



Baden-Württemberg  
**STIPENDIUM**

**Dear national and international partners, scholarship holders and friends of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM,**

Particularly nowadays, international experience, language skills and understanding of other cultures are more important than ever before - not only for school, studies and career but especially for building a self-reflected and open-minded self.

In order to live in a free and peaceful world, we have to acknowledge and understand the different cultures and minds.

Therefore, the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung awards more than 1,500 scholarships per year to students and young vocationally qualified people who would like to spend a certain amount of time in another country. Currently, this comprehensive program for international exchange is strongly affected by the developing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions. Many scholarship holders had to either interrupt their stay abroad or they could not even go. International exchange is expected to practically stagnate in the summer term 2020.

We are indeed convinced that international exchange and international scientific cooperation will remain the key to finding solutions for common global problems. Therefore, we would like to send a clear signal to our partners: international exchange and international understanding will continue to be one of our most important topics. It is our great concern to counteract the current trend towards nationalization. Having in mind this pandemic as well as the ongoing climate change, now is the right time to also consider new formats for international exchange while being simultaneously aware of the fact that digital formats will never replace the experience of spending some time abroad.

Therefore, we are looking forward to offering many young people the chance to study or work abroad again soon.

We wish you all the best and good health.

Your Team of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM