



Alissa Siara

Fellow for 2017-2018

A publication for donors, alumni & friends of the Swiss-California Foundation

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Name	Alissa Siara
Born	August 8, 1996
Major	B.A. in International Affairs, University of St.Gallen
Languages	German, English, French, Spanish
Interests	Tennis, playing the piano, politics

Dear Donors, Alumni and Friends,

After one week, it still feels very unreal to have finally arrived in Northern California and to take up work at the Swiss-California Foundation. I am extremely grateful and excited to represent the foundation as the 17th fellow during the next 10 months.

There are many reasons that brought me to Santa Rosa. Thanks to my parents, I had the incredible opportunity to live in Singapore for two years during my teenage years, which spurred my interest in foreign culture and politics. The experience of living abroad and getting to know other cultures led me to study International Affairs at the University of St.Gallen and to embark on as many journeys as possible, including on a language stay in Barcelona and on an exchange semester to Santiago de Chile.

Besides my studies, I have been lucky enough to put some of my knowledge to practice. During a 10-month internship at the Institute of Technology Management at the University of St.Gallen, I was able to participate in the organization of an executive seminar on the topic of

Business Model Innovation, taking place both in Switzerland and in Stanford, California.

While my curiosity for international relations and foreign policy will probably never be satisfied, I am sure that the next 10 months will be an unforgettable experience. I am not only excited to take care of the daily business of the Foundation, which will include strategy-development, fundraising, budgeting and recruiting, but I also hope to deepen my knowledge of US public policy making and to engage in as many local events as possible.

I am very grateful to everyone who brings this Fellowship to life. I look forward to getting to know you and advancing the Swiss-California Foundation together with you. In the meantime, make sure to like the Swiss-California Foundation on Facebook and visit www.swisscalifornia.org for further updates. See you soon!

A. Siara

Alissa Siara, Fellow 2017/2018