



WKS - Bavaria – Québec/ Alberta/ International

Albertan Support for WKS

I grew up in a small Albertan town called Sylvan Lake, and moved south to go to the University of Calgary. During my degree, I studied in Aberdeen, Scotland, and completed an academic internship program in Washington, DC. Now, through an initiative of the Albertan government called Alberta Abroad, I will have the opportunity to gain experience working in Germany. Alberta Abroad is designed to offer international work experience opportunities to new graduates. The program is competitive both for the applicants and for the host organizations, and is supported through the International and Intergovernmental Affairs Ministry of Alberta.



At the University of Calgary, I earned a BA in International Relations with a specialization in International Political Economy, and a BA in Political Science. I was also a graduate of the Co-operative Education Program, which offers students the chance to gain relevant work experience during their degrees. Through Co-op, I have worked in international education, diplomacy, and policy. My U of C experience prepared me well for the challenges of working abroad, and the WKS team has made my transition exceptionally smooth. I was extremely well supported with my move and the first few weeks of work have been engaging and informative.

Within WKS, I will be working in a variety of capacities, relating to the Bavaria-Alberta and Bavaria-Quebec partnerships, as well as the international collaborations of Bavaria with other partner regions. Innovation, especially in the energy sector, is a particular interest of mine, and I am excited to be at the center of new and upcoming developments and research!



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Originally I am from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Thanks to a new international work experience initiative called Alberta Abroad, I will work at BayFOR as a project assistant for one year. This program of the Government of Alberta places young professionals from Alberta with a selected international host organization. It is based on a competitive application process both on the candidates and on the host organization side.

Prior to joining BayFOR, I received a BA in Political Science from Carleton University, Ottawa. I have worked in the oil and gas industry, as well as the political offices of federal and provincial parliamentarians in Canada. Being integrated into the BayFOR team was very easy. Going to Oktoberfest with the office my first week was a good opportunity to meet everybody in a relaxed atmosphere!



My main responsibility at BayFOR is to assist ABBY-Net, an Alberta-Bavaria network of scientists and researchers studying the relationship between energy systems and ecosystems. Being involved in this project is a privilege as I am interested in energy and how energy sources evolve over time. The Energiewende is a prime example of this evolution. My short time at BayFOR has been great, and I look forward to the rest of my year here!

Zak Biggs