

ERASMUS report

Kitti Gál

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Home university: John von Neumann University

Host university: Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart

Field of study: BWL-Dienstleistungsmanagement mit dem Schwerpunkt:
Logistik- und Supply Chain Management

Degree intended: Bachelor degree

Semester: 5/7

Period: November - January

I am Kitti Gál, I arrived in November from Hungary, from János Neumann University in Kecskemét to Stuttgart, to the DHBW as a fifth-semester student. I am studying logistics engineering and I am a dual student at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary Kft..

I chose Germany as an Erasmus destination because German has always been closer to me than English and my current workplace is also a German company where I have to understand and use the language every day.

After a short introduction, I would like to tell you how these three months went in Germany with my friend I was travelling with. A few months before the travelling, we were contacted by a lady who helps foreign students. From the first moment she was very helpful, she informed us about everything, we could contact her at any time with our questions and we received answers to them in a very short time. We had the possibility, too to require a so-called „buddy” who helped for us if we needed anything. It was useful because we arrived at night and we couldn't have picked up the keys of the dormitory but we wrote a mandate, my buddy picked up the key and she waited for us at the train station.



Arrival to Stuttgart

This was my first Erasmus mobility, the first time I had travelled so far from my family and friends to a foreign country I had never been before, so I was very excited. Of course, in the first week not everything went smoothly, there were some initial difficulties. The biggest problem was that we were not fully vaccinated. Therefore on our first schoolday we had to make a quick test in a test center but we didn't know the city so it wasn't easy. We were late for the semester opening on the first day. When we finally arrived, we were nervous and

ashamed but it was the moment when the school became even more sympathetic. As we entered the office of the course director and apologized, to our surprise it did not turn out to be a big problem, the director was understanding and he kindly offered to join the opening of another group where we would receive all the important information about the semester.

Unfortunately, we were only able to attend classes in the first three or four weeks, after there was online education due to the pandemic. Of course, we were not happy about this, as we could not really get to know our classmates, build new relationships.

But thanks to the fact that we studied from home, I spent more time with my housemates, we talked a lot, we cooked, we went on a trip together, they showed us some sights, so I was able to practice the language. I was worried that I was going to live with seven strangers, and at the beginning it was hard to talk. I was embarrassed, the simplest words didn't come to my mind in German, even though I arrived with a C1 language exam. But luckily, I got in a community that was patient and supportive. At my request, they also helped me with language learning, corrected my mistakes and they gladly „played with me activity” until I understood what they were trying to say. On my second day in Stuttgart my housemates invited me on a trip to Heidelberg. I really enjoyed it, we hiked, the view from the mountain was very nice and the bridge and the castle were amazing.



Trip in Heidelberg

My housemates also came from different countries, so it was even more interesting to know so many cultures and languages. We often gathered in the kitchen for tea and conversation. We also cooked Hungarian specialties for them, such as goulash soup and „paprikás krumppli”. We got to know the national costumes, folk dances and folk songs of each other's homelands.



Dinner together, goulash soup

Like all Erasmus students, we like to party, so until the clubs weren't closed due to the pandemic situation, we went also there regularly. After that, we had no choice but to have parties in the flat.

Furthermore, we also visited the city's attractions. Here are the things every tourist should see: Mercedes-Benz Museum; Fernsehturm; Schlossplatz; Stuttgarter Markthalle; Stadtbibliothek am Mailänder Platz; Schloss Solitude; Grabkapelle auf dem Württemberger; Residenzschloss Ludwigsburg.

Schlossplatz was beautiful at Christmas time, the whole square was swimming in Christmas light, music was playing, mulled wine and punch could be drunk.

The city library is huge, I've never seen an eight-storey library.

Schloss Solitude and Grabkapelle were my two favorite places in Stuttgart. I got out of the city noise a little bit and it was just the quiet countryside. I think you can see the most beautiful sunset in the city from the Grabkapelle and from the Fernsehturm.



Sunset from the Grabkapelle

We visited the capital Berlin and two other popular cities München and Nürnberg.

We spent two days in Berlin visiting the Berlin Wall, the East Side Gallery, the Alexanderplatz, the Glienicke bridge, the Brandenburg Gate and the Parliament.

Overall, I had a great time in Stuttgart. I loved the lessons, the teachers were kind and helpful. I can only recommend DHBW university to all students wishing to study abroad. They were very much looking forward to our arrival, they are prepared, hospitable. The requirements were makeable, during the exams it was taken into account that we are foreign students.

The Erasmus program is the best opportunity to improve your language skills. As I mentioned, I arrived with a C1 language exam, but I felt like I didn't have a B2 level either. It started very difficult at the beginning, different accents and slang made it difficult to understand the language. What we learn in the school is a good basis to start on this path. However, in order to fully deepen your knowledge, you need to live with native speakers. In these three months, I've learned a lot of new words and phrases. And my housemates have repeatedly praised me during this period for using grammar more correctly and speaking more fluently.

One of the best decisions of my life was to be determined to study abroad. Whoever has the opportunity, live with it! I was enriched with an experience and knowledge for a life.