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MONDAY 3 OCTOBER, 2022

GERMAN UNIFICATION DAY OCTOBER 3





German
Ambassador Ute
König. PHOTO BY
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Using past lessons to face current challenges

Message by German Ambassador Ute König on the Day of German Unity

The German Embassy in Port of Spain and all Germans in TT are happy to celebrate today, with all Trinbagonians, the joyous anniversary of German

unification.

On October 3, 1990 – 32 years ago – East and West Germany merged into one single country as a result of a peaceful revolution and bold political decisions.

The recent passing of former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, one of the main international architects of these historical events, has brought back many personal memories of what this peaceful transformation after the Cold War means for the present day life of people in Germany, Europe and in the world.

This example of what humans can achieve together emboldens us to rise up against the enormous challenges of today.

Still recovering from the aftermath of a pandemic, the world is facing several crises in 2022: the war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine, the threat to our international order, an energy crisis, rising inflation, disrupted supply chains, food insecurity and especially the looming of an imminent climate catastrophe.

More hurricanes in the Caribbean, floods in Asia and droughts in East Africa have made most people aware that the clock is ticking, if we want to secure the future of our blue planet and achieve the 1.5 degree target.

Germany continues to co-operate with its Caribbean partners in containing the damage of climate change, in supporting sustainable development in coastal and marine areas, and in maximising the opportunities of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Chancellor Scholz recently promised at the UN General Assembly: “Germany will not abandon countries that are struggling the most in the face of loss and damage as a result of climate change.”

Our shared values and the shared challenges are the basis for an even closer partnership between our two countries as we approach this year’s Conference on Climate Change, COP 27 in Egypt. The stakes are high, the challenges are enormous, but the miracle of the peaceful German reunification in 1990 fills me with hope that nothing is impossible in this world if we all act responsibly and with mutual solidarity.

Mutual solidarity was highlighted this summer as people from all over the world met in Kassel for Germany’s famous quinquennial exhibition of contemporary art. The documenta 15 offered a forum to the arts of the global south to celebrate their cultural ingenuity and creativity.

The art collective Alice Yard from Port of Spain hosted nine artists in residence in Germany to showcase Trinbagonian artistry. Creative exchange is a vital part of cultural co-operation and Alice Yard let us generously share their inspiring ideas of cultural collaboration.

My team and I wish all Trinbagonians all the best in this “diamond jubilee year of independence.” Next year in August, we will be able to celebrate 60 years of establishing diplomatic relations between Germany and TT.



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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

German State Climate Secretary Jennifer Morgan: G7 must be driving force, trailblazer in fight against climate crisis

Ms Morgan, in the fight against the climate crisis, Germany is pinning its hopes among other things on its foreign climate policy. What does this mean?

Never before have the correlations between peace, energy independence, the climate and biodiversity crisis and the need to phase out fossil fuels been as clearly visible as they are today. It is only logical therefore that the climate crisis should have moved into the focus of foreign policy. With its new foreign climate policy, Germany is pulling out all the diplomatic stops in order to achieve progress on climate action and on combating the climate crisis. Our objective is to become the driving force in Europe and worldwide for a global energy transition and greater climate justice. I believe it is especially important for us to show solidarity with and support those who are particularly affected by the climate crisis.

Your position as special envoy for international climate action was created precisely for this purpose. What is your remit?

Among other things, to initiate new partnerships and alliances for more climate protection.

A few weeks ago I was in Indonesia to talk with the government about expanding renewable energies more quickly and decommissioning coal-fired power plants sooner. Our aim is to enter into climate partnerships with countries such as Indonesia with a view to accelerating the pace of climate



German State Climate Secretary Jennifer Morgan.

action. At the same time, we are keen to support those people who are already hard hit by the climate crisis.

I have spoken to people in the Sahel region and in Bangladesh who have been forced by the climate crisis to leave their homes. We must adapt more rapidly to the consequences of climate change and we need new solutions when it comes to dealing with the damage and losses caused by the climate crisis – both will be key topics at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

What opportunities do you have as a climate diplomat to convince partner countries?

It is very important for Germany and Europe to set a good example and demonstrate that investments in sustainable technologies can pave the way for a just and prosperous future. Particularly now, as we witness a terrible war

in our direct proximity, we must accelerate the energy transition and become independent as quickly as possible of fossil energy imports, not only from Russia. At the same time, we are expanding our global partnerships. Through programmes such as the German government's International Climate Initiative, we can provide very concrete support for greater climate protection.

As executive director of Greenpeace, your main focus was to spur on the industrialised countries. After six months in office, how would you say your role and perspective have changed?

My role has changed but my perspective has not. I still stand for the same goals and values and encourage others to do more to protect the climate, drawing on my own networks. It is important to me that we should finally understand that the climate crisis is

an existential crisis that demands decisive responses and solutions from all of us. And by all of us, I mean that we need policymakers, civil society, business leaders and all other stakeholders to stand shoulder to shoulder.

What role in climate action is played by the G7 states?

The G7 must be the driving force and a trailblazer for more climate protection worldwide. As the G7, our aim is to make joint efforts to reduce emissions as quickly as possible in the energy sector, transport and industry, and to phase out coal. It is a question of working together to generate a wave of increased climate ambitions and of also getting other states on board. Simultaneously, we need impetus for more climate justice and clear progress on climate funding.

What progress in terms of climate action will be achieved by Germany's G7 presidency in 2022?

At the end of May, the G7 climate, energy and environment ministers committed themselves for the first time to supporting countries that experience damage and losses as a result of climate change. This is a huge step forward, and shows that we are reaching out to particularly vulnerable states. The climate club and future climate partnerships supported by G7 partners are also important advances. The G7 is sending an important message to the world, and especially to poorer countries: you are not alone, we will support you in dealing with the dramatic consequences of climate change and in taking advantage of new opportunities for development.

Is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine also having an impact on foreign climate policy?

The Russian war of aggression also marks a turning point for climate policy, though different forces are pulling in different directions. We want our ambitious efforts to accelerate the energy transition in Germany to be applied also at the international level. The Russian war of aggression has given rise to a new dynamic around the world, as it is now clear to everyone how climate, energy, security and peace are interconnected. Many states are pushing to expand renewable energies. However, there are also those that are exploiting the war to build up their oil, gas and fossil infrastructures under the pretext of energy security. This makes it all the more important for us to use all diplomatic channels to set the course for more climate protection and faster progress on the global energy transition.

Can the world still achieve the 1.5 degree target?

Scientists tell us that the 1.5 degree target can still be achieved. What we need now are major and rapid changes. Changes that respond to the disruptive impetus of the war and prepare us for a climate-neutral future. The potential for greater climate action is huge. I have just been to Jordan, where an entire region is embarking on a path to more renewable energies. Renewable energies are cheaper than ever before. Never has there been a better chance of achieving a sustainable and just system of energy supply and more climate protection.

Until switching to the Federal Foreign Office, Jennifer Morgan headed the environmental protection organisation Greenpeace International together with Bunny McDiarmid. Since March 2022, she has been state secretary and special envoy for international climate action at Germany's Federal Foreign Office.

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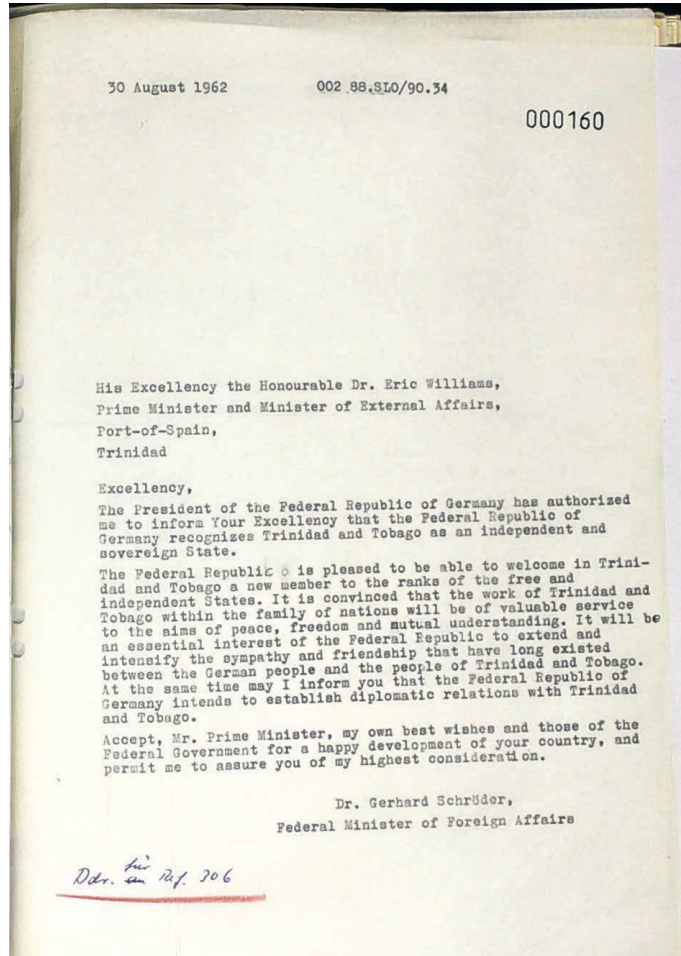
DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

From the archives...

Friendship between Germany, TT

From the depth of the German archives, the letter by then German Federal Foreign Minister Dr Gerhard Schröder to then Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of TT Dr Eric Williams,

Germany is proud to have been among the first countries to recognise TT as an independent and sovereign state in 1962. Sixty years of amicable and prosperous relations bear evidence to a wonderful friendship of two nations.



Letter by then German Federal Foreign Minister Dr Gerhard Schröder to HE The Honourable Dr Eric Williams recognising TT as a sovereign state.

Unidas

The women's network connecting Latin America, Germany and the Caribbean

In 2019, Unidas, the women's network connecting Latin America, Germany and the Caribbean to advance women's participation by bringing together women and women's movements was launched by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. It was a momentous occasion with foreign ministers present from across the Caribbean community and Latin America, including from TT.

Since then more than 250 members from Latin America, the Caribbean and nine partner organisations have joined the network.

Unidas has developed into an important forum for discussing and implementing solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing



Asiya Mohammed, CEO of Conflict Women and a founding member of Unidas. PHOTO COURTESY ANTONY SCULLY

the region: gender inequality, economic development, climate change, gender-based violence, illegal firearms, and conflict.

The network is committed to the equal participation of women

in all areas: politics, society, culture, the media, science and business. Unidas is a central component of the German Foreign Office's Latin America and Caribbean Initiative. Its patron today is German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

TT is represented by Asiya Mohammed, CEO of Conflict Women. As a founding member of Unidas and a member of the advisory board, she is involved in offering strategic direction and leadership to Unidas and selecting the winner of the annual Unidas Award in honour of outstanding commitment to women's right and democracy.

Germany's key role in establishing the topic, Women, Peace and Security as a regular agenda item of the UN Security Council and advancing a "Feminist Foreign Policy" is exemplified through the work of Unidas and its members.

As this critical work is advances, Germany looks forward to expanding the Unidas network throughout the Caribbean and within TT.

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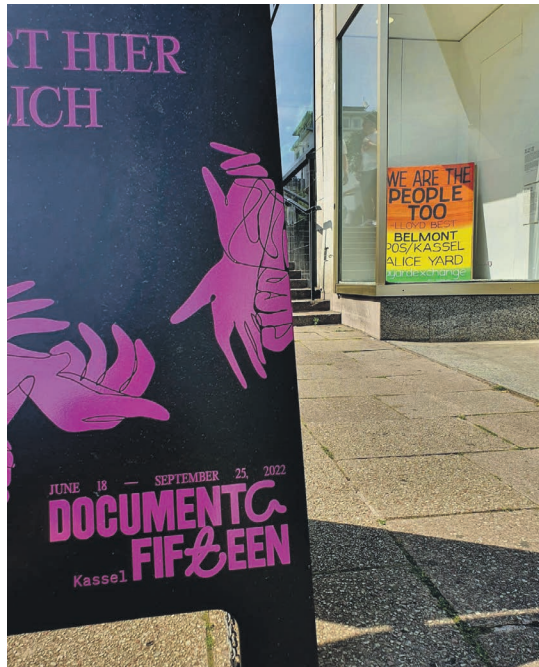
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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022



From left are Sean Leonard, Christopher Cozier, Kriston Chen, Nicholas Laughlin.



Blue Curry von den Bahamas.

Alice Yard at documenta 15

From June 18 to September 25, the Port of Spain-based collective Alice Yard participated in documenta fifteen – the latest edition of one of the world's largest contemporary art events, held every five years in Kassel,

Germany.

Documenta fifteen was curated by the Indonesian collective ruangrupa, whose conceptual model was the lumbung – a communal rice barn typical in rural Indonesia – embodying “principles of collectivity, resource building, and equitable

distribution.”

When Alice Yard was invited to join the documenta fifteen lumbung and work alongside dozens of other collectives from around the world, the curators asked how the group might “translate” what they do to a new physical location and a

broader context.

It became yet another moment to ask: what does Alice Yard actually do? Founded in 2006, Alice Yard began in the backyard at 80 Roberts Street, Woodbrook – the former home of founder Sean Leonard's great-grandmother, Alice Gittens – which for decades was an informal family and communal gathering space. Leonard imagined a space where artists, musicians, and others could meet, collaborate, experiment, and “play” – which manifested over the years in artists' projects and performances, creative residencies, talks, readings, and film screenings, and an unspecified number of other improvised activities.

In February 2020, Alice Yard moved permanently to Granderson Lab on Erthig Road, Belmont. For the collective's core team, it is clear that Alice Yard is not merely a physical location, but a series of relationships and ideas, ways of thinking and working – not a project but a practice, not a programme but a process.

How was this translated to documenta fifteen? Rather than inventing some unprecedented new spectacle, Alice Yard opted to create a space, both physical and conceptual, to bring artists and others together to talk, experiment, exchange, and play, with an ethos of self-determination, generosity, spontaneity, and friendship.

● ALICE YARD continues on Page 7

32nd ANNIVERSARY

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GERMAN UNITY DAY

DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

Tobago inspires German artist Andrea C Hoffer to grow, develop

DAVID CAVE

Andrea C Hoffer has been living and working between TT and Germany since 1997. German-born Hoffer studied Art at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf as a student of the late Professor A R Penck and graduated with her masters in painting.

Hoffer is a German and German-trained artist, whose work remains indigenous to TT. As an artist she has made a profound and indelible impression on the landscape of this twin-island nation. The images are a valid and truthful representation of our scenery.

Hoffer is the right artist who came to TT at the right time. Twenty five years ago, since 1997, the roots that she has firmly established in Tobago affirm that this island is not merely her muse. Tobago unquestionably constitutes an integral element of Hoffer's personal life.

The sister island of Trinidad inspires her to grow and develop as an artist, perpetually modifying her techniques to continually intrigue audiences both locally and abroad, but also effectively convey something more challenging. The wide and



Artist Andrea C Hoffer at her studio.

diverse gamut of work also succeeds in imparting the infinite array of feelings that one may experience down here: the splendour, the awe, the seductive fear of the unknown and the distinctive inexplicability that is TT.

Andrea C Hoffer is represented by Soft Box Art Gallery, Trinidad and Galerie Frank Schlag & Cie, Germany and has exhibited extensively in Germany, Europe and Trinidad, participating in both solo and group exhibitions since 1994.

'Goat Pen' 2007
Tobago egg tempera on canvas 83" x 95" from the exhibition Landscapes of the Times at Soft Box Art Gallery, July to August 2022.



TT artists join the 'lumbung' in Kassel

ALICE YARD from Page 6

During the 100 days of documenta fifteen, the four members of Alice Yard's core team – architect Sean Leonard, artist and curator Christopher Cozier, writer Nicholas Laughlin, and graphic designer Kriston Chen – each spent varying amounts of time in Kassel, based at the WH22 documenta fifteen venue, and hosted nine formal artists in residence, who created and presented site- and time-specific works and actions in diverse media. Building on relationships that, in some cases, stretch back to the earliest days of Alice Yard, these artists were:

- June 18-July 2: Blue Curry
- July 3-17: Luis Vasquez La Roche
- July 5-19: Nicole Cecilia Delgado and Amanda Hernandez
- July 18-30: Shannon Alonzo
- July 31-August 13: Versia Harris
- August 14-28: Michelle Eistrup
- August 29-September 10: Bruce Cayonne
- September 11-25: Ada M Patterson

In addition, Alice Yard welcomed other collaborators to their space in Kassel for less formal visits, interactions, and activations, some planned and some improvised, and presented works by a range of additional artists from their existing network. Other activities included a series of still-walking workshops for children – an offshoot of the #1000mokos project long associated with Alice Yard.

At the start of documenta fifteen, Alice Yard wrote: "During our time in Kassel, instead of concerning ourselves with whether or how an international audience may or may not understand our process, we prefer to ask ourselves: What do we make or do when no one is watching us? What do we talk about when no one else is listening?"

With the 100 days now concluded, it is a moment for reflection, with plans for a series of modest publications documenting the numerous interactions and conversations Alice Yard instigated or joined in Kassel.

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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

Germany supports biodiversity protection in the Caribbean

Coral reefs with a total of two million hectares, extensive mangrove forests and more than 1,400 species of fish make the Caribbean islands one of the world's most important hot spots for biodiversity. The Caribbean ecosystem provides a source of income to a great number of its inhabitants and plays a central role in the adaptation to climate change.

However, this unique and fragile ecosystem is heavily under threat. Rising ocean temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, and natural disasters are

increasingly challenging the continued existence of biodiversity in the region.

By providing long-term sustainable financing structures for the conservation, protection, and management of biodiversity and natural resources in the region, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is addressing these challenges. It is impressive to see how the CBF and the sustainable financing architecture that was born with the Caribbean Challenge Initiative have developed over the past ten years, becoming an important player in the region.

The German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, through KfW, has been supporting the efforts of the CBF ever since its establishment in 2012. And the co-operation continues. In December 2019, a third grant agreement provided additional 25 million EUR to the CBF Endowment.

The German government is proud to be the largest contributor to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund with total grants equalling more than 90 million EUR. Germany believes in the valuable work that CCI and CBF, the national conservation trust funds,

governments, and NGOs are doing and would like to express its gratitude for the continuous

engagement and fruitful co-operation with the regional actors in this field.



Green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*.
PHOTO COURTESY PICTURE ALLIANCE, J.W. ALKER



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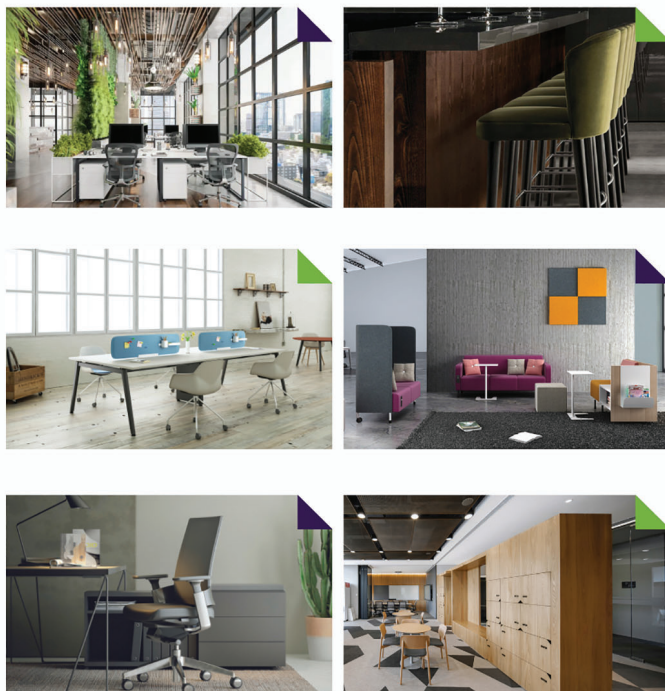
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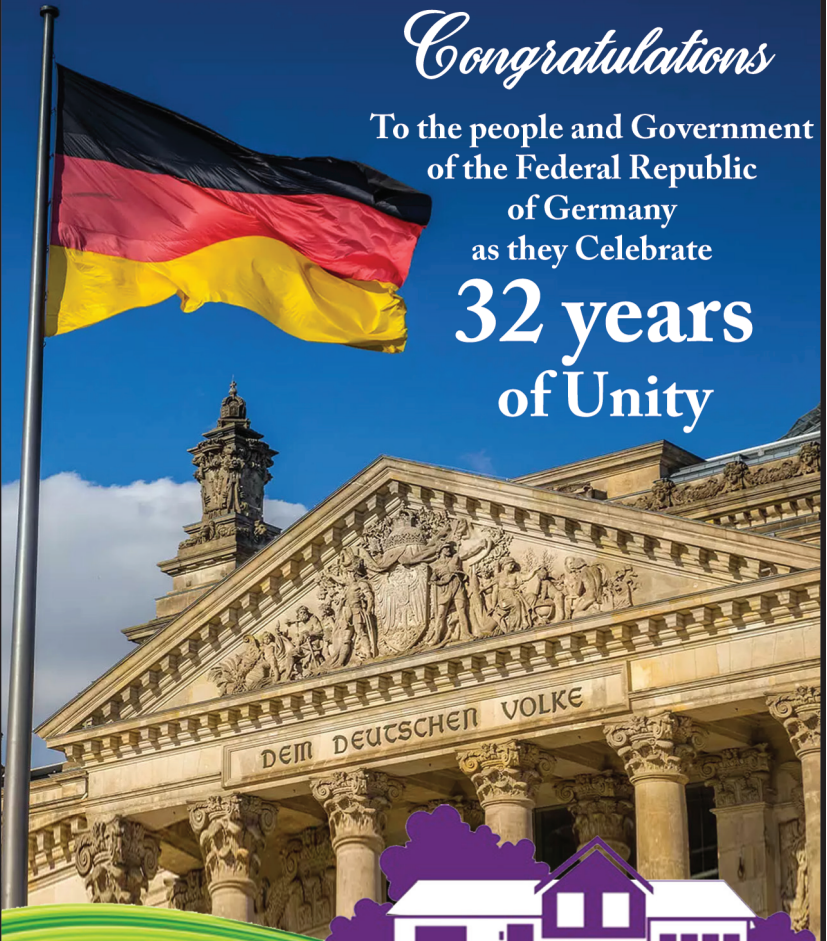
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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

Attractive career opportunities for international skilled workers

Are you a skilled worker, a student, an academic person, and looking for a job or study opportunity abroad?

Germany might well be the place for you to go. There is a great variety of prospects.

Find out more on language courses, study and work in Germany below and on the following pages.

In light of Germany's demographic change, one of the German government's most pressing tasks is also to secure its skilled labour base.

It was to this end that it introduced the Skilled Immigration Act, which has been in force since 2020. This enables skilled workers from non-EU countries to gain more straightforward access to the German labour market. This was necessary since ever more companies have been unable to fill even well-paid positions that offer excellent prospects for personal development in fields ranging from the trades to engineering.

Previously, only skilled workers with academic training had unlimited access to the job market, but this now also applies to skilled workers with a vocational qualification obtained abroad. The prerequisite for this is recognition of the qualification by a responsible body within Germany.

If the skilled worker has enough money to live on and their knowledge of German is sufficient for the work they are aiming to do, they can enter the country to look for a job. They will receive a residency permit and can work a trial period of up to ten hours per week.

A similar regulation now applies to applicants for places in training and education. Previously only those interested in studying for a university degree were able to enter the country to seek a place, but now those seeking other kinds of training are also eligible. The prerequisite for this is knowledge of German, a high school leaver's certificate from a German school abroad or a school qualification for university

entry, a maximum age of 25, and independent funds to support you.

Some basic German language skills are required. But learning a new language can be quite fun. UWI and Alliance Francaise offer German classes locally, and there are also various online courses of good quality available.

More information can be found at the website Make it in Germany: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/>



© Facts about Germany

Prosenjit, a software developer from India, holds his 'Blue Card' for foreign skilled workers at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bamf). There are attractive opportunities for international skilled workers in Germany. PHOTO COURTESY PICTURE ALLIANCE_DPA_DANIEL_KARMANN




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Best Wishes to the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Germany as they celebrate and observe the Day of German Unity




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Vibrant nation of culture

Germany's reputation as a great European cultural nation is based on famous names, its very vibrant art scene, and cosmopolitan diversity.

Germany sees itself as one of the great European cultural nations. A unique feature here is the federal structure of culture, which has resulted in extraordinary variety in terms of cultural outlets and their sponsors. The emphasis of the country's federal tradition was important to the fathers and mothers of the Basic Law.

Not only the Federal Republic

of Germany founded in 1949, but also the Germany that was reunified in 1990 has consciously upheld the federal traditions and left the federal states firmly responsible for cultural policy.

One of the effects of Germany having arisen from many small and medium-sized states and free cities, there are, among other things, around 142 theatres and 130 professional orchestras (which are in some instances paired with public radio stations). In addition, more than 7,200 museums and exhibition venues form an unprecedented gallery scene.

Germany's reputation as a

major cultural nation rests on the great names of the past, such as Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms in music, Goethe, Schiller, and Thomas Mann in literature.

Moreover, there are exceptional examples of contemporary artistic positions in all genres of art – in particular in painting with artists such as Gerhard Richter, Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer and Rosemarie, as well as in photography with Andreas Gursky, Wolfgang Tillmans, and Candida Höfer.

Cultural production has increasingly embraced outside influences on the basis of its own traditions and developed



Visitors stand in front of the picture 'The neighbour who wants to fly' from 1984 in the Minsk Kunsthau in Potsdam for the press preview of the exhibition by Wolfgang Mattheuer. The Minsk Kunsthau in Potsdam is the most recent project of the Hasso Plattner Foundation. The former terrace restaurant 'Minsk,' built in the 1970s in the modernist style of the GDR, has become a place for encounters between modern and contemporary art. PHOTO COURTESY PICTURE_ALLIANCE_PATRICK_PLEUL

a new narrative. Young artists from migratory backgrounds have found expressive means, both poetic and musical, to respond to the encounter and fusion of different cultural backgrounds.


International events

The Berlin Film Festival, the International Frankfurt Book Fair, the Bayreuth Festival, the Berlin Theatertreffen, the documenta (every five years only), Rock am Ring, and the Ruhr Triennale are among the

most important cultural events in Germany.


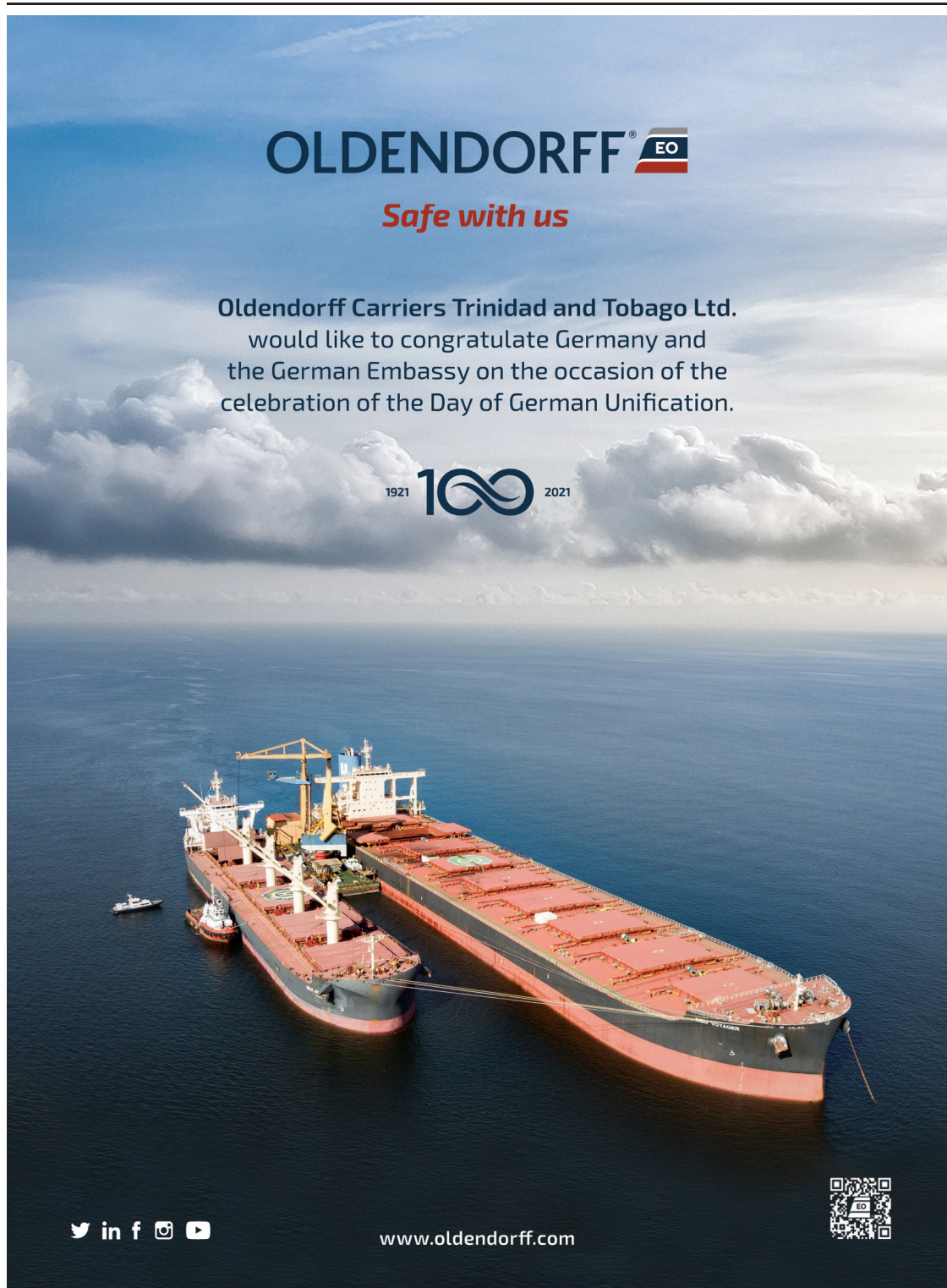
In Germany, there are a total of 46 monuments listed under Unesco protection – in Europe only Italy has more World Heritage sites. The Humboldt Forum, which opened in the rebuilt Berlin Palace, forms a new cultural centre in the capital. Characterised by cosmopolitanism, it will enable an international exchange of knowledge and intercultural dialogue.

© Facts about Germany




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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

Do you know...

Interesting facts about Germany

The largest cathedral and third largest church in the world is the Cologne Cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe and has the second-tallest spires and largest facade of any church in the world.

It took over 600 years to complete – construction started in 1248 and ended in 1880.

Even with 600 years of careful measuring, things didn't work exactly right. The North Tower clocks in at 157.38 metres (516.33 feet), while the South Tower is seven centimetres (2.75 inches) higher.

During World War II, Cologne Cathedral was hit by 14 bombs, but the building did not fall. Repairs to the damaged parts were finally finished in 1956, though some sections were deliberately left unprepared as a memorial to what had happened.

Like most cathedrals, the Kölner Dom has a set of bells, the largest of which is called St Peter's Bell, or Dicke Pitter ('Fat Peter') in Kölsch, the local dialect. Peter is reserved for special occasions like Christmas and New Year; weighing in at 24 tons, he's not someone to mess with.

Pigeons are one of the greatest dangers for the cathedral, since their faeces damage the delicate sandstone. That's why the cathedral works have adopted a falcon that's responsible for taking care of the pigeons.

October Fest started out as a wedding celebration

The first Oktoberfest took place on October 12, 1810. It lasted for five days and was meant to celebrate the marriage between the crown prince of Bavaria (who later became King Ludwig I) to Princess Therese.

It eventually grew into a yearly anniversary. As time passed, booths became beer halls and brewers now build temporary structures that hold upwards of 6,000 people.

Each year, more than six million people come to celebrate Oktoberfest consuming about two million gallons of beer.

Eating and drinking

There are well over 7,000 varieties of beer in Germany brewed in 1,300 breweries.

The Weihenstephan Brewery claims to be the world's oldest Brewery. Weihenstephan Monastery Brewery outside Munich was established in 1040. Its close neighbour is the Technical University of Munich, which has a renowned Department of Brewing and Beverage Technology.

In Bavaria, the average person drinks around 150 litres of beer per year – that is equivalent to 22.72 cases of Stag or Carib per person.

In 1844, King Ludwig I of Bavaria's attempt to impose a beer tax provoked a serious outbreak of "beer riots." They were only diffused when the King ordered a ten per cent reduction in the price of beer.

Another fun fact about Germany is that it has over 300 kinds of bread and this does not include all the regional varieties. There are also over 1,200 kinds of pastries, cakes, and other baked items.

Germany also has over 1,000 varieties of sausages. There is a museum in Berlin dedicated to currywurst, which was created in the late 1940s in Berlin. After World War II there was only poor quality meats to be found and the very cheap sausages were camouflaged by sprinkling curry powder on them.

Oktoberfest Tracht



The currywurst has become an essential Berlin experience, served sliced with ketchup. Its history is celebrated at the Deutsches Currywurst Museum, not far from Checkpoint Charlie.

The German language

The German language is renowned for its difficulty.

The German alphabet has extra letters:

ä, ö, ü, and ß, and the German pronunciation of these extra letters do not exist in the English language.

Donaudampfschiffahrtselektrizitätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtengesellschaft is the longest word to be published – it's 79 letters long!

(Translation: Danube Steam ship electricity main depot construction sub-official company)

Attempting to escape jail is legal in Germany

In Germany, it is considered a basic human instinct to do whatever you can to be free. So, if a prisoner attempts to escape from prison, they will not receive additional punishment for the act itself.

However, if the prisoner damages any property, hurts anyone, murders anyone, or commits any other crimes while they are attempting to escape, they will be charged for those crimes.

World famous fairy tales

Cinderella, Snow White and the seven dwarves, Hansel and Gretel are just a few of the fairy tales written by the Brothers Grimm.

Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm didn't actually write the fairy tales in their famous book, but roamed through Germany and studied folklore and gathered stories told and passed down the generations. Grimm's Fairy Tales (Children's and Household Tales) was first published in 1812.

Today there is even a vacation route mapped out by the German Tourist Board – the Fairy Tale Road, which echoes the villages, and hamlets that inspired the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales.

*Best wishes to
the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Germany
as they celebrate and observe this festive day of
German Unification.
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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2022

A wide range of offers and good support: Stefan Kögler from the Centre for Study and Teaching at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) explains in an interview with Christina Pfänder what Germany has to offer international students.

Mr Kögler, why is Germany a good place for international students?

Germany offers liveable cities, political stability, renowned universities and an interesting job market. In addition, there are generally no tuition fees. At TUM, we have a special position owing to our entrepreneurial orientation and the combination of technology with medicine and the social sciences. Thanks to our good results in numerous rankings, we are also very well known internationally.

How international are German universities?

According to current surveys by the German Student Union, the proportion of international students nationwide is around 11 per cent. A direct comparison with other countries is difficult here because there are very large structural differences in the university sector. With almost 40



There are a wide range of offers and good support for international students in Germany. PHOTO COURTESY @PICTURE_ALLIANCE_LEV DOLGACHOV

housing and living expenses have to be paid. In addition, a sufficient knowledge of German is very helpful in everyday life and in social interaction; students in English-language degree programmes in particular sometimes become aware of this only when they arrive in Germany.

How are students from abroad helped in Germany?

In Germany, there is a very broad range of counselling services provided by the student services, the universities and also by student initiatives. At TUM in particular, there are counselling centres for international students, our own buddy and scholarship programmes, and support in finding accommodation and getting visas. We also have over 120 student associations that are central to social and academic integration. Among them are numerous country groups and organisations dedicated to networking international students.

Good reasons for German universities

per cent, however, the TUM is certainly one of the institutions of higher education with the highest proportion of international students – a great enrichment for our university community.

What challenges do international students face in Germany?

A central prerequisite for academic success is social and academic integration. Financing is an important issue: even if there are no fees for studying,

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