

Stiftung Frauenkirche Internship in Dresden Summer 2017 – Maddie Taylor ‘19

This summer, I was the first Wellesley student to intern at the *Stiftung Frauenkirche* in Dresden. About two hours south of Berlin and just a little ways from the Czech border, Dresden is well-known for the Allied destruction that ravaged the city in 1945. The *Frauenkirche*, which suffered particularly notorious damage from the bombing, was finally reconstructed as of 2005. I had the exciting opportunity to work in and next to this monument all summer long!

At the foundation, I completed a number of German-English translation projects and was given the opportunity to work with the in-house architect. This was an exciting summer to be at the *Frauenkirche* because it was the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, so there were several special events taking place. In fact, in conjunction with my internship, I also got to spend three weeks in Wittenberg working at the Worldwide Exhibit for the Protestant Reformation and living right down the street from where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses! When I was not at work, I was hanging out with German friends whom I met during my stay, spending evenings on the banks of the Elbe and weekends hiking in the *Sächsische Schweiz*.

The most formidable but rewarding aspect of my summer experience was definitely being constantly immersed in German-speaking work and social environments. This full German immersion was intimidating at first, but I loved the challenge. In just three months, my German skills improved drastically. I am immensely grateful for such an amazing experience abroad, which has also helped me jump ahead in my German coursework at Wellesley. I miss Dresden every day and cannot wait until I have a chance to visit again!

