

The Tommy Raskin Scholarship

Jamie Raskin, a Democratic US Congressman and law scholar, authored the book "Unthinkable" to chronicle a year of unimaginable personal and national trauma. The first tragedy struck when his son, Tommy, a brilliant and compassionate 25-year-old, took his own life on December 31. Just six days later, the heart of American democracy, the Capitol, was assaulted by a violent mob, leaving Raskin and the nation reeling. Raskin's memoir goes into the depths of these traumas, revealing how he grappled with grief while stepping up to lead the impeachment effort against Donald Trump. The book shows Raskin's resilience, underlining how the memory of his son, Tommy, propelled him forward amidst overwhelming despair.

Tommy Raskin, a second-year Harvard Law School student, had a profound impact on those around him. He was known for his exceptional kindness, empathy, and deep love for animals, despite being allergic to them. He grappled with clinical depression, and his family witnessed his struggle with relentless mental torment. Tommy's passion for philosophy and animal rights, and his dedication to challenging injustice, defined his character.

In honour of Tommy's enduring spirit and commitment to justice, the International Debate Society of Madrid has collaborated with Jamie Raskin to establish the Tommy Raskin Scholarship for the Human Rights in Context Program. This collaboration, in partnership with the University of Peace UN and Berg Institute of Human Rights, aims to empower future advocates and activists, ensuring that Tommy's legacy continues to inspire positive change in the world.

Human Rights In Context Program

The Berg Institute was established in 2009 as an independent academic entity, functioning as a non-governmental organisation dedicated to capacity building and legal consulting in the areas of Human Rights promotion and protection, International Humanitarian Law, Governance, and Democratic Leadership.

The program "Human Rights in Context: Europe" is jointly offered by the Berg Institute and the European Academy of Otzenhausen (EA), spanning seven European countries. This program features a rigorous itinerary, including academic visits to Human Rights institutions and organisations, as well as participation in seminars covering political, cultural, and geostrategic aspects.

Participants in this *graduate-level programme* will have the unique opportunity to visit some of the most prominent institutions in Europe. These include the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and historically significant sites like the Maginot Line and the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp. Participants will engage in various academic and work sessions, focusing on the exercise of human rights both globally and within a European context.

The program is scheduled to take place from July 10 to July 21, 2024, and participants will receive diplomas upon successful completion. Thanks to the "Tommy Raskin Scholarship," selected individuals will be eligible for partial funding to support their participation in the program. The scholarship will cover 50% of the total program cost (€4000), including flights, accommodation, meals, materials, and transportation. Participants are required to contribute €2000.

Prospective participants are required to be enrolled in High School and to have a confident level of proficiency in Spanish, possessing a B2 level or higher.

How to apply

Given the academic rigour of the programme and the nature of the scholarship, it is important for us to assess the level of engagement and interest of all applicants.

To apply, students will have to submit the following documents to IDSM:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV):

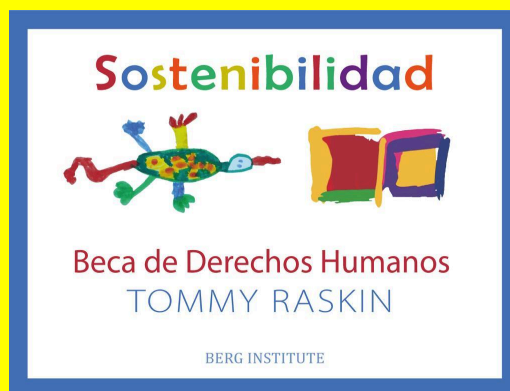
Submit a comprehensive CV that outlines your academic journey and achievements.

2. Letter of Motivation:

Provide a letter explaining your passion for human rights, your specific interest in our program, and articulate how this opportunity aligns with your future aspirations.

All applications must be submitted before the deadline of March 25th, 2024. Please email your documents to debatesocietymadrid@gmail.com with the subject "TRS Application - (Name and Surname)"

Successful applicants, who have been accepted into the program and awarded the prestigious "Tommy Raskin Scholarship," will be notified in mid-April 2024.



Visit www.debatesocietymadrid.org for more information