

# Study Tour to Germany and Poland FAQ

## 1. Am I Eligible to Apply?

Eligible applicants include Social Studies and English teachers (grades 6-12) in Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield Counties.

## 2. How do I apply?

Complete the attached application.

## 3. When is the application deadline? How long must I wait to be notified?

The 2012 deadline is **January 30**. Application packets must be received by this date. Notification letters will be emailed by **February 12**.

## 4. How much does the study tour cost?

The Holocaust Human Rights Education Center will pay for most of the expenses through the generosity of its donors. HHREC pays for most domestic and international transportation fees, hotel accommodation fees, all breakfasts and six dinners), and any mandatory study tour related fees, such as museum entry fees, bicycle rental fees, etc. Participants will pay only **\$1600**. In addition,

- HHREC does not pay for passport/visa renewal fees.
- HHREC does not pay for expenses incurred during free time.
- HHREC does not pay for incidental hotel costs, including but not limited to long-distance telephone service, Internet service (WiFi), Pay-Per-View, laundry service, mini bar, etc.

Participants will share rooms. There will be a single supplement fee (TBA).

A refundable deposit of **\$500** is required upon acceptance.

## 5. When will the study tour take place?

The study tour will leave JFK on Saturday, **June 30, 2012** via Air Berlin and will return two weeks later on Sunday, **July 15, 2012**.

## 6. What will the travel itinerary look like?

The exact day-to-day itinerary is not yet set. The tour will begin in Berlin and travel to Leipzig, Weimar, Dresden, and Krakow and then return to Berlin.

It will visit the following Holocaust sites: Memorials in Berlin, Wannsee House, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Schindler's Factory.

It will visit the following historic sites: Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall Memorial, Topography of Terror, Jewish Museum, Stasi Museum, Historic Weimar, Jewish Quarter of Krakow.

Among the individual and group speakers will be the Commissioner of the Senate of Berlin for Issues of Integration and Migration, Representatives of the Turkish Union of Berlin-Brandenburg, members of European House: Human Rights and the EU, Daniel Gaede of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, representatives of the Association for Jewish Women in Dresden, The Network for Democracy and Courage in Dresden, Culture for Tolerance Foundation of Krakow.

The specific itinerary will be distributed at the first required seminars that will be held in the late spring 2012 prior to the study trip.

## **7. What are the expectations?**

This is a study tour. In fact, there is not much free time during the two weeks abroad. We demand that all participants come willing to engage, to learn, and to be able to absorb a lot of information during a fun, yet mentally and sometimes physically intense two weeks in Germany.

Each participant will be required to

- Keep a journal during the trip and write a reflection upon return;
- Write a "unit of learning," consisting of one or more lessons on the Holocaust or human rights, and
- Conduct one workshop at the department, local or state level during the 2012 - 2013 school year.
- Make a commitment to the HHREC Education Program Committee by contributing to the work of one of its subcommittees

## **8. Just how "physically intense" is the study tour?**

While the group will travel long distances by plane, train, or bus, participants must often walk distances of several city blocks or more; for example, from a train station to a hotel or between scheduled events. Punctuality is paramount, so walking rather briskly is sometimes necessary.

Participants must also be responsible for their luggage at all times. This can be especially challenging when embarking/disembarking trains. Elevators and escalators are also not omnipresent, so navigating stairways with luggage can be problematic for even the most experienced travelers. In addition to walking, you may participate in at least one bicycle tour. For those who are uncomfortable riding a bike, alternative arrangements may be made.

## **9. Are in-service and/or graduate credits available for study tour participation?**

In-service credits (exact amount TBA) will be awarded by the Staff Resource Center of the City School District of New Rochelle. Graduate credits are under discussion with an accrediting college.