

Young Transatlantic Leadership Program

Bringing together the next generation of leaders

Call for Applications

Deadline for applications: March 24th 2024 (10 pm EST)

The Young Transatlantic Leadership program is a truly transatlantic, annually rotating immersive leadership exchange. Six participants, four from Germany and two from Canada, will form the YTL24 cohort. Together with participants from the YTL23 cohort, the group will consist of twelve participants and will visit Germany for a two-week study tour in September and October 2024. The program will continue in the following year when six new participants will join the group of young leaders for a two-week tour in Germany.

We welcome applications from young professionals between the age of 27 and 37 (exceptions are welcome) of every discipline and work background, who have already stood out through their professional or personal impact in a local or regional community and demonstrated a deep interest in promoting the transatlantic relationship.

Between September 22nd and October 4th 2024, the participants will travel to Hamburg and Frankfurt am Main. The study tour route will begin in Hamburg on September 22nd and end in Frankfurt am Main on October 4th. The interdisciplinary program will include:

- Exchange with representatives of the civil society
- Discussions with scientists from various disciplines
- Formal discussions among the participants regarding the German-Canadian and transatlantic relationship, and other topics, with representatives from different fields
- Field trips and hands-on activities

Topics that will be covered during YTL are the following:

- It's a changing economy: The global economy faces a dual transition that is occurring simultaneously. New digital applications, such as AI, are creating new business models and opportunities. Additionally, the demand for more sustainable and just-fair solutions questions the current way of life. Mobility, energy, and finance are just some examples of industries that are changing due to this dual transition. We are going to delve deep into the challenges companies face and explore the solutions they are creating to address these issues.
- Increasing polarization in a stressed society: A prevalent theme in the current political discourse in Germany is the notion of a stressed society. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent political and economic turbulences in recent years have left an enduring impression of ongoing exceptional circumstances. In tandem with the call for structural changes, people argue that insecurity and new developments contribute to heightened polarization within German society. We aim to explore this thesis and engage in discussions with various societal groups to understand their perception of the current state of German society and anticipate potential future trajectories.
- Germany at 75: In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were established, representing two states with distinct economic and societal systems on German soil. Seventy-five years later, the face of Germany has undergone substantial changes. The reunification of the two states into a single entity, now a member of the European Union and NATO, was beyond the imagination of many. We aim to trace back to the early days of the state as we recognize Germany today, delving into its historical roots, and gaining a deeper understanding of the current discussions and concerns.

Participation Cost:

The participation cost for the selected participants is 1,250 euros /1,800 Canadian dollars, which covers all primary costs including the following: Accommodation (for 12 nights), breakfast, all program activities, and local transportation (including transportation between Hamburg and Frankfurt am Main). As the organizers aim to generate further funding, the cost might be reduced, and participants might get a refund of overpaid fees.

Travel to and from the Study Tour:

All participants are responsible for their travel to Hamburg and from Frankfurt am Main.

The selected participants can either cover the participation costs themselves or individually find sources of funding to cover the costs through applying to relevant foundations, universities, institutes, organizations and companies. In some cases, the young leader's employer may cover the costs for them. We welcome sponsorship by companies and employers and will provide the participants with a letter of support for this purpose.

Full details of the program as well as the application and selection criteria are available online at www.ytl-initiative.org

Applications must be submitted no later than 24th March 2024 by 10 pm (EST) via e-mail (applications@ytl-initiative.org).

For further information, please contact: Robin Arens at rarens@ytl-initiative.org or Tobias Reuter at treuter@ytl-initiative.org.