



## THE PROGRAM

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This is a 10-week reciprocal student exchange program organised by the AGTV and BJR with the support of host families, schools and group leaders who travel with students. It complies with the guidelines and conditions of a registered Student Exchange Organisation.

Students live with their host family as a member of the family and must be enrolled and attend school.

Bavarian students arrive in February to live with a family and attend school for 10 weeks with an optional study tour organised by the AGTV. They return to Germany in late April.

Victorian and Tasmanian students must travel as a group in November to live with their host family and attend school in Bavaria with an optional study tour to Berlin. Students return to Australia at the end of January or early in February.

The AGTV and BJR and group leaders monitor and support students and their families during the exchange periods.

Schools share responsibility for supporting students on the exchange.

The AGTV requires students and their parents to attend pre-hosting and pre-departure meetings.

The AGTV selects a travel agent to organise group travel for the students and group leaders.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit the Scholarships and Exchanges section (under Students tab) on the AGTV website and download the *General Information for Families* file for more information about the program and *Expression of Interest* form or contact the AGTV Coordinator [bjr@agtv.vic.edu.au](mailto:bjr@agtv.vic.edu.au)

[agtv.vic.edu.au](http://agtv.vic.edu.au)

Supporting teaching and learning since 1979



**Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc.**

Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc.  
A0024716J  
ABN 69 688 318 657

The AGTV Inc. is committed to child safety and has zero tolerance of child abuse.

# AGTV-BJR STUDENT EXCHANGE

AN ANNUAL 10-WEEK RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH BAVARIA IN GERMANY



## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Bayerischer Jugendring  
Association of German  
Teachers of Victoria Inc.

The Bayerischer Jugendring (Bavarian Youth Council or BJR) is a public body commissioned by the Bavarian State Ministry of Education and the Arts with responsibility for international student exchanges in Bavaria. Bavaria is the largest state in Germany.

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV) is a not-for-profit association and a registered Student Exchange Organisation (SEO) with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and the Office of Tasmanian Assessment Standards and Certification (TASC).

The AGTV has organised the AGTV-BJR student exchange program since its inception in 1988.

The AGTV acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia as custodians of the land on which the exchange takes place.



## THE EXCHANGE

### TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE

Students apply to participate in one year to begin the exchange the following year. The German students arrive in February for 10 weeks and the Australians fly to Germany in November of the same year.

### WHO CAN APPLY

With the approval of their school, students learning German in an AGTV member school may apply when they are in Year 9 or 10 for travel in the following year.

The family and school must agree to participate within the guidelines of the AGTV-BJR exchange.

### HOW TO APPLY

Students discuss their participation with their teacher of German and seek approval from the school to participate in the program.

Download an *Expression of Interest* form from the AGTV website to complete and forward by April 30 each year.

Students are sent a comprehensive application form which must be submitted with the administration fee early in June. The school must also formally agree to participate.

Students are matched according to their interests. Families are notified by the first week of October about the outcome of the matching process.



## COSTS TO AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

An administration fee of \$760 is payable upon application. If the student is not matched, \$700 will be refunded.

The AGTV facilitates group travel through a travel agent and appoints group leaders. The cost of a return airfare, travel insurance, airport taxes and shared contribution towards group leader travel is usually around \$3000 per student. Costs may vary from year to year.

Families provide pocket money for their own child when they are in Germany. An optional group study tour to Berlin is offered to Australian students for approximately \$1000 plus pocket money.

Families care for their host student in Australia as if they were a member of the family.

NB: Schools must not charge fees when enrolling students but may require students to wear uniform. Bavarian students must be enrolled at the school in February prior to the census.

## BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Evaluations of each exchange group confirm that the exchange is challenging but overwhelmingly rewarding for students in developing friendships, resilience, intercultural understanding and German language skills. Christmas and New Year in Germany and the Berlin study tour are often the highlights for Australian students.

