



Office of National Scholarships

4202 E. Fowler Ave. ALN 244

Tampa, Florida 33620-5844

Tel: 813.974.3087

<http://ons.usf.edu>

nationalscholarships@usf.edu

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Contact: Lauren Schumacher Chambers, MPH

lschumac@honors.usf.edu

Laura Badertscher Receives Fulbright Award

Ms. Laura Badertscher of the University of South Florida has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) grant to Germany. The Fulbright ETA program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright grant will cover the costs of round-trip transportation to Germany and maintenance for the academic year.

An Honors College student, Badertscher graduated from USF in May 2011 with a BA in German Language and Literature, a BA in International Studies and a minor in Economics. She will spend nine months teaching English in Germany. Badertscher has always been fascinated with German society and has devoted much of her studies to learning the language, history and culture.

Badertscher represents the USF College of the Arts and Sciences and the Honors College through her noted academic achievements inside and outside of the classroom. Badertscher served as a Young Ambassador for the DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) promoting scholarship and research in Germany by organizing events and presentations at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College. She also served as a liaison between the DAAD, Education Abroad offices and interested students. Badertscher was recognized by *German World Magazine* as an Inspiring Student and studied abroad in China, Panama and Germany. She volunteered for the Model UN WHO and volunteered at the Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages, Literature and Film. She also conducted undergraduate research with Dr. Margit Grieb and Dr. Kiki Caruson.

With her father in the Navy, Badertscher spent many years traveling. Although she lived in seven states, she considers Tampa, FL to be her home. After her Fulbright ETA, she hopes to enroll in a graduate program focusing on Foreign Policy specific to the political and economic development of nation states. Her career goal is to become a Diplomat with the State Department.

The Office of National Scholarships identifies, recruits and mentors high achieving students to apply for national merit scholarships across all disciplines. The scholarships and fellowships are for creative, motivated and academically strong students who are leaders in and out of the classroom.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual

appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

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