

Ambassador of Germany in Lisbon, Dr. Martin Ney,
Deputy Mayor of Cascais, Miguel Pinto Luz
Vice Rector of the Catholic University. Professor Fernando Ferreira Pinto,
Professor João Carlos Espada,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Students,

Good evening! I am happy to be here again!

In 2014 we had the pleasure to announce the "Saint Bartholomew Scholarship" for the first time. Since then almost each year one of the IEP-students did not only apply for, but also received the scholarship.

You may ask yourself what this scholarship stands for and why the Associação São Bartolomeu dos Alemães em Lisboa (ASBAL), the institution that I represent, is financing it.

ASBAL was founded in 1290 by German merchants in Lisbon. Their members already made their living trading goods from Germany to Portugal and vice versa, proving that luso-german relations look back upon a long history.

Since 1290 the world turned to be smaller and much more competitive. Today in an even more complex and challenging world, divided in major geo-political regions and countries with hegemonic aspirations, strong economic and political allies are indispensable. This implies common policies, for instance in the European Community, in order not to lose economic and political weight and to be able to defend our (European) values. From our point of view mutual understanding is the condition for creating a strong European identity again premise for common policies.

As our scholarship intends to deepen the mutual understanding between Portugal and Germany, in order to promote the European integration process, it will be awarded to a master or doctoral theses analysing an issue from the Portuguese **and** German point of view. Therefore the scholarship wants to motivate Portuguese students to study in loco the German reality, covering (upon proof) the expenses related with travelling, accommodation, boarding and possible tuition fees up to € 4.000,--.

On behalf of the ASBAL I wish you good luck for your study and would be happy if you would join us in our initiative, applying for the scholarship.

Thank you very much - I wish you a nice evening!