

FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT
AUSCHWITZ
FOR THE STUDY OF
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

FASPE operates under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

FASPE BUSINESS: A SUMMER LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP

FASPE forced me to go beyond the wrong and the right or the good and bad to that gray place where my ethics and principles could be used to justify any side of the argument. I was challenged to identify and prioritize my own unwavering set of values.

Yodit Beyene, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, 2015 FASPE Business Fellow

The opportunity FASPE provided for recognition of our profession's complex history and thoughtful discussion about how to make our generation of business leaders a positive force in the world was exactly what I needed at this moment in my professional education. After FASPE, I feel better prepared to be not just a leader, but a leader of consequence.

Anne Steptoe, Fuqua School of Business, 2015 FASPE Business Fellow

The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) offers a unique historical lens to engage business, journalism, medical, seminary, and law students in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethics in their professions. FASPE Fellows are granted an all-expenses paid 12-day trip to Germany and Poland to learn about the role of their chosen profession in Nazi Germany and to use that historic framework to explore the ethical issues facing their field today.

Pre-World War II professionals in Germany were known and respected internationally. Yet, leaders (and practitioners) in each of the professions, and often the institutions they represented, played a fundamental role in designing, enabling and/or executing the crimes of Nazi Germany.

FASPE Business examines the roles played by business executives in Nazi Germany and underscores the reality that moral codes governing corporate action can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. Having learned the power of their profession, the Business Fellows are better positioned (and more willing) to address various contemporary ethical issues facing the business leaders. The program integrates historical, cultural, philosophical, and literary sources; survivor testimony; and on-site workshops in Berlin, Krakow, and Auschwitz.

The Business curriculum was developed with the help of Dr. Mary Gentile, Director of Giving Voice to Values, and Professor Markus Scholz, Endowed Chair for Corp. Governance & Business Ethics at FH Wien University of Applied Sciences in Vienna, who co-led the pilot trip in 2015 which included eight American and 4 European Business Fellows. In 2016 FASPE will work with a new group of 12-15 MBA/MS students or recent graduates who will be chosen through an international application process.

The Fellowships include all costs associated with the 12-day program, including international and European travel, lodging, and food. The Fellows are provided with reading materials prior to meeting in New York; and the academic component of the program is intensive and interactive. Daily Seminars are led by faculty and local experts.

FASPE Business Fellows examine such topics as:

- Corporate compliance vs. ethical behavior
- Leadership issues: identifying and training leaders
- To whom do companies owe their loyalty: stockholders, customers, employees, nations, or others
- The role of the corporation in society
- The ethical challenges of ambition in professional development.
- The decision-making process: “group think,” “making the numbers,” and making the “good” call
- Bluffing, lying, and spying
- Ethics in the day-to-day business practice

FASPE Business Program Outline:

- Fellows gather in Berlin for introductory sessions and to visit and study the city’s historical and cultural sites. Educational workshops take place at such locations as the House of the Wannsee Conference, where in 1942, representatives of State and Nazi Party agencies convened to discuss and coordinate plans for the “Final Solution.”
- Fellows travel to Oświęcim, Poland, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and work with the distinguished staff at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. They also travel to Krakow. Sessions devoted to leadership and business ethics take place in seminar rooms at Auschwitz and at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, one of Europe’s oldest and most prestigious universities.
- Each Fellow submits a final written product focused on a contemporary ethical issue chosen by the Fellow. These are included in an annual journal of essays from Fellows from all disciplines.
- An Alumni Reunion & Symposium is held each year for current and past Fellows. Fellows from the most recent Program present their papers; and all gather and discuss the impact of the Fellowships.

FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the Fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships. Understanding that their voice and actions can positively influence their profession, they will be part of a growing cohort of executives who are invested in improving the ethical practices of their chosen profession.

FASPE is committed to a long-term relationship with the Fellows in order to sustain the ideas raised during the Fellowships and to provide a forum for continuing dialogue among the Fellows as they move forward in their careers.

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