

Sarah Barron

To provide some context: After graduating and finishing the Fulbright teaching program, I worked for a German-US exchange program followed by teaching English as a Second Language in NYC public schools. I currently work for Goldman Sachs in their Learning & Development department – designing, facilitating and managing professional development programs for employees.

I certainly used German on a daily basis during the years I worked for the German-US exchange, however, I value the following because they apply even with a job not directly connected to Germany. Furthermore, the experience of learning another language has given me great understanding of communication and its intellectual and cultural components as applies to a global workforce.

I still take great pleasure in discovering a fellow German speaker. For example: A few weeks ago I had a business trip to Salt Lake City and was rather nervous to meet with a Managing Director in the company. During my introduction I discovered he also speaks German. The entire tone of the meeting changed, and we ended up having a lively conversation for 20 minutes in German about places, people, food and “Wortspiele” auf Deutsch. I now have no hesitation about contacting him for future projects.

Germans love to travel – as I do! I have repeatedly run into Germans backpacking through South America, snorkeling in Thailand, or on an overnight train in Europe. I’ve made fast friends, received great advice and enjoyed great meals mostly due to the language connection.