

# BCCG Foundation Reports

## Memories for a lifetime: My year at the University of St Andrews



**John-Lukas Langkamp**  
University of St Andrews

Where can I best flourish personally – and expand my knowledge of finance through some hands-on experience? These questions were central to my search for a master’s degree course about a year ago. My choice fell on the Scottish idyll of St Andrews and its more-than-600-year-old university. Spending a year together with open-minded and highly motivated people from every corner of the world at such a magical place sounded very appealing. My year “in the bubble”, as St Andrews is jocosely described, was about to start.

More than just finance & management: Solving equations and understanding finance concepts are nothing unusual for a management-focused finance student. I will probably not remember all the formulas, but the sometimes challenging yet always educational and enjoyable hours I spent working in groups with my fellow students will stay in my memory, forever. Working closely with people from over a dozen nations is a far more valuable experience than any textbook can give me. The School of Management not only motivated me to go beyond borders, it offered me a remarkably supportive environment.

Give your curiosity a go: St Andrews is known, above all, as the birthplace of

golf, but this fact only scratches the surface of the place. Besides the odd golf swing, St Andrews inspired me to give climbing, tennis and hiking a go. As almost the whole social life of the University is organised by its over 150 clubs and societies, there are get-togethers, beach bonfires or discussion rounds, every day.

Why we are “forever Saints”: After about three weeks, the time had come for me to be “adopted”. Nothing unusual about this in St Andrews, where “academic families” are a long tradition. The renowned “raisin weekend”, in particular, brings a smile to my face. Here, my “academic siblings” and I solved a scavenger hunt, jumped into the ice-cold North Sea, and represented our family costumed in the famous foam fight. I also fondly remember evenings in charming pubs and restaurants, where global problems were solved, and visions of life were discussed. Since St Andrews is such a small town, yet full of magical spots, lovely traditions and remarkable events, I have already experienced the “forever Saints” spirit. Common memories create a shared identity, even with alumni one is meeting for the first time.

In closing, I would like to thank the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany for their support. These memories were also made possible by its ethos of building bridges. |



## Studying in London in times of political change



**Dr Ludwig Reißmann**  
London School of Economics

Studying abroad not only means engaging intensively with new subjects; it means getting involved in one’s host country – politically and culturally.

With this in mind, it bears mentioning that the United Kingdom is currently going through exciting times. Whether one reads about it in the daily newspapers or encounters another protest on a walk through London, the implication is clear: the United Kingdom’s post-Brexit relationship with the European Union remains a defining issue of our time, because the debate sets a decisive economic and political course for the future of all parties involved.

The LL.M. programme at the London School of Economics ties in seamlessly with these events as numerous courses deal with current political and legal issues relating to Brexit. For example, there are courses that examine questions such as: In which direction is the relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom moving? How are the exit negotiations shaping up and what legal obstacles exist for future trade agreements? Being able to witness this political transformation, first hand, and to discuss it in class from a legal perspective has been an exciting and unique experience.

I also found the approach to teaching in the Master’s programme at the LSE highly enriching. Discussing legal problems with the lecturer and other students from various jurisdictions in groups of sometimes only 10 or 15, and being able to develop and defend one’s own theories in class, are things that I have not yet experienced in German university education.

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BCCG Foundation

# Den akademischen und kulturellen Austausch fördern

Anlässlich der BCCG-Jahreskonferenz mit Neujahrsempfang am 16. Januar 2020 in der British Embassy hat Stipendiat David Hegarty sehr erfolgreich Gelder für die BCCG-Stiftung gesammelt (v. l. n. r. David Hegarty, Christine Hoyer, Jan Blumenthal)

## Jan Blumenthal

Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums

Die BCCG-Stiftung ist durch die hervorzuhebende Spendenfreude ihrer Sponsoren und Unterstützer immer wieder aufs Neue in der Lage, ihrer satzungsgemäßen Aufgabe der Unterstützung des Studienaustausches zwischen Großbritannien und Deutschland nachzukommen. Dabei blickt die Stiftung nun schon auf ein fast 40-jähriges Bestehen und geht auf eine maßgebliche private Spende von Mitgliedern der BCCG aus dem Jahr 1983 zurück.

Durch ein Teilstipendium können damit Studierende im Masterstudium, die einen Auslandsaufenthalt planen, gefördert werden. Dies gilt sowohl für deutsche Studierende, die in Großbritannien studieren, als auch für Studierende aus Großbritannien, die in Deutschland ihrer akademischen Ausbildung nachgehen wollen. Stellvertretend soll an dieser Stelle David Hegarty genannt werden. Er ist einer der derzeit sieben Stipendiaten der Stiftung, die sich für das akademische Jahr 2019/20 erfolgreich um ein Teilstipendium bei der BCCG-Stiftung beworben haben, und momentan an der Hertie School in Berlin studiert.

Auch die BCCG-Regionalgruppe Berlin/Brandenburg hat bei der traditionellen Kohlfahrt, die in diesem Jahr bereits zum neunten Mal nach Bremer Tradition stattfand, wieder für Spenden geworben. Dank der Initiative von Ilka Hartmann kamen dabei insgesamt 913 EUR zusammen. Darüber hinaus konnten bei einer Tombola anlässlich der 100-Jahr-Feier der BCCG am 12. September 2019 in Berlin Spenden in Höhe von

rd. 5.000 EUR generiert werden. Daneben unterstützen uns weiterhin nachhaltig Mitglieder der BCCG, wie beispielsweise der Anglo-German Club e. V. oder Lloyd's of London, als auch weitere private Spender, wofür sich die BCCG-Stiftung auf diesem Wege herzlich bedanken möchte! Der Dank gilt ebenso herzlich für die großzügige Förderung durch die BCCG selbst.

Mitgliedsunternehmen der BCCG bietet die BCCG-Stiftung durch die Finanzierung eines Teilstipendiums (ab 2.000 EUR Mindestbeitrag) die Möglichkeit, Studierende aus bestimmten Fachbereichen selbst auszuwählen und auf diesem Wege eine individuelle Nachwuchsförderung durch das Unternehmen zu ermöglichen. Gerade diese individuelle Förderung findet mehr und mehr Interesse im Kreis der Mitgliedsunternehmen und wird als gewinnbringend erachtet.

Der akademische und kulturelle Austausch und damit einhergehend die Nachwuchsförderung hat – nicht zuletzt durch die Veränderungen infolge des Brexits – erheblich an Bedeutung gewonnen. Dieser Aufgabe stellt sich die Stiftung der BCCG auch in der Zukunft weiterhin gerne! |

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The university also offers a variety of opportunities outside of academic studies, such as getting involved in one of over 200 student societies. I decided to join the LSE Entrepreneur Society, where I, along with other members, organised various events around entrepreneurship, including events on how to run a venture. This ranged from a small group discussion with a well-known venture capitalist on financing a start-up to a moderated lecture by a successful entrepreneur in a large auditorium. This co-curricular activity provided a welcome and stimulating contrast to my legal studies in the Master's programme.

All these impressions were rounded off with the liveliness and cultural diversity of London. Whether you visit one of its various museums, take a walk through Covent Garden or enjoy a snack in Camden Market, London offers numerous opportunities to make your free time eventful and enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BCCG for their generous support during my stay abroad in London, which has contributed to making all these experiences possible. |

## From studying in Oxford to promoting entrepreneurship across Europe

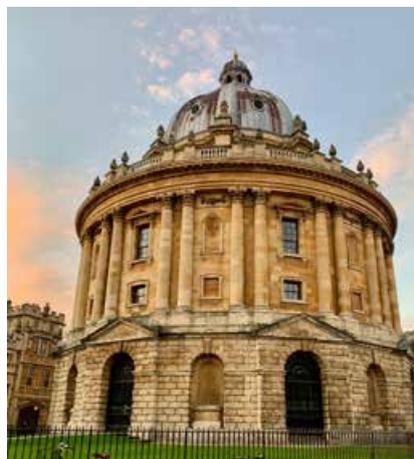


**Konrad Huneke**  
University of Oxford

**M**y first impression of Oxford could be summarized with the phrase "I didn't know that all the Harry Potter stuff was actually real". Oxford is a very historic city and walking around it still feels surreal. The architecture, the traditions, the college dinners, the rowing – all of it is so unique and has been here for centuries. It is incredible to be part of this institution.

I arrived at Oxford four weeks before most students because my program

included an introductory programme that enabled us to get to know the university and our classmates. The master's in financial economics (MFE) is a very rigorous course that combines the best of both finance and economics. We look at the theoretical underpinnings of economic and financial models that practitioners use on a daily basis. The economics part is emphasised a little more, in that we are actually taught microeconomics, macroeconomics and a fair amount of econometrics. Rather than being any sort of practical training intended to prepare you for your first job in finance, the master's programme is more about learning how



to think about economic interrelations and solving complex problems. Another perk of the programme is a lifetime membership in the Oxford Union, one of the world's oldest debating societies, which often features speaker events by politicians and other prominent people.

After my studies, I would like to work as a venture capitalist to solve the problem of insufficient financing opportunities for Europe's entrepreneurs to put their ideas into practice. I want to achieve this by providing early-stage financing and thereby encourage innovative technologies and business models. Ultimately, the goal is to build a European counterpart of Silicon Valley. I believe that a key objective toward reaching this goal will be to strengthen the economic links between Great Britain and Germany, since London and Berlin are Europe's largest start-up hubs and thus serve as role models.

I would like to thank the BCCG Foundation for their very generous support. Their scholarship greatly contributed to my ability to study at the University of Oxford. I am very much looking forward to attending future events and to connecting with fellow members of the BCCG. |

## MSc double degree programme at Napier University in Edinburgh



**Talisa Miene**  
Napier University Edinburgh

**S**ince international networking and intercultural skills are becoming increasingly important, I decided to pursue a master's degree with an international focus after my dual bachelor's degree. I have now been studying international business management at the University of Applied Sciences in Stuttgart for over 2 semesters. My master's degree offered the chance to obtain a double degree at a foreign partner university. I am now currently spending two trimesters at Napier University in Scotland. In the first trimester, I am taking various modules, all of which being related to international business, e.g. global marketing, HRM in an international context, leadership and strategy. In the second trimester, I will write my master's thesis at Napier University and will thus receive a double degree. I am looking forward to writing my thesis here, as the university offers really good facilities, IT equipment and its own library. Here at Napier University, a lot of emphasis is placed on empirical research for one's thesis.

Napier University is a very modern university and home to about 19,500 students from over 140 countries. Its

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business school, in particular, is very international, which of course fits very well with my field of study. Furthermore, the exchange I am experiencing with international students from all over the world is very interesting. Besides studying, life in Edinburgh offers a lot of variety, culture and culinary experiences. Edinburgh is a beautiful city where one can feel at home. Moreover, Scotland, in general, offers numerous places and castles to visit and unique, very impressive landscapes.

I am very glad I have chosen to do the double degree programme in Edinburgh. In closing, I wish to thank the Foundation of the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany for awarding me a scholarship. This support is allowing me to concentrate fully on my academic work and gives me the opportunity to make the most of my time here at Napier University in Edinburgh. |

## Living the Yorkshire dream



**Adedayo Adebisi**  
University of Leeds

I have a bachelor's degree in business and economics and worked for a large oil company for several years. My thesis was on sustainability reporting, which sparked my interest in sustainability and the difficulties of adapting current business practices to the needs of society and nature.

The Sustainability and Business programme at the University of Leeds is based in its School of Earth and Environment. I am able to learn so much from my professors and my fellow classmates, who come from different countries and completely different academic fields. During lectures and group work I enjoy the challenge of solving problems from various perspectives. The course has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge into environmental and social sciences. The rapport between

professors and students is very casual. We students can request guest speakers and topics for extra seminars, and will go to the pub together after these sessions.

Last November they organised a field trip to the Humberside, which is a region in East Yorkshire that is highly affected by flooding due to climate change. During the trip we saw how the community is coping with flooding and we were able to speak to businesses in the area. They welcomed our questions and were very open about the challenges their businesses are facing on their journey towards greater sustainability. We even took part in a beach clean-up and visited the Living Seas Centre, where we saw the region's wide variety of wildlife.

One of my favourite projects so far was a group project that involved establishing a sustainable business. We created our own body scrub made from used coffee grounds and natural oils and developed a business plan and marketing strategy for it. At the end of the semester, we even had the opportunity to sell our product to other students.

The University of Leeds has a beautiful campus with a unique blend of architectural styles ranging from old Victorian and ancient Greek-style buildings to the futuristic looking business centre. There are parks, cafés, pubs and libraries on and off campus that make studying more fun and are the perfect place to chat with classmates between lectures.

The student union provides a lot of fun and relaxing activities. I joined the Black Feminist Society and African

and Caribbean Society and made great friends who helped me settle into Leeds and feel at home in a new country.

The first semester has been a lot of work but a truly amazing experience. I am deeply grateful to the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany Foundation for helping me accomplish my academic goal. |

## Skateboards at the airport – Berlin in 2020



**Michael Hegarty**  
Hertie School, Berlin

Tempelhofer Feld began public life as a parade ground for the Prussian military. But as a huge green space lying just a few kilometres to the south of the city centre, it was naturally used for recreation by Berliners when the soldiers weren't marching.

In the twentieth century it underwent a number of career changes, firstly as Flughafen Berlin-Tempelhof: one of a handful of iconic pre-war European airports and later the site of the Berlin airlift. In one of history's cyclical moments, the airport was designated as a park in 2008 and the sunloungers came out once more. In a less cyclical moment – and as if to show how the city had changed – Albert Speer's airport terminal building was used to shelter refugees in the winter



of the 2015 Mediterranean migrant crisis.

I live on the edge of the airport in Schillerkiez. Amidst the stream of kiteboarders, guerrilla gardeners and general-issue Neukölln expats flowing from Boddinstraße U-Bahn to Tempelhofer Feld, it's hard to imagine where I live as a working community sandwiched between the wall and the airport, with planes rumbling overhead. But the signs are still there. The church on my street had its spire removed in the 1940s so incoming planes could approach at a lower altitude, and it has never been replaced.

In London, history is everywhere if you go looking. In Berlin, it's much harder to avoid. This was one of the reasons I wanted to study here. A few months in, I found a plug-in that overlays the shape of the Berlin Wall onto Google Maps in my phone. It's a healthy reminder as I walk from my university in Mitte, crossing a red line to get to my student job in Kreuzberg, that freedom of movement shouldn't be taken for granted.

I studied history in the U.K. (surprise, surprise), but am now enrolled in the Master of International Affairs program at the Hertie School here in Berlin, with the assistance of the BCCG Anglo-German Club Award. As an applied course in international relations and public policy, my studies couldn't find a better

setting. The idea of Berlin as a testing ground for the kind of society we want now plays out in a different way. Putting aside the weight of its twentieth century, the only constant here is change. |

## The missing piece



**Hoa Vuong**  
London School of Economics

**G**erman law students are able to calculate how much rent reduction they can claim when the heater does not work. They know what to do to thwart their neighbour's building license, and are able to explain what makes a shoe a 'dangerous implement'. In a nutshell, they are trained to become practising lawyers. This is anything but wrong, since most of them, after all, will become practising lawyers. And yet, as a former German law student, I had the feeling that something was missing in my education. In the hope that the British system would offer what I was looking for, I decided to do a one-year Master of Laws at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

And, indeed, I found what I had been looking for. At LSE, I was welcomed by

an open and non-hierarchical academic culture and never-ending inspiration. Teachers and students alike were eager to explore the law outside the books, to break the law into pieces and see what was hidden behind it. I finally had the opportunity not only to do law but also to read, reflect and write about law. How come we trust law to prevent the European Union from falling apart? Why do we believe that it will create justice? Has it actually kept its promises? What I learned at LSE feels like a missing piece of a puzzle. Without it, I would have remained a 'legal craftswoman' forever: able to artfully stretch and use the law but blind to the fuller picture. I also met people from all over the world – people who looked at the law from very different angles and who challenged and shaped my own conceptions.

The moment I stepped into London, I started missing it. And I know that I will always long for the place and its people. I consider the opportunities offered to me to have been an enormous privilege and I will treasure the memory of my experiences there for the rest of my life. The BCCG Foundation has played a crucial role in the realisation of these experiences, so I would like to express my profound gratitude for their generous support. |



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# Foundation

## Scholarship

Since its formation in Germany in 1983, the Foundation has been providing financial support and partial scholarships to young British and German nationals for study or research in the Federal Republic of Germany or the United Kingdom respectively. In this way it seeks to promote understanding between people and the furtherance of cultural relations between the two countries.

## Source of Funds

The Foundation is financed through donations, paid or pledged by individuals, firms and institutions in Britain and Germany. The Foundation has been granted tax-exempt status and is entitled to issue receipts with certificates that make payments to the Foundation fully tax-deductible in Germany. The Foundation is delighted about any donations to the Foundation account:

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## Eligibility

Citizens of the UK are eligible to apply for awards for study in Germany, and German citizens for awards for study in the UK. Applicants should be undertaking full-time courses of study at universities leading to master's degrees. Successful candidates will receive a BCCG Foundation Scholarship Award in the form of a one-off payment. Only applications with reference to the study of law, economic sciences and engineering will be accepted. The Award is intended to provide supplementary financial support, not to defray the full cost of the proposed course of study or research. Payment is subject both to acceptance by the institution at which the study is to be undertaken and evidence that the course or research activity has been started.

## Application

Application forms for the following academic year can be downloaded from the website each spring. The application form, which must be legible and complete, should only be received between 1 May and 30 June. Late and early applications cannot be considered. All applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application. The Foundation's articles of association do not provide award winners with a legal claim for support by the BCCG Foundation.

## Executive Board



**Prof Dr Martina Meyer-Schwickerath, Chairman**

Professor in the Department of Business and Management at the Bochum University of Applied Sciences, specialising in foreign trade and international management. She has supported the BCCG Foundation in selecting applications of students for the Foundation's awards.



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