



# Dominique Kunz

## Fellow for 2016-2017

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

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Name	Dominique Kunz
Born	June 7, 1994
Major	BA in International Affairs, University of St.Gallen
Languages	German, English, French, Spanish
Interests	Reading, hiking, cooking, politics

Dear Donors and Friends,

After having spent my first few days in Santa Rosa, I can say with certainty that the coming 10 months will be an incredibly valuable experience for me. I am grateful for the extraordinary opportunity to be the 16<sup>th</sup> Fellow of the Swiss-California Foundation and I am highly motivated to make the very best out of it.

Since my earliest days, I have felt a strong interest for foreign cultures and languages. This brought me to focus on learning Spanish in high school as well as the basics of Arabic. My curiosity for everything foreign together with my passion for international politics led me to study International Affairs at the University of St.Gallen. Next to my studies, I find joy in working as a volunteer for different organizations. It gives me the opportunity to take on responsibility, organize and realize my own projects while doing something useful for the local community. Volunteering has taught me to be an open-minded and outgoing person, to learn fast and to improvise if necessary. Furthermore, I also gained valuable insights from my summer traineeship at Economiesuisse, the organization that represents Swiss business in politics, and my participation in a Model United Nations Conference in New York. Meanwhile, it has always been clear to me that I wouldn't want to stay local but pursue a career outside of Switzerland. My semester abroad in Barcelona further strengthened this interest.

All these experiences together are what brought me to Northern California today. I look forward to taking on the task of running the Foundation and bringing in my own ideas for its development. I hope to broaden the Program's outreach to give many more Fellows the opportunity to make this valuable experience. Also, I am excited to work together with the Bay Area business community to learn from their experiences when living and working in California.

I look forward to getting to know you all soon. Thank you very much for your generous support which made this program possible yet again!

Dominique Kunz, Fellow 2016/2017