

I learned about the Helmut Schmidt Distinguished Professorship Program (HSDP) from a friend. My primary motivations for applying included the opportunity to conduct research interviews with key experts in Washington, DC, the exceptional international reputation of DAAD for funding cutting-edge research, and the prestigious status of Johns Hopkins University's SAIS.

Key Academic Benefits:

- Conducting 45+ research interviews, talks and surveys for my postdoctoral research with high-level NATO and EU officials and other experts.
- Receiving valuable guidance and supervision from HSDP professor and professors associated with partner programs, such as the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation.
- Significant networking advantages, including expanding my research project and professional network.

Career Advancements:

- Successfully launching my (in 2019) recently published book, "Peace Security and Defence Cooperation in Post-Brexit Europe: Risks and Opportunities" in Washington, DC. The book launch drew over 150 high-level attendees and was broadcast live on the U.S. television channel C-SPAN TV.
- Delivering a guest lecture at Georgetown University, was a pivotal experience for my academic career.
- In all these aspects, the "United States, Europe and World Order" program coordinator played a crucial role. The support spanned logistical aspects of the fellowship, assisting with the transition to Washington, DC, enriching substantive activities during my fellowship, and adding a significant social dimension to the experience, all of which were greatly appreciated.

The HSDP program is a catalyst for enhancing transatlantic scientific collaboration by fostering cooperative research initiatives involving scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. In my specific case, one of the U.S.-based scholars that I met during the fellowship has contributed to the Special Issue "Interpolarity. Re-Visiting Security and the Global Order" that I co-edited alongside a scholar from University of Grenoble-Alpes, France.

I derived great value from the forthcoming alumni gathering, where I had the opportunity to connect with associated DAAD fellowship recipients.

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