

## Germany Close Up Essay Competition 2020

Dear Germany Close Up Alumnus,

We are pleased to announce that we will begin taking submissions for the fifth Germany Close Up Alumni Essay Competition.

The topic for this year's competition is:

### **Germany Close Up: There and Back Again**

To give you an idea of what direction your essay could take, we invite you to consider the following questions: What did you take away from your Germany Close Up trip? How did your time in Germany and your experiences during the program help you to grow personally and how would you describe this personal development? What did you learn that you could implement back home to strengthen your Jewish identity and give back to your community? Has your GCU experience influenced the way in which you relate to your own community? Has it helped to prepare you for advocating for Jewish or other groups that are facing discrimination in current society?

Please note that these are only potential questions to serve as guides in your writing. We strongly encourage you to reflect freely on the broad topic in connection with your own experiences during your Germany Close Up program. If your experience was negative or ambivalent but still has impacted the way you went back to your community, we would also like to hear this story.

The author of the winning submission will receive a week-long trip to Germany with the person of their choice. Germany Close Up will cover the travel and accommodation costs of this trip. The second and third places will receive a generous book prize.

Please send your contributions of around 2,000 words to [office@germanycloseup.de](mailto:office@germanycloseup.de). All submissions must be received by Thursday, October 15, 2020. Please note that this competition is open only to Germany Close Up alumni.

Sixteen of the best essays submitted to our previous competition have now been published in a small collection. We would be very happy to share this collection of exciting essays with each of you—if you would like to receive a copy, please send us your current postal address.

We look forward to receiving and reading your submissions and would like to thank you for your continued support of our program. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Dr. Dagmar Pruin,  
Director