



THE JOURNEY OF SAMUEL A.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange
Young Professional Alumnus, 1999-2000
Project Coordinator, Internationalization of Connected Car, Daimler AG

Samuel's CBYX internship transformed technical training into an international career.

Samuel grew up in a Wisconsin town of 900 people. He was always interested in science. Throughout high school, Samuel spent his high school summers at camps focused on physics and technology.

Samuel attended a Technical School with an industrial laser program. There, he met a German CBYX student on exchange, who encouraged him to apply for the program.

Samuel was nervous to speak German once he arrived in Germany, but he quickly learned to appreciate communication and active listening skills to develop his language ability.

In his internship at Laser Zentrum Hannover, Samuel was able to apply his skills. He was offered a position in Germany after the program ended. His supervisor was impressed with his work.

Samuel returned to Germany to work on laser technology for the next four years. Samuel went on to hold a range of positions at prominent companies in the U.S. and eventually moved back to Germany for his final position.

Samuel credits CBYX with giving him skillsets in troubleshooting, German language, cultural awareness, and work ethic. All of these skills have helped him thrive through his career at both U.S. and German companies.

I [thought], 'I don't speak German. I've never been out of the country before. I'm not the person they want.' I was super interested, but I just didn't think I had any chance.

My supervisor said, 'If you keep doing this, we are not going to be able to let you go.'

I moved back to Germany for five years, this time with my husband who had never been out of the country... And we got to share that experience that had impacted me so much. I would never have done so much had I not been a part of this [CBYX] program.