't experience when you are on holiday somewhere. I shared my home with a gay couple and a young woman who was raised Mormon, I had classes with all kinds of students with very different cultural backgrounds (from very American to Cambodian to Japanese...). I had the opportunity to travel the country for another 3 months after my stay at Cal State and had a lot of interesting conversations during the whole stay. Seeing the country from different perspectives and through different eyes is something that still helps me today.



DID YOU KNOW?

- First cooperation with the German-American Institute Tübingen (d.a.i.) and their Rent an American Program. Over the years, many CSU students visited German High Schools to give insights in their US-American everyday life.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2006/2007, Kari Howell, is working as Basic Needs Coordinator at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2006/2007, Nico Bühler, is working as Moderator and Head of Partner Success for *Gründermotor*, an initiative of the State of Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart, Germany.

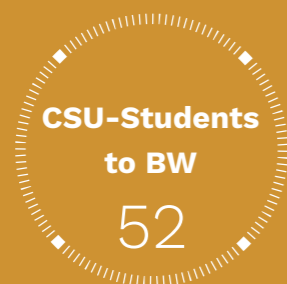
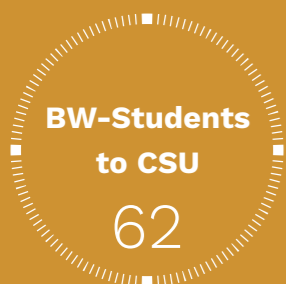


University of Mannheim



CSU Long Beach

ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design
- **University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg** +
- University of Stuttgart
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- **HTWG Konstanz - University of Applied Sciences** +



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Sacramento
- **CSU East Bay** +
- CSU Northridge



RITA WILKE

Environmental Consultant at Panorama Environmental, Inc.

- 🏠 San Francisco State University
- 📍 University of Stuttgart

Impact of Exchange Experience

Studying abroad in Stuttgart pushed me outside my comfort zone and required me to use life skills in a way that I would not have done if I never studied abroad. I became a better communicator and problemsolver.

Most of all, I gained more confidence in myself and learned that I can work through challenges and be successful. I use these skills daily in my role as a Senior Project Manager for an environmental consulting firm, Panorama Environmental, Inc. I learned a lot about various cultures through my experience with German students and exchange students from other countries. I grew up in a very rural area of California without a lot of diversity and studying abroad connected me with many amazing people.

My social values changed as a result of my experience abroad. The waste management program in Germany taught me to be intentional about the things I buy and question what will happen to products and packaging after I use them.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, BW-alumnus of 2007/2008, Prof. Dr. Oscar Stolper, is Professor of Behavioral Finance at the University of Marburg, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2007/2008, Christen Donnelly, is working as English Teacher and Prefectural Advisor for the Fukui Prefectural Board of Education in Japan.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2007/2008, Libby Wilke-Schug, is working as Project Coordinator at Facebook.

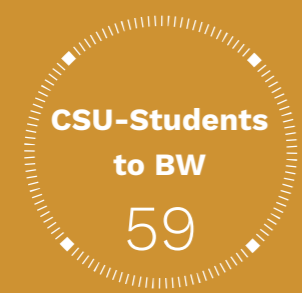


San Francisco State University



University of Stuttgart

ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- **University of Konstanz** +
- Stuttgart Media University
- Mannheim Univeristy of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- **Ulm University of Applied Science** +
- **Pforzheim University (HAW)** +



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Sacramento
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Northridge



LINLY FOU

International Program and Product Manager at Carbon

🏠 University of Mannheim

📍 San Francisco State University

Connection to the US after the Exchange

In my prior role as a Global Product Manager for my former company in Germany, I collaborated closely with our international engineering teams and manufacturing sites, one of our international sites being in San Diego. I have since taken on a job as a "Program and Product Manager International" with a Silicon Valley company for products at the intersection of Hardware, Software and Materials. Having started my role out of Germany, I have by now made a successful transition to working full time at my company's headquarter in the Bay Area.

Impact of Exchange Experience

The semester in San Francisco made me more aware and sensitive to different cultures and ideas. It introduced me to different ways of thinking, working and communicating (not limited to US culture) and has helped me navigate the international aspects of my professional career. When I spent my semester in San Francisco, it was also the year Barack Obama was elected the First Black President of the United States. Being in California for this moment and experiencing San Francisco's reaction to this has been very memorable and the common sentiment was one of great potential for positive change. San Francisco and the US have undergone many changes since then that have shaped life in San Francisco, socially and culturally.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, BW-alumnus of 2008/2009, Dr. Peter Eppinger, is a Post-Doctoral Researcher in International Economics at the University of Tübingen.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2008/2009, Charlotte Barna, is working as a Librarian at the Library of Congress of the United States.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2008/2009, Jacob Wahl, worked as Key Account Manager at Google, Inc, and is the founder of iBreve Ltd.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2008/2009, Mackenzie Kelly, is working as Archivist at NBCUniversal Media, LLC, Los Angeles, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2008/2009, Steve Koning, is working as Candidate Channels Specialist at Meta, California.

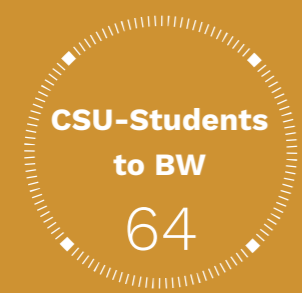
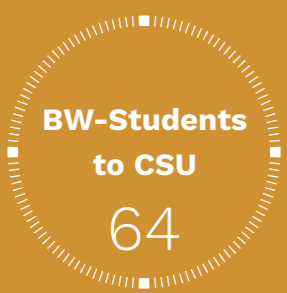


University of Mannheim



San Francisco State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Furtwangen University (HAW)
- Pforzheim University (HAW)
- Ulm University of Applied Science
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach
- **University of Education Freiburg +**
- **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology +**



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University



AIMEE APEL

Startup Accelerator Lead at Climate-KIC

- 🏠 Sonoma State University
- 📍 University of Tübingen

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

After graduating from Sonoma State University in 2011, I came back to Germany to get my master's degree. I was accepted to a program at University of Tübingen again but ended up studying Literature at Technische Universität Chemnitz. I currently work at a pan-European organization called EIT Climate-KIC and am based in Berlin. I have worked at Climate-KIC for over 4 years now. We are a global climate innovation organization - I am an Accelerator Lead and work in the entrepreneurship department supporting our Strategic Programmes team.

Impact of Exchange Experience

It goes without saying that my stay in Baden-Württemberg was incredibly impactful and changed my life for the better - setting a new direction for me, my education, my career and my personal development and goals. Learning German and studying the German culture opened up the world for me in new ways. I became more globally aware and saw greater opportunities for myself outside of the US. I settled in Germany again but was open and interested in studying and working in Europe and other countries around the world. I became fluent in a second language and had the opportunity to study for free - continuing my higher education in Germany was a privilege and one I do not take for granted. The social system and affordable cost of living in Germany allowed me to move here with a small savings and finance my studies and live with part-time work and scholarships. A second degree was incredibly helpful in boosting my resume and credibility in the job market - as was having Tübingen University - a prestigious university on my CV. I also met my today-husband while studying abroad in Tübingen. He was also a student there, studying business administration and a resident of my student dormitory at WHO. We now have a 1-year-old son who was born in Berlin and holds both American and German passports.

DID YOU KNOW?

- On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the state-to-state program a delegation from Baden-Württemberg headed by then Baden-Württemberg Minister for Science, Research and Arts Prof. Dr. Peter Frankenberg visited California. Then CSU Chancellor Dr. Charles B. Reed and Minister Frankenberg signed a new agreement during a ceremony at CSU Long Beach.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2009/2010, Kenneth Ensslin, is working at the Press and Social Media Affairs Department of the German Consulate General, Los Angeles, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2009/2010, Amy Blume, is working as Executive Business Partner to CEO at Google Deep Mind.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2009/2010, Nicole Hofstadter, is working as Production Coordinator at Warner Bros. Entertainment.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2009/2010, Christina Fehres, is working as Director of Business Development and Digital Director Hub Australia and Germany, Professional Product Division at L'Oréal, Düsseldorf, Germany.

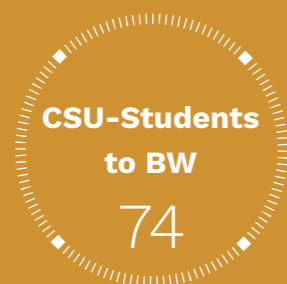


Sonoma State University



University of Tübingen

ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- HTWG Konstanz - University of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- CSU Los Angeles



JOHANNES RIMMELSPACHER

RF/mm-Wave Design Engineer in Microelectronics at Infineon Technologies

🏠 University of Stuttgart

📍 San José State University

Connection to the US after the Exchange

After completing my exchange period, two years later, I returned to write my master thesis at Stanford University.

Impact of Exchange Experience

San José State University provided me a solid background in microelectronics. Therefore, I pursued a career in semiconductor industry. I did a PhD at Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg and attended many conferences, especially in the US. Today, I am working for Infineon Technologies in Munich (Germany) as an integrated circuit designer for radio frequency microchips. Indeed, the international environment at my workplace is very similar to what I experienced during 10 months at San José State University. This was a very good opportunity to gain more self-confidence and to prepare for the future. To experience that there are many fellow students out there following similar interests strengthened my communication skills, which is important to exchange knowledge easily and advance projects.



DID YOU KNOW?

- A record-setting 20 CSU Business Students attended the program.
- Since 2010, Baden-Württemberg and the University of Tübingen are hosting an annual excursion for CSU San Marcos Business Students guided by Prof. Klaus Schryen (until 2015) and Prof. Bennett Cherry (since 2015) from the College of Business Administration of CSU San Marcos.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2010/2011, Travis Greene, is working as Lecturer in the Department of Applied English Studies of National Tsinghua University, China.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2010/2011, Andreas Clemens, is working as Project Manager E-Performance, Region Europe at Porsche AG, Stuttgart, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2010/2011, Dr. Andreas Bueckle, is working as Research Scientist at Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2010/2011, Dr. Nils Elias Lukacs, is working as Scientific Advisor at the Hamburg Administrative Court, Hamburg, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2010/2011, Grant Nichols still lives in Germany. He completed his master's in American Studies from the University of Tübingen. He is an English Teacher at The German-American Institute Tübingen, Germany.

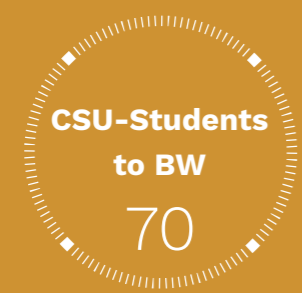
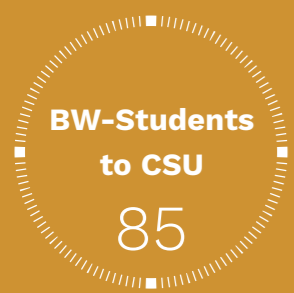


University of Stuttgart



San José State University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University



RENÉ PRCHAL

Accounting Support at Daimler Truck AG

🏠 University of Tübingen

📍 CSU Chico

Connection to the US after the Exchange

As an Accounting Support at Daimler Truck for the NAFTA region I am in constant contact with my colleagues in Portland (Oregon) and Detroit (Michigan). Prior to that I worked at one of the largest e-sports companies where I was in constant contact with my controlling colleagues in Burbank (California) and New York.

Impact of Exchange Experience

Studying abroad has increased my English skills and provided me with a lot of beautiful memories. Due to the ongoing globalization the exchange semester in Chico was always reviewed very positive in any job applications. I felt on the one hand more open minded towards different other culture because of the numerous different participants we had within the program and the fact that I lived in a huge villa with Americans, Swedes, Canadians and Japanese. On the other hand, I was also proud of being German and appreciated the culture I have been grown up with.

DID YOU KNOW?

- For the first time, the University of Music Trossingen offered Music Design courses for CSU Students.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2011/2012, Katherine Fisher, is working as International Programs Admissions Coordinator at CSU Monterey Bay.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2011/2012, Anna Dreher, is working as Sports Editor at the German Newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2011/2012 Jameka Woodberry, is working as Digital Marketing Director and Social Media Lead at Service Design Network, Köln, Germany. She attended the exchange program twice in 2009/2010 and 2011/2012.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2010/2011 and 2011/12, Gabriela Voswinkel, maiden name Hernandez-Perez, lives in Germany with her German husband and their daughter. As a family, they volunteer at a church (TOS Center) working with children in the Swabian Alb, Germany.

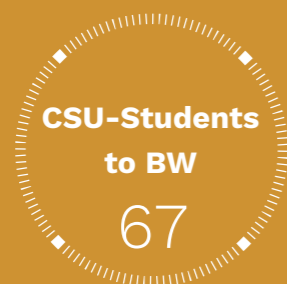
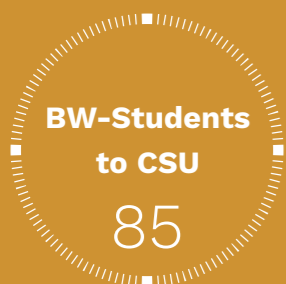


University of Tübingen



CSU Chico

ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim
- HTWG Konstanz - University of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Ulm University of Applied Sciences



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University



HARRISON TEETER

Risk Analyst at Passcon GmbH

CSU Long Beach

Heidelberg University

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I have since returned to Heidelberg on several occasions to visit friends and to bask in the memories of a time gone by. As it was the base of my first great adventure in life, there are always traces of feeling at home when I do make it back. However, my professional life is now based out of Berlin, where I work in anti-money laundering for a consulting company headquartered in Hamburg.

Impact of Exchange Experience

My time in Heidelberg was nothing short of life changing. For example, I met a couple of my best friends there. My experiences studying at the university and traveling around Europe led me to pursue two internships with the Bundestag in Berlin, an English-teaching program in Spain, and master studies in Political Science at UNC Chapel Hill in North Carolina. The longer I live abroad, the more I realize how American I am—whatever that means. Even more astonishing, I've watched my values and convictions shift and evolve as I grow as a person and acknowledge what is important to me. Beyond that, I've learned to recognize how fortunate I am, how to live my life the way I wish, and how much I'm driven to explore the world around me. In one instance, I was able to share my experiences and advice about studying in Heidelberg at a predeparture seminar at CSU Los Angeles about a year after my stay.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The California State University, International Programs (CSU IP) commemorated their 50th anniversary. Today, CSU IP provides exchange opportunities for CSU students in 17 countries with more than 50 partner universities worldwide.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2012/2013, Patrick Sullivan, is working at the Student Housing Department of the University of Mannheim, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2012/2013, Katharina Kirchberger, is working as Research and Campaigns Assistant at Amnesty International.

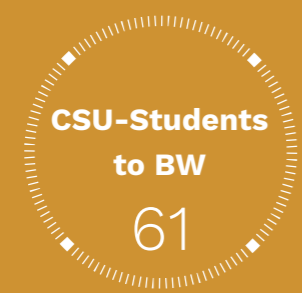
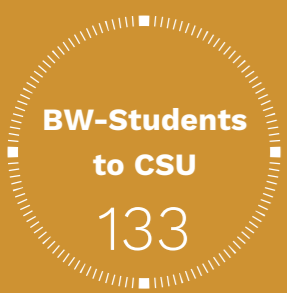


CSU Long Beach



Heidelberg University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Ulm University
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Ulm University of Applied Sciences



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- CSU East Bay
- California State Polytechnic University Pomona +
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills +



ANAR SALAYEV

Product Manager at Veyo

🏠 San Francisco State University

📍 University of Tübingen, University of Konstanz

Impact of Exchange Experience

Studying abroad was one of the most transformative decisions I've ever made. It made me significantly more confident, resourceful, and open minded. Not only did I get the opportunity to visit faraway lands I'd never think I'd go to, I had the chance to meet people whose lives are completely removed from mine. To this day, I am a strong advocate of international education exchanges and encourage everyone (who has the means and ability) to take part in one. This experience greatly expanded my consciousness, allowing me to be more receptive to ideas, cultures, and values that are outside of or conflict with my own. On top of this, the experience made me a global thinker, forcing me to consider the far reaching consequences of my decisions beyond just my immediate environment. This has had a direct impact on the life I've designed for myself upon my return.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The academic year 2013/2014 was a record-setting year with a total of 194 students participating at the state-to-state exchange.
- CSU-alumnus of 2013/2014, Edward Cahill, came to study at the University of Tübingen and stayed in the city of Tübingen until today. He regularly visits and inspires the office at the University of Tübingen.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2013/2014, Sean Silva, is a successful composer and guitarist currently based in Karlsruhe, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2013/2014, Arne Jeschal, is working as Research Associate for the Member of the German Parliament, Claudia Müller (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen).
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2013/2014, Koray Saglam, is pursuing his PhD at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Tübingen. Koray shared his experience of his exchange at the 25th anniversary celebration in June 2022.



San Francisco State University

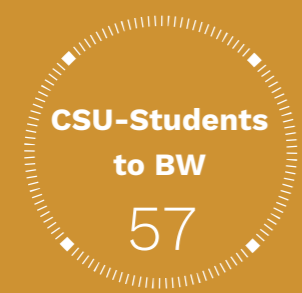
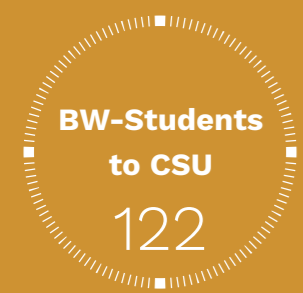


University of Tübingen



University of Konstanz

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe
- Ulm University of Applied Sciences
- University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- California State Polytechnic University Pomona
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino



JULIA BOITIN

Product Manager at Mono Solutions

- 🏠 Stuttgart Media University
- 📍 CSU Chico

Impact of Exchange Experience

I loved my exchange semester in California - I've always wanted to get to know the American culture in depth. My stay helped me become fluent in English (people even told me I've picked up an American accent). I've met a bunch of people and really appreciated their openness, how approachable and friendly they are but also realized a certain superficiality behind it. I'd say my stay helped me better collaborate with different kinds of people, become more open and much more adaptive. By getting to know a new country, it also helps assess your home country, what is good and what could be better. After my exchange semester, I also quickly returned to the States - though to NYC - for an internship to get to know the working culture besides the student life. The experience, I believe, makes me stand out for international roles but also wants me to pursue international roles. Overall, I enjoy being in an international environment with different kinds of people and influences and couldn't imagine living somewhere where none of these influences are felt. My stay in the US also made me curious to not only visit more countries, but to live there as well. Currently, I'm living in Copenhagen - I could imagine living in California for a limited amount of time, but in the long run, I would always prefer being in Europe.



DID YOU KNOW?

- On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, a delegation of Baden-Württemberg university presidents headed by Baden-Württemberg Minister-President of the State of Baden-Württemberg Winfried Kretschmann and Baden-Württemberg Minister for Science, Research and Arts Theresia Bauer honored the state-to-state exchange with their visit at the California State University, East Bay. On May 22nd, 2015, Minister-President Kretschmann, Minister Theresia Bauer, then CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White as well as then Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim P. Smith affirmed the agreement.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2014/2015, Grizelda Kersteen, works as Product Application Engineer at Zeiss Group in Germany - after completing her master's degree in physics at the University of Stuttgart. She became a German citizen in 2019.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2014/2015, Dr. Jana Denking, is working as Clinical Psychologist at the University Hospital Tübingen, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2014/2015, Alyssa Soto, is working as Archaeologist and Native American Monitor at Red Tail Environmental, California.

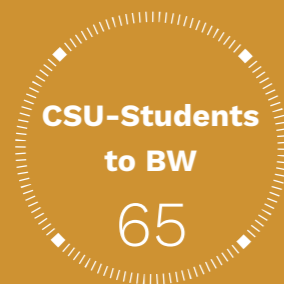
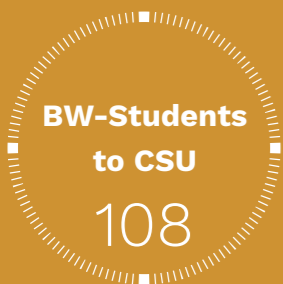


Stuttgart Media University



CSU Chico

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- **Biberach University of Applied Sciences** +
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- Ulm University
- Ulm University of Applied Sciences



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- California State Polytechnic University Pomona
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino



HALIMATU BRUCE

Student of Master's Program Composite Materials at the Hof University of Applied Sciences, Bavaria, Germany

🏠 CSU Long Beach

📍 University of Tübingen, University of Stuttgart

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I am currently doing my master's degree in Bavaria. I am also doing my Master Thesis at a company in Germany.

Impact of Exchange Experience

I made really amazing friends that I am still in contact with. The program really helped me open my horizon and gave me the confidence to come back to Germany to continue my studies and to work here as well. The relationships I built during my exchange program and the experiences I had really changed my life and has made me who I am today. I came to better appreciate learning about other people's culture and not be afraid to step out. It was such an amazing experience to be able to live abroad for a year. I was really immersed in the culture and created so many great memories. The best way to learn was being abroad and we really did learn so much.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Since 2015, the Summer Arts Program between the California State University, Fresno, and the University of Music Trossingen connects Music Students every summer.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2015/2016, Kaslin Ettema, works as Post-Production Video Editor at NBC, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2015/2016, Victoria Thompson, works as University Relations Coordinator at the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC), California.
- Today, CSU-Alumnus of 2015/2016, Brian Platzer, works as a Software Engineer at Bosch's Corporate Research Campus in Renningen, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2015/2016, Jasmin Knoll, is a Doctoral Student at the Department of Urology at the University Hospital Tübingen, Germany.



CSU Long Beach

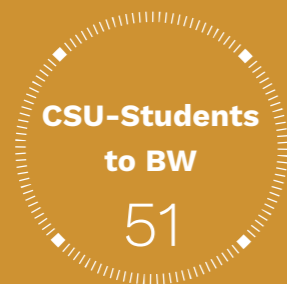


University of Tübingen



University of Stuttgart

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Biberach University of Applied Sciences
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- California State Polytechnic University Pomona
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino
- **CSU Bakersfield +**



JESSICA KRUPPA

Consultant Strategy & Business Design at Monitor Deloitte

University of Tübingen

CSU Bakersfield

Impact of Exchange Experience

The biggest impact of my stay in California definitely was the friendships I built and the connections I made. I decided not to live on campus and moved in with a Californian girl, who lived in Bakersfield and studied at CSUB as well. We became best friends immediately and created so many wonderful, fun memories, which I cherish and love looking back to. The strong bond we built even lasted after my return to Germany and she made me one of her bridesmaids at her wedding. Furthermore, I really learned the value of „paying forward“; one CSUB student I got to know via a Facebook group was so kind to offer me – a total stranger at this point – help to figure out some organizational things prior to my arrival in California, e.g., housing, transfer from airport to Bakersfield, bank account set-up, etc. She explained her kindness by saying “If I would ever be in a similar position, I would appreciate someone helping me out, too”, and I try to live by that ever since. Last but not least, Presidential elections were held during my very impactful exchange semester. It was really interesting to experience this intense election between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump “on-site”, and understand the political system in the US as well as people’s view on it first-hand.



DID YOU KNOW?

- In cooperation with Ulm University and Ulm University of Applied Sciences the *Tutorial Program* was initiated to allow for a successful academic exchange for students of natural sciences and engineering.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2016/2017, Nadia Tinoco, works as Administrative Assistant at CSU San Bernardino.
- Today, CSU-alum of 2016/2017, Maddison Bassow, works as Program Advisor at the CSU Chico.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2016/2017, Jaira Pagkalinawan, is a student of Electrical Engineering at Mannheim University of Applied Sciences, Germany and assists international students as Chief International Buddy.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2016/2017, Matthew Darrow, is a Research Assistant pursuing his master’s degree in Earth Oriented Space Science and Technology (ESPACE) at the Technical University of Munich, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2016/2017, Lukas König, is working as Senior Consultant at Mercedes-Benz Management Consulting, Stuttgart, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2016/2017, Carla Scholz, is working as Bilingual Tutor for the State of Baden-Württemberg at Weingarten, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2016/2017, Thomas Eppel is doing his master’s at the University of Mannheim and supports CSU students in Heidelberg and Mannheim as Program Student Assistant. Tom shared his experience of his exchange at the 25th anniversary celebration in June 2022.

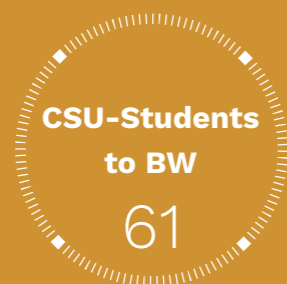
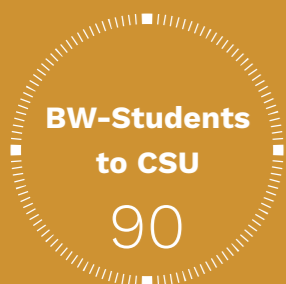


University of Tübingen



CSU Bakersfield

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Biberach University of Applied Sciences
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- Ulm University
- **University of Applied Sciences Ravensburg** +



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino
- CSU Bakersfield
- **CSU Fresno** +
- CSU Channel Islands
- Humboldt State University



JOSETTE MARSH

M.A. Candidate at Leipzig University

🏠 San Francisco State University

📍 Heidelberg University

Connection to the US after the Exchange

Born and raised in California, I currently live in Germany as an M.A. candidate at the Institute for American Studies at Universität Leipzig in Saxony. Since I'm passionate about the intersection of education and public diplomacy, I also work as a Transatlantic Educators Fellow at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut in Sachsen, where I lead school workshops designed to encourage a fuller and more active public dialogue about American life in Central Germany.

Impact of Exchange Experience

I studied abroad at Heidelberg University for my junior year of college, fulfilling my long-term goal to research German literature in a culturally immersive environment. When I returned to San Francisco to finish my Bachelor's degree, I felt galvanized to pursue further opportunities for intercultural exchange, and in 2019 I was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach English in Dortmund, North Rhine-Westphalia, which eventually led me to pursue graduate school in Saxony the following year. My stay in Baden-Württemberg initiated a chain of life-changing professional and personal experiences, and I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today (geographically, academically, or professionally) without CSU IP. Studying abroad in college truly broadened my horizons in unexpected ways. I was exposed to new perspectives, ideas, and ways of life, and I also gained a deeper understanding and respect for other cultures. In addition to the invaluable professional and academic growth I experienced, I'm also a much more empathetic and openminded person than I was before I studied abroad, and I've also improved my ability to ask questions, listen attentively, and reflect on my own positionality and biases.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Summer Arts Program was hosted by the University of Music Trossingen. 30 CSU students attended the "Romantic Songs in Germany" workshop and performed at Castle Freudental in Allensbach.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2017/2018, Julie Parsons, is working as Operations Associate at Discord.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2017/2018, Linus Kaminski, is working as Research Engineer at Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumna of 2017/2018, Isabelle Kühle, is working as Sustainability Consultant at Planetly by One Trust, Berlin, Germany.

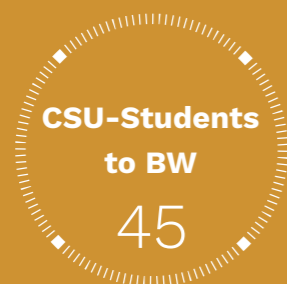
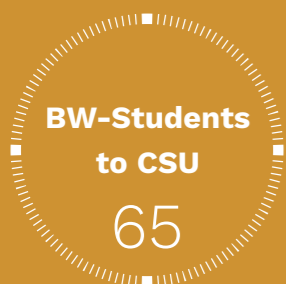


San Francisco State University



Heidelberg University

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Biberach University of Applied Sciences
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- University of Education Freiburg
- University of Freiburg
- University of Education Ludwigsburg
- Ulm University
- Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino
- CSU Bakersfield
- CSU Fresno
- CSU Channel Islands
- Humboldt State University



FRANZISKA WENGER

Consultant for the Initiative Volksbegehren Artenvielfalt bei Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern e.V.

🏠 University of Hohenheim

📍 CSU Fresno

Impact of Exchange Experience

The stay in California let me grow as a person. I improved in tackling new and challenging situations. I could improve my level of English and improve my knowledge about ecological systems of North America. I met many inspiring people, students, professors and people outside university. I learned about the differences of the German and the American university system. This did not directly impact my following professional career, but indeed indirectly and it will for sure in the future. As always when you spend some time abroad, you learn to value and to question at the same time the systems and values in your home country. I for example learned to value the privilege of having access to university without paying fees even more and of having a good system of public transportation.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2018/2019, Nathan Calderon, is an Intern at the German American Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumnus of 2018/2019, Sean Manni, is working as Student Assistant at the California Secretary of State in Sacramento, USA.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2018/2019, Shangshan Mei, is pursuing a master's degree in Management from the European School of Management and Technology Berlin, Germany.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2018/2019, Selena Weltz, is completing her master's in Linguistics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany.
- Today, BW-alumnus of 2018/2019, Mark Hermle, is working as Client Success Manager at Scalable Capital, München, Germany.

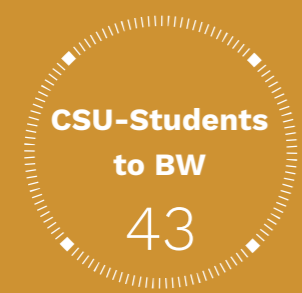
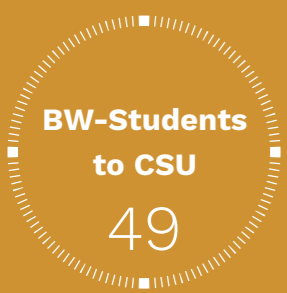


University of Hohenheim



CSU Fresno

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020



Participating BW-Institutions

- Heidelberg University
- University of Tübingen
- University of Music Trossingen
- Reutlingen University (HAW)
- University of Konstanz
- Biberach University of Applied Sciences
- Stuttgart Media University (HAW)
- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HAW)
- University of Mannheim



Participating CSU-Campuses

- CSU Long Beach
- San Francisco State University
- CSU Chico
- CSU Fullerton
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- CSU Stanislaus
- CSU Northridge
- Sonoma State University
- San Diego State University
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU San Bernardino
- CSU Bakersfield
- CSU Fresno
- CSU Channel Islands
- Humboldt State University
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- **CSU Maritime Academy** +



DID YOU KNOW?

- In August 2019, Dr. Jaishankar Raman accepted the position as Director of International Programs at the California State University.
- Former Director Leo Van Cleve accepted a new position as Assistant Vice Chancellor at the California State University.
- On July 16th and on December 6th 2019, the State of Baden-Württemberg and the California State University jointly organized a series of webinars on the topic Creating Climate Change Collaboration (4C) to initiate collaboration and joint research. Dr. Herman Rügner from the Platform Environmental Systems at the University of Tübingen coordinated and facilitated the webinars on the Baden-Württemberg side.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all CSU students of the academic year 2019/2020 were recalled to the U.S. in mid March 2020. The BW students in California could finish their academic year.
- One CSU Student, Joseph Clark, returned to Tübingen in 2021/2022 to continue his exchange.
- Today, CSU-alumna of 2019/2020, Bianca Freeman still lives in Germany. She was one of the few students who stayed during the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany. Bianca settled down with her German-American family in Horb am Neckar, Germany.



KARL HOWE

Presales Engineer at Kappa optronics GmbH

🏠 CSU Chico

📍 University of Tübingen

Connection to Germany after the Exchange

I now live and work in Germany. I work as presales engineer at Kappa optronics GmbH in Göttingen, Niedersachsen. I have been working there since January 2021.

Impact of Exchange Experience

My stay in Baden-Wuerttemberg had a huge impact on my life and professional career. In my time at the University of Tübingen, I became essentially fluent in German. This allowed me to apply for jobs and move back to Germany, where I now use German for my job every single day. Living abroad comes with meeting new people from various cultures, gaining new perspectives, and living new experiences. This, of course, made a more open-minded person to different lifestyles and viewpoints, be it political, religious, or social. Given my German heritage (my father is from Germany), this exchange allowed me to connect with my roots and now I identify more as German than I ever have in my life.



CSU Chico



University of Tübingen

PROSPECT AND FUTURE OF THE STATE-TO-STATE PROGRAM

In 2020, the state-to-state exchange program celebrated its 25th anniversary. With a delay of two (pandemic) years, we are finally able to celebrate the past and future of the program in 2022.

After an academic year 2020-21 without student exchange, we are happy to state that the exchange program relaunched successfully in the Fall Semester 2021. Not only did 47 CSU students, one of them being Ryan Williams, who shared her experience of the exchange at the 25th anniversary celebration in June 2022, and 51 BW students decide to participate at the student exchange, but we also introduced exciting new opportunities, especially for CSU students.

With the Spring Semester 2022, CSU students now have the option to complete a one-semester only exchange at one of the Baden-Württemberg institutions. Next to the student exchange, we are striving to intensify the academic exchange between the California State University and the Baden-Württemberg institutions of higher education, too. A series of webinars in 2019 started off some promising joint research projects. The Faculty Seminar in Baden-Württemberg in June 2022 is going to contribute to further extend the academic ties between the two consortiums.

The alumni presented in this brochure impressively showed the potential impact of a study abroad experience on one's life. With our alumni's stories of lifelong friendships, transforming perspectives, improved career opportunities, and personal growth in mind, we are looking forward to the next 25 years of close friendship and cooperation between the higher education institutions in Baden-Württemberg and the California State University.

The CSU IP Team in Germany
June 2022



Imprint

25 Years of Academic Exchange

The California State University, International Programs
c/o Universität Tübingen, International Office
Wilhelmstr. 9
72074 Tübingen, Germany

Layout and design: design-galaxie.de, Martin Vötsch

Printing: Colorpress Druckerei GmbH, Nürtingen

Special Thanks to Parag Velankar, student assistant of CSU IP Office Tübingen,
for building up the alumni network and his outstanding work on this brochure.

Photography and images:

Cover: stock.adobe.com - Kai, Cover stock.adobe.com - lucky-photo, p. 4 Viviana Rishe, p. 4 Joseph Barrientos, p. 4 Lisa Fecker, p. 4 Luca J, p. 6, p. 8, p. 10, p. 14, p. 22, p. 24, p. 26, p. 36, p. 40, p. 44, p. 48, p. 50, p. 50 University of Tübingen - Friedhelm Albrecht, p. 6 San José State University - David Schmitz Photography p. 6, p. 8 San Diego State University - Jim Brady, p. 10 Campus Reutlingen - Scheuring, p. 12, p. 32, p. 38, p. 48 University of Stuttgart - Regenscheit, p. 18, p. 54 University of Hohenheim Sascha Dauphin, p. 20 University of Music Trossingen - Gabriel Rinaldi, p. 36 San José State University - Sundry Photography, p. 44 University of Konstanz - Inka Reiter, p. 58 Stephen Be-dase, p. 58 Rezaul Karim, p. 58 Catrina Carrigan, p. 58 Simon

Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst Baden-Württemberg
The California State University, International Programs 2022

Reproduction in whole or in part with permission of the publisher only



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

