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Student from West Roxbury picked for Germany study abroad program

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 18, 2012 04:45 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A 16-year-old from West Roxbury is one of 44 students from across the United States, and the only student from Massachusetts, selected through an exam and interview process to go on a free study abroad trip to Germany this summer.



(American Association of Teachers of German)

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Michaela Harrington, a sophomore at Boston Latin School, scored in the 99th percentile on the 2012 National German Exam for High School Students, according to the American Association of Teachers of German, which sponsors the exam.

Nearly 23,000 students participated in the program nationwide.

After earning a qualifying exam score, she answered, in both English and German, several short essay questions before she was interviewed by a committee of high school and college faculty who teach German, the association said in a statement.

Her summer study abroad award includes a round-trip flight from New York to Germany, a several-week stay with a host family and travel to sites of historic and cultural significance in Germany, officials said. Trip expenses are paid for through a grant from the German government.

Michaela earned two gold medals for her score on the National German Exam in 2011, the statement said.

She has a keen interest in foreign languages.

During the previous two summers, Michaela studied Arabic at the Arabic Summer Academy at Charlestown High School, according to the statement. Last April, she was one of 10 Boston students chosen to go on an all-expense paid trip to Qatar as part of a 10-day student exchange program.

She has also spent four years studying Latin and won a silver medal in 2010 and a gold medal in 2011 on the National Latin Exam, officials said.

Boston Latin School instructor William Carroll is her German language teacher.

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