

The History Travel Award

Introduction

The first of its kind at Ryerson, the History Travel Award represents a unique and important opportunity for students in the Arts and Contemporary Studies programme. The award was founded by Dr. Arne Kislenko with the money he received after winning the inaugural “Best Lecturer” competition held by the *TV Ontario* programme *Big Ideas* in 2005. TD Meloche Monnex, a key provider of insurance products for professionals and alumni, sponsored the competition with a \$10,000 donation to the winner’s institution. Arne decided to use these funds to establish an endowed award to honour and inspire students, who after all made the win possible. With history and travel being two of Arne’s great loves, the idea of the History Travel Award was born.

Since its creation in early 2006 a number of individuals, including current and former Ryerson faculty members and students have generously contributed to the Award. Contributions have also been received from the History Department and from the Arts and Contemporary Studies programme. The Award has also received support through the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS). Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund should contact Jill Witherspoon, Director of Development, Faculty of Arts, at 416-979-5000 ext. x1-4796 or at jwithers@ryerson.ca

The Idea Behind the Award

Travel is not only an exceptional means to study the world and further one’s curiosity in it, but it also offers an exciting opportunity for students to develop their sense of self within the world. The challenges of travel give students more appreciation of the diversity in the world, and simultaneously serve to increase their self-confidence and independence. This is the philosophy that Arne had in mind when developing the Award.

Many universities, including Ryerson, offer courses and programmes of study overseas, notably in France, the United Kingdom, and Italy, among other countries. However comparatively few universities focus on Germany. As Arne has strong professional and personal ties in Germany, encouraging students to study there seemed like an obvious choice. Berlin is a wonderfully cosmopolitan and exciting city and home to one of Europe’s best universities, the Freie Universität Berlin. Over the past few years Arne has worked closely with academics attached to the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universität on a number of publications and conferences. He also taught there in the summer of 2006 - an experience which he ranks amongst the best he has ever had as a teacher – and has accepted an offer to return this spring and summer. In addition, he has developed close friendships with faculty there, and expects to spend even more time in Berlin over the next few years as he pursues his own research and international teaching opportunities. The city’s ‘fit’ with the idea of a student scholarship was therefore perfect.

Freie Universität Berlin and FUBiS

The Freie Universität Berlin is also home to an excellent international, inter-disciplinary summer programme known as FUBiS (*Freie Universität Berlin International Summer*). Full details

of the programme are available at <http://www.fubis.org> With many courses taught in English and most German students fluent in the language, the FUBiS programme will offer Ryerson students a friendly and familiar environment. The school (being in the heart of Berlin) will simultaneously offer students a wonderful city in which to challenge themselves and live and learn in a foreign culture. It is precisely this blend that makes the History Travel Award so unique, and precisely the grounds on which Ryerson University has secured an agreement with the FUBiS programme.

Award Value

The 2008 Award amounts to around \$4500 which should cover travel, accommodation, and tuition. Please note that the costs for the spring term are higher than for the summer and that this will affect the total value of the award. The award winner will be expected to cover their own living expenses (beyond accommodation) for either term while in Berlin. Please see the section below entitled *What Expenses Does the Award Cover?* Please note that students are welcome to attend *both* terms but that the award is designed only for *one* term. Discounts may be available through FUBiS for those students wishing to attend both terms.

Applying

For the 2008 award, one Ryerson student in the Arts and Contemporary Studies programme will be selected on a competitive basis to go to FUBiS programme for the six week summer II term (**May 31 through July 12**) **OR** the four week summer III session (**July 19 through August 16**). Given timing and costs, applicants may want to focus more on the **summer III term**. A committee of faculty and selected former students will review application files consisting of:

- 1) two letters (or emails) of reference
- 2) a résumé with full contact information including email and phone
- 3) a breakdown of grades achieved in all university courses*
- 4) a statement from Ryerson University Office of Student Services regarding financial status and need**
- 5) a statement of interest and intent, maximum of 500 words, indicating how the opportunity will benefit their further study and/or personal development
- 6) an indication of what term(s) you are applying/available for
- 7) an oral interview with the committee may also be required
- 8) **All** applicants **must** be able to meet the requirements listed below

* official transcripts are not required. Please note that the committee may require verification of your grades

** please contact the Office of Student Services for an OTSS budget statement form

Electronic (preferred) or paper applications can be sent to:

History Travel Award Committee
Attn: Dr. Arne Kislenko
Department of History, JOR 510
Ryerson University
350 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3
akislenk@ryerson.ca

All applications must be received **on or before 17:00 hours Friday, April 18 2008**.
Announcements regarding the winner will be made as soon as possible thereafter. Please note that as the successful applicant will have to make travel arrangements very quickly he/she must make themselves available to the Committee as soon as possible after being notified. Arrangements will likely be made through Dr. Kislenko.

Weighing the Criteria

The statement of interest will be weighed at 50% of the application materials. Remaining materials, including the oral interview if required, will account for 50%. Specific weighting of each applicant and the results of the competition **will not** be released. **Please note that the History Travel Award Committee reserves the right not to offer the Award in any year for any reason.**

Studying, Working, and Living in Berlin

The successful applicant will choose **two** English language courses from among the History, Political Science, Economics, Culture, and Literature courses offered this spring or summer at the FUBiS. Details of the programme and the course offerings can be found at http://www.fubis.org/en/akademisches_programm/term_2/index.html (spring) and http://www.fubis.org/en/akademisches_programm/term_3/index.html (summer) or at the end of this document. Upon successful completion of the programme, the student will receive an independent study credit in the ACS programme at Ryerson University. Official credits and a transcript from the FUBiS will be issued, but FUBiS courses *will not* receive direct equivalency to Ryerson University. The successful applicant will also be expected to submit to the committee a final report of no more than 2000 words on their stay in Berlin. Ryerson's ACS programme will also issue official letters attesting to the student's successful completion of the two select courses. Language courses are available through FUBiS, but can be expensive and are unfortunately not covered under the terms of the Award. There are also many other language courses available in Berlin through private organizations. For more details on a student's life in Berlin see the letter from Julian Reid (the 2007 Award winner) at the end of this document.

Additional Funding

The Office of International Affairs at Ryerson University offers students studying overseas funding through the **Ryerson International Exchange Opportunity Scholarship (RIEOS)**. The successful applicant will be expected to apply for additional assistance through this programme once letters of permission has been offered and their receipt of the Award is confirmed. Further information on the RIEOS can be found at:

<http://www.ryerson.ca/oia/students/ryerson/fundingopps/RIEOS.html> Information on the letters of permission and other requirements for overseas studying can be found at: <http://www.ryerson.ca/oia/students/ryerson/studyabroad/>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to investigate opportunities for additional funding during their stay through the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**. Information can be found at: <http://www.daad.org/?p=canada>

Under the terms of the **Youth Mobility Exchange** programme discussed below, the successful applicant will be eligible to apply for employment in Germany on their own. The Award does not assist in this respect. The idea of the Award is to allow students to take courses at FUBiS for credit at Ryerson while gaining invaluable experience living in another city and country. Beyond the classroom, it is sincerely hoped that the successful applicant will use the time and money he/she has to see the great city of Berlin and to travel the country before or after completion of the study programme.

What Expenses Does the Award Cover?

Return airfare between Toronto and Berlin will be covered by the History Travel Award. Flight arrangements (economy airfare) will be made by agreement between the successful applicant and the committee. Living accommodations (single or shared student residence at a FUBiS facility) for the duration of the term in Berlin will also be covered by the Award. Up to **two** courses in the FUBiS programme for the spring or summer term will also be covered, as will the programme and orientation fee that provides for FUBiS excursions in Berlin. One or more of the optional FUBiS weekend trips Prague, Weimar, or Dresden may also be covered depending on the coverage of mandatory expenses. Please note that health and travel insurances **are not** provided by the Award. Other living expenses in Berlin during the stay **are not** covered. In general, the city is slightly more expensive than Toronto but quite reasonable by European standards. By way of basic estimation, students can expect to budget between \$1000-\$2000 for a stay of four weeks.

Requirements

- 1) Applicants **must be enrolled in the Arts and Contemporary Studies programme**. Students at **all** stages of their programme are eligible, including those eligible for graduation in the spring 2008 session. There are **no** formal requirements that candidates have taken or are taking any particular courses at Ryerson, or that they be registered in the history option or global studies stream of the ACS programme. However, they will be expected to demonstrate a genuine appreciation of and interest in German history, culture, and contemporary affairs. Fluency in German is also **not** required, but willingness to learn and use the language is of primary importance.
- 2) Applicants **must be in good academic standing** at Ryerson University and have an accumulated GPA of 3.00 at the time of application. Grades **will not** be the principal determining factor in deciding the award, but good standing and decent grades will allow the committee to better judge an applicant's ability to handle course material and instruction while at the FUBiS.

- 3) Applicants **must meet the conditions of financial need** established by the Office of Student Services.
- 4) Applicants **must be flexible in making travel arrangements**. The first term begins May 31 through July 12 and the second term runs July 19 through August 16. Flight arrangements for the trip will be arranged to get the best possible price while giving the candidate an opportunity to either go before or remain after the term to travel.
- 5) Applicants **must be Ontario residents and Canadian citizens or hold citizenship within the European Union between the ages of 18 and 35 at the time of their application**. The successful applicant **must already be in possession** of a valid and subsisting passport issued by Canada and/or a European Union member state in order to travel, so all applicants are encouraged to apply for or show proof of the issuance of their passport at the time of application for this award (i.e. a photocopy).
- 6) If he or she holds only Canadian citizenship, the successful applicant **must** apply for the German government's **Youth Mobility Programme**, which entitles Canadian citizens between 18 and 35 to go to Germany for study, work, or travel for up to 12 months. Applicants to this programme must:
 - a) submit two fully completed and signed application forms
 - b) submit two recent passport pictures (not older than 3 months, with a frontal view of the face, white background)
 - c) submit a valid Canadian passport (valid for at least 3 months after your return)
 - d) submit evidence of flight reservations for both directions of travel
 - e) submit evidence of health insurance coverage for the entire duration of stay
 - f) submit a reference letter signed by ACS Programme Director Klaas Kray and Dr. Kislenco explaining the Award and its mandate
 - g) submit a reference letter/confirmation of enrolment from the FUBiS acknowledging receipt of the student under the terms of the Award
 - h) submit proof of accommodation for the stay intended
 - i) submit a current bank statement
 - j) submit one set of photocopies of the above along with the originals

Further details are available through the German Embassy in Ottawa:

<http://www.ottawa.diplo.de/Vertretung/ottawa/en/Startseite.html>, or Consulate General:

77 Bloor St. West, Suite 1702
 Tel.: 416-925-2813 Fax: 416 925 2818
 Email: mail@Germanconsulatetoronto.ca
 Website: www.toronto.diplo.de

Mailing address: P.O. Box 523, Stn. P., Toronto, ON M5S 2T1

Further Information

Any questions about the Award can be directed to Dr. Arne Kislenco via email at akislenk@ryerson.ca or by phone at 416-979-5000 ext. 6206.

Information about financial requirements mandated by Ryerson University's Office of Student Financial Assistance can be found at: <http://www.ryerson.ca/financialaid>

Information about working, studying, and travelling in Germany can be found at: <http://www.ottawa.diplo.de/Vertretung/ottawa/en/Startseite.html>

Information about grants and scholarships via the German Academic Exchange Service can be found at: <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/index.en.html>

Information about the summer studies programme offered at Freie Universität Berlin (FuBIS) can be found at: <http://www.fubis.org>

Information about the JFK Institute is at: <http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de>

Summer 2008 Courses - FUBiS (Freie Universität Berlin International Summer)

FUBiS Summer Term II
May 31st - July 12th, 2008

Course Schedule

No.	A Track - Monday & Thursday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
1.1	Globalization & Global Governance (Dr. Thomas Greven)	English	72	6	1.200 €
1.2	The "New" Berlin and its Places of Memory - as represented in Film, Drama, Museums, and Urban Sites (Dr. Markus Wessendorf)				
1.3	German Exile Literature: Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht, Theodor W. Adorno (Dr. Peter Rosenbaum)	German			
No.	A Track - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
1.4	German Language Beginner 1	German	108	6	1.200 €
1.5	German Language Beginner 2				
1.6	German Language Intermediate 1				
1.7	German Language Intermediate 2				
1.8	German Language Advanced 1				
1.9	Business German				
No.	B Track - Tuesday and Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
1.10	Understanding the European Union: Internal & External Affairs (Dr. Ingo Peters, Dr. Ulrich Brückner)	English	72	6	
1.12	Vampires and Vamps, Mad Scientists and Manic Serial Killers: Weimar Cinema Between Aesthetic Modernism and (Anti-)Modern Discourses (Julian Hanich)				1.200 €
1.13	Borders & Crossings: German Literature and Culture from Romanticism to the Present (Dr. Peggy Setje-Eilers)				

1.14	Music Composition: Compose, Rehearse & Perform (Dr. Samuel Adler)				1.200 € *
1.15	Espionage (Dr. Arne Kislenko)				1.200 €
1.16	European Management Environment (Dr. Larry Bridwell)				
1.17	Berlin's Modernisms (Dr. Andrea Scott)				
No.	C Track (intensive) - Monday through Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
1.18	Intensive German Language Beginner 1	German	180	10	2.000 €
1.19	Intensive German Language Beginner 2				
1.20	Intensive German Language Intermediate 1				
1.21	Intensive German Language Intermediate 2				
1.22	Intensive German Language Advanced 1				
No.	D Track (intensive) - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
1.23	Sustainability Governance and Law (Klaus Bosselmann) June 28 - July 12, 2008	English	45	4	800 €

* Please note that the program fee of the Music Composition Course is € 600.

Course selection:

Academic and Language Courses (track A and B) can be combined. Course enrolment is guaranteed after complete registration and full payment of course tuition and program fee.

One week time schedule

	A Track Courses		B Track Courses	C Track Courses	D Track Course
	Subject classes	Language classes			
Monday	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Tuesday	-	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30

			pm 2 - 3.30 pm	pm 2 - 3.30 pm	pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Wednesday	-	study visit 9 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	-	study visit 9 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	-
Thursday	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Friday	-	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Total	18 Contact Hours / Week		12 Contact Hours / Week	30 Contact Hours / Week	24 Contact Hours / Week

**FUBiS Summer Term III
July 19 - August 16th, 2008**

Course Selection

No.	A track - Monday & Thursday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
2.1	Architecture In Berlin: A Walk through History (Dr.Hammer-Schenk, Dr. Schilling, Dr. Schmitz)	English	48	4	800 €
2.2	Berlin: East meets West -- Past Meets Present (Dr. Dirk Verheyen)				
2.4	The European Union in the 21st Century -- Internal and External Challenges (Dr. Ingo Peters, Dr. Ulrich Brückner)				
2.5	Seduction and Terror: The Third Reich (Dr. Ronald Smelser)				
2.6	Berlin Today: Photographing the Multicultural City (Dr. Bruce Spear)				
2.7	Metropole Berlin in Literatur und Kultur von 1945 bis zur Gegenwart (Dr. Peter Rosenbaum)				
No.	A track - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition

2.8	German Language Beginner 1	German	72	4	800 €
2.9	German Language Beginner 2				
2.10	German Language Intermediate 1				
2.11	German Language Intermediate 2				
2.12	German Language Advanced 1				
2.13	Business German				
No.	B track - Tuesday & Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
2.14	Islam & The West: Deconstructing the Other - Going Beyond the Clash of Civilization and Intercultural Dialogue - (Carmen Becker)	English	48	4	800 €
2.15	The Cold War (Dr. Arne Kislenko)				
2.16	Law, Politics, and Society in Comparative Perspective (Dr. Helen Hartnell)				
2.17	Government Institutions and Business Strategies (Dr. Larry Bridwell)				
2.18	From Ancient Sculpture to Action Painting: Art of the Western World (Dr. Frank Schmitz)				
2.19	German Film: "Old Masters and moderne Meister: The Cinema of Fritz Lang and Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau" (Julian Hanich)				
2.20	Buy-Buy, Berlin: Cultures and Critiques of the Marketing of Modernity and Postmodernity, 1871-Present (Dr. Eric Jarosinski)				
2.21	Jewish History and Representation of the Holocaust in Berlin (Thorsten Wagner)				
2.22	Politics of Sexuality: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow -- The Contemporary European Metropolis Berlin (Dr. Barbara Wolbert)				

2.23	Global Politics: How to Cope with a World in Disarray? (Dr. Klaus Segbers)				
No.	C track - Monday through Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
2.24	Intensive German Language Beginner 1	German	120	6	1.200 €
2.25	Intensive German Language Beginner 2				
2.26	Intensive German Language Intermediate 1				
2.27	Intensive German Language Intermediate 2				
2.28	Intensive German Language Advanced 1				
No.	D Intensive track - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Language	Contact Hours	ECTS-Credits	Tuition
2.29	Intensive European Studies, Berlin - Munich - Prague (2 weeks Berlin, 3 weeks Munich & Prague) Joint Course of FUBiS & LMU Munich July 21, to August 22 (29), 2008 www.european-study.de (Dr. Ulrich Brückner und Dr. Franco Algeri)	English	100/ 72+72	8/ 6+4	see link on the left

Course selection:

Academic and Language Courses (track A and B) can be combined. Course enrolment is guaranteed after complete registration and full payment of course tuition and program fee.

One week time schedule

	A Track Courses		B Track Courses	C Track Courses	D Track Course
	Subject courses	Language courses			
Monday	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Tuesday	-	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Wednesday	-	study visit 9 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	-	study visit 9 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	

Thursday	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Friday	-	-	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm	9 - 10.30 am 11 am - 12.30 pm 2 - 3.30 pm
Total Contact Hours per Week	18		12	30	24

A Note from Julian Reid (2007 History Travel Award Winner)

History is everywhere in Berlin. I landed at Templehoff airport, where planes from West Germany landed with supplies for the encircled West Berlin during the Berlin Blockade in 1948. I noticed a familiar landmark from home outside of the plane’s window. Having left Toronto over a month previously it was great to see a remarkable likeness of the CN Tower. (On closer inspection it became clear that Berlin’s *Fernsehturm* (“Television Tower”) is much smaller.)

After a first night spent wondering the city centre with the help of a pub-crawl guide, it was time for the opening ceremony, held at the Free University. At the reception, everyone received their information pack and then mingled while waiting for lunch. As everyone was given a nametag that included their country of origin it was easy to strike up conversation with the other Canadians (of which there were a handful), and to practice my second language with the French, Belgians and Swiss. It was here that I met the core group of friends with whom I would share most of my time in Berlin.

That night saw a dozen of us head out on another pub-crawl (a great way to get to know the city – and people from all over the world – in any major European city). Somewhat the worse for wear, I went to my first class the next morning. This course was “The European Union in the 21st century: Internal & External Challenges.” The format of each day was more or less the same: presentations and discussion from 9-12:30 (with a half-hour break at 10:30), followed by a quick lunch and then a field trip from 1:15 to 3:30. The field trips were always different: the Portuguese, French and Czech embassies; the Social Democratic Party think-tank; Chancellor Angela Merkel’s foreign policy advisor; and a visit from the former German ambassador to the EU. The class had approximately 14 students, including several Americans, two Germans, two Canadians (myself included), and others from Finland, Greece and Russia. The instructors were both Germans who spoke impeccable English: One was an expert on transatlantic affairs; the other also taught at Stanford University in the United States.

My second course was “The Third Reich: Seduction and Terror.” Learning about the Nazi regime while living in its former capital was an especially enriching learning experience.

Similarly to my other course, it involved “field trips” every afternoon. Being able to visit the site of the Gestapo and SS headquarters as well as spend several hours at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp (the first Nazi concentration camp, and the model for all the others that followed, located on the Northern outskirts of Berlin) and at the Wannsee villa, where the “Final Solution” was discussed and agreed upon by top German officials in 1941 were depressing, but fascinating opportunities.

Berlin is an incredible mix: Of old and new, of East and West, of cultures, languages and backgrounds. Utterly ignorant of the German language, I was able to meet and talk to many people (almost everyone in the city speaks at least some English). Taxi drivers are some of the most interesting people in the city, and as the residence was quite far from the centre there was time enough to talk to all of them. One taught me a thing or two about Berliner economics: trained as a medical doctor, he practiced for several years before giving it up to drive a cab. He now makes double what he used to—“and the hours are the same,” he told me, at 4:30 am.

Language can always become an issue. An American friend, who spoke some German, was berated on a city bus by the driver and a passenger for not being able to ask for the right ticket and for not speaking the language properly. While I never faced such a direct confrontation, some people can become quite hostile when they realize that you don’t speak their language. A thick skin is required—as well as remembering that most people are friendly and make the effort to help you.

The history of Berlin, and of Germany, is written on the city’s streets. Buildings built by Kaisers stand next to those built according to the plans of Albert Speer, Hitler’s personal architect, surrounded by those built with American and Soviet money during the Cold War. Special bricks built into the ground mark the Berlin Wall, commemorating where the Iron Curtain cut through the city, the country, and the world. In some places, parts of the Wall have been left standing. All over are memorials to those killed in the Holocaust—one of the most interesting aspects of spending time in Germany is seeing how the country deals with its past. Berlin is also the centre of Europe’s most vibrant modern art scene. Artists and musicians from all over the world flock to this new underground Mecca.

“Arm, aber sexy” is perhaps the most famous phrase describing Berlin: Poor, but sexy. Compared to most major European cities, Berlin is incredibly cheap. A monthly transit pass costs €70, only slightly cheaper than in Toronto. However, the Berlin transit system is much more sophisticated: One can take the subway (the U-bahn or S-bahn) to almost any point in the city. On Fridays and Saturdays, the trains run 24 hours a day on the main lines. Moreover, a typical grocery bill for three days’ worth of food *and* beer was usually under €12. (However, as almost all stores are closed on Sundays, it is crucial to shop for critical supplies on Saturday.)

The History Travel Award was the perfect way to end my ACS degree at Ryerson. Traveling through Europe is the classic way to pass the summer after completing undergraduate studies. The chance to live and go to school in Berlin is unique. I cannot imagine how else I would have come to spend a month in Germany’s capital, and to fall in love with it. I was also able to travel throughout the continent. Having a month to explore places such as Krakow, Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, and Stockholm was made possible by the award.

It was an incredible privilege to be the inaugural winner of the History Travel Award. It will be an incredible experience for everyone who gets the opportunity, whether they have just completed their degree at Ryerson or will be heading back in the fall. It is a cliché, but no less true for that, to say that I have memories that will last a lifetime, and friendships that cross oceans and continents.

My time in Europe convinced me that a career in international relations was the right path for me. Having been accepted to several grad schools – with the History Travel Award as a central part of my applications – I have decided on the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. International experience will add depth and breadth in any field of study, and any History Travel Award winner will be richer for it.

Julian will be pursuing his Masters degree in International Affairs at Carleton University starting in September 2008.