

DHBW Stuttgart

Personal Report

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Home University : Inha University

Host University : DHBW Stuttgart

Field of Study : Logistics

Period of Time : 2021 Winter Semester

1. Preparation of the stay (Language, Culture, Politics, Formalities, etc)

To prepare for my 4 months stay in Stuttgart I had to find information about several things. These include where to stay, opening a bank account, applying for a health insurance etc. Luckily this information was given to us by the host university in a very nice and organized way. Also, they had a partnership with Expatrio which is a company suited for exchange students coming to Germany. By signing up to Expatrio, they helped us with the difficult things like making a Sperrkonto and health insurance and bank account.

For the language I had no problem because I knew that German people are very fluent in speaking English and as for the exchange student programs, they all spoke English so there was nothing to worry about. However, in some cases I heard that you need to speak a little German to live so I studied and learnt a few basic words that would help me adjust to the Host country. For the cultural aspects, I also had no problems since I have lived abroad for a few years and traveled around diverse parts of the world.

Therefore, I had the confidence that I would be able to fit into any part of the world and situation. However, as cultures differ even in the same country, I looked up for some cultural differences and values that are important in Germany.

Furthermore, due to the current status quo with the worldwide pandemic nowadays, I had to look up for some regulations before going to Germany. For instance, you needed to be fully vaccinated with the designated vaccines if you wanted to come to Germany. Therefore, I got vaccinated twice before going there and prepared diverse documents that would support my entrance to Germany. Also if you are willing to travel other countries while your stay, just search it in the internet and you will find loads of

information.

Other than that, I kept contact with my buddy to get information and looked things up whenever I needed to. Nowadays you can easily search information you need on the internet. Also, the DHBW Stuttgart staff members will always be there for you to ask any questions and help you with your hardships on preparing. If you follow what they ask you to do, you will have no problem coming and staying in Germany. Just remember to send the necessary information and documents in time since Germany is one of the countries that are not generous to time.

2. Study in the Host Country (University, Courses, Lectures, University System)

DHBW Stuttgart is a bit different than other universities that we know of. The students in the school study for 3 months and then do an internship for 3 months. Therefore, the curriculum is based on these students who actually do an internship. For instance, the welcome week for us was on the first day of September when the actual class started in the late September and ended in mid-December. Also, the timetable for courses is different from those of Korea. While Korean timetable is repetitive every week, the DHBW Stuttgart was different every day. So, you really need to keep track of your courses if you don't want to be late or miss any class. Also, for the exams, the exams are usually at the end of the semester, it can be from writing a 10 pages essay to just solving some multiple-choice questions. The exams can be easily solved if you paid attention to the class and looked at the materials at least once.

In my case I took 29 ETCS and it was pretty manageable, the professors were very nice and enthusiastic about their lectures and seemed like they really knew what they were teaching us. Also, for the students that weren't fluent in English, the professors let the

students take time and take in all the materials. To be honest, I would recommend people to really take the courses that they are interested in since the professors would have professional experience that could be very helpful for your future.

3. Stay in the host Country (Personal Experiences and Impressions, Extracurricular Activities)

Germany was one of the best countries to live for me. The people were very friendly and welcoming to us. Also, the ethnic groups were very diverse, and they had learnt how to deal with and treat foreigners. In most cases if you spoke English, they would understand you. Also, the location of Stuttgart was very nice for me to travel around Europe and Germany. It was located right next to France, Switzerland, Austria, Luxemburg and wasn't far away from countries like Netherlands or Belgium. You could find a cheap flight or train to these countries and have fun there when you are not studying and have free time. Inside Germany and Stuttgart was also very interesting and had a lot of cool places to visit. For instance, you could go to Berlin by train in 6 hours, Frankfurt in 1 hour, Munich in 2 hours. I didn't know that Germany would have so many places to visit but even I traveled every time I had free time, there were places still left to be seen.

Therefore, I definitely would recommend you use your time wisely in Germany. For some international students, they applied for diverse extracurricular activities such as football, volleyball, badminton, tennis etc. They said that the German people there were very friendly and welcoming towards them and had a lot of fun in the group.

4. Hands-on Tip

- When using transportation in Europe, I recommend using the application "Omio". It features diverse transportation methods from bus to plane. Also, using "Bla Bla

Car" or Flixbus can also be a wise choice as it is very cheap.

- I strongly recommend you to buy the student semester ticket as it covers almost every part of Stuttgart and even somewhere beyond. The price is very reasonable too.
- Eating out in Germany may be kind of expensive, however the groceries are very cheap. You would find making your own food very cheap and high quality.
- Buy things in Primark, it is one of the cheapest stores in Germany. You would be able to get diverse products that you would need when living in Germany like a duvet or a blanket.
- You must visit Metzingen Outlet City if you want to buy some clothes or things at a very cheap price.
- Some close tourist places that are worth visiting nearby are Tübingen, Heidelberg, Ludwigsburg
- Most shops are closed on Sundays so you must get everything before Sunday.