

Global Citizen Scholarship 2009: Personal Statement for Sonia Urquidi

As I begin high school next year, two of my main interests are science and music. Although I have been studying Spanish for several years, I want to also learn German for several reasons, including the strength of German culture in science and music. Part of my heritage is central European, so I am looking for a way, also, to learn the language from my mother's side of the family—German. Because I have not had the opportunity to take German in school so far, I think an immersion program would be best for me at this time. I'm excited to see that Concordia has the high school credit option and the special programs Gruene Welle and Der Maerchen. These could really help me pursue my interests during high school and beyond, such as studying and working abroad.

Becoming a global citizen means being less narrowly centered in one's own culture and language and being more aware of other cultures and languages. My Spanish studies have helped me with this, including learning Latin American history and practicing my Spanish whenever I can. Next year I will have World Studies in school, and I look forward to learning more European history. My mother has told me how much she appreciated studying German in high school and, eventually, traveling to Europe. She really wants me to have the same opportunities, so I would like to start German as soon as possible. Our high school schedule for freshmen is very full, though, and a counselor advised me that I could earn language credits outside of school. Concordia's summer programs would be ideal for this, if I can find a way to afford them.

When I saw online that the German Village offers the "extra" programs oriented toward environmental science and theater/history, I thought these would fit in well with my high school studies. If I can find a way to take these for credit, then I can also have more time left in my school schedule for music and science. Middleton High School language teachers have said good things about Concordia, and I have a friend that has gone there and loved it. Also, because we live in Wisconsin it is possible for my family to drive to camp; otherwise, it might not be affordable to get to Minnesota. I've been to other outdoor summer camps, and I think it would be really neat and interesting to have a "theme" like "Gruene Welle" that relates to most of the activities and studies. I've been to the University of Wisconsin's Central Environmental Station's camps, and they have a nature focus that I liked. I've also been to introductory engineering events at the UW-Madison that made me want to learn more about applied science and architecture.

Please consider my scholarship application for learning German this summer and earning high school credit; I know this camp might be challenging, but I believe it will lead to greater opportunities for me, both in high school and beyond. German, specifically, should help me appreciate my heritage and the history of the music and science I will be studying. I will be encouraged to read more about European history and to learn how Germany is important in the world today. Also, I'm sure Concordia's Waldsee program would be great for me to attend more than just this one year. I really enjoy Spanish "immersion" style teaching and wish I had been at a school that taught German in the younger grades. With exposure to both Spanish and German, I should be able to travel, study, or work in Europe, as well as share important knowledge (like in science) and promote peace among different cultures through increased understanding of art and history (like in theater). Thank you for this opportunity; I wish I had gone to Concordia when I was younger, but at least I can start now, I hope.