

The Roland Berger Foundation

The Roland Berger Foundation (RBF) is an independent public foundation under German civil law with headquarters in Munich, Germany. It was established in 2008 by management consultant Prof. Dr. h.c. Roland Berger. The foundation focuses on two areas. The foundation supports children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds with the German National Scholarship.

The German National Scholarship

The German National Scholarship is the only program in Germany that is dedicated to fostering talented children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, supporting them throughout their entire school career starting from elementary school through to high school graduation (Abitur). The students who receive scholarships have shown that they are committed and ready to work hard. A unique plan tailored to the individual needs and talents of each student is compiled by configuring no less than ten learning modules, including, in particular, key computer skills. The Roland Berger Foundation strives for equal chances in education irrespective of a child's social background. It seeks additionally to tackle the challenge of skills shortage and to strengthen the German economy by providing it with empowered and highly qualified individuals.

Seven characteristics that distinguish us from other programs

1. **Early support** starting from elementary school. No other program in Germany supports children from disadvantaged backgrounds at such an early level right through to high school graduation focusing always on a talent-orientated education.
2. The scholarship focusses on the human being as a whole. This **360 degree support** is based on the key concepts of "Knowledge, Values, Personality". The students should mature to become self-confident and responsible members of society who function as role models for younger generations.
3. Each scholarship holder receives an **individual support plan** that is continuously assessed and developed on a yearly basis. The support plan is made up of ten modules covering more than the classical academic requirements. Included for example are courses on personal development, language competence, cultural, media and science skills. Seven different methodologies are applied and include workshops, individual coaching and vocational courses.
4. **Scholars are prepared for the digital world** by learning how to program and code.
5. **More than 350** volunteer mentors personally support scholarship holders and function as an important link between school, families and the foundation.
6. The RBF **cooperates closely** with federal state governments, educational authorities and schools.
7. The foundation **involves and trains teachers and parents** (e.g. with workshops) as important partners working towards a successful school career for scholarship holders.

The impact of the German National Scholarship

The German National Scholarship is not a singular and finite project but rather a **continuous and sustainable educational program**. It provides scholarship holders with individual, competent and reliable support for a period of up to twelve years.

The impact of the scholarship is three dimensional. **On a personal level** the scholars benefit from a qualification that compliments their own talents enabling them to develop and progress both socially and individually. Education widens horizons, improves work opportunities and promotes financial independence. We are very proud that 90 % of our students achieve admission to postsecondary education (national average 40%) and manage to obtain an average final **exam result of 1,9 (the German average is 2,4)**.

On a social level it provides the community at large with examples of people who have overcome difficulties and challenges to become self-determining and successful members of the society. This is especially important for young immigrants who with the help of these role models are themselves encouraged to strive for participation and integration.¹

Furthermore, education serves to bring society closer together and enhances the social status of an individual and also his/her interest in politics. Therefore education can contribute to a vivid and stable democracy.²

On an economic level it provides companies with highly qualified employees which is vital in order to secure Germany's economic competitiveness.³ Since every additional year of schooling leads to 10 % higher earnings it also secures the individual economically and minimizes the risk of suffering from unemployment.⁴

The German National Scholarship in numbers

- 700 scholars
- 500 alumni
- 70 partner schools
- More than 350 mentors
- Average final exam result: 1,9 (national average result: 2,4)
- 90% of scholars achieve admission to high school education (national average: 40%)
- 37 foundations and companies and many private donors have supported the program since 2008
- Costs: on average 7000 Euro yearly per scholar

¹ 75% of our scholars are of different cultural backgrounds.

² See: Autorengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung, Bildung in Deutschland 2018, page 242.

³ In 2018 270.000 skilled workers were missing in jobs involving technical, computer, mathematic or scientific skills. See: CARTA 2020. Das Bildungsmagazin des Stifterverbandes, page 58.

⁴ FaS Nr. 37, 18th September 2016