



**Tamás Zoltán Rónaszéki**

**Home University**  
**John von Neumann University, Hungary**  
**Software Engineer**

**Host University**  
**Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart,**  
**Germany**

## PREPARATION

The really first thing I did even before I got accepted was to collect some money. It is common sense if you stay abroad you need some saved up money, but with a Hungarian income staying abroad everything but not cheap. Thankfully we are (currently still) in the EU so I didn't had to apply for Visa and all I had to do is just get my EU Health Insurance card. Talking about insurance I did paid for a private insurance too just in case, but (thankfully) I didn't needed it. I also had to open an Euro bank account and Revolut was my choice since they don't charge you any fees until you spend or exchange a really big amount, so it was perfect for myself. The only negative thing about Revolut is they don't give you a German bank account, so I had to sign up at another online bank (N24) which gave me a German account, but sadly they don't offer Girocards so I frequently had to take out some cash. In the end I only used the N24 German account to pay the rent and used the Revolut account for everything else. After planning my travel I did started doing some Duolingo courses in German but I gave up after the second course so went to Germany with really tiny (close to zero) German knowledge which surprisingly wasn't a huge problem, but if you're planning to travel to Germany I recommend to study alt east the basics.



*View from my dorm*

## **STUDYING**

In total I had 4 different classes, 2 mandatory and I choose 2 more optional classes. Intensive German A1 – which was actually intensive, but they tried to teach us the basics like numbers, how to ask for help etc. Intercultural Training – this one was the most exciting and most interesting class in my opinion, we were studying about cultural differences (and how to manage them) also the German culture itself. Online Marketing – As the name states it was all about online marketing, we learned about how to set up a successful marketing campaign. Information Technology Service Management – ITSM was the toughest one in my opinion, we learnt about ITIL v4 and other management techniques.

In general I enjoyed all of my classes, It was nice to experience a different education system.

## **STUTTGART**

My first impression with Stuttgart was how similar to Hungary. Okay, the streets looks a bit different but, doing your daily things (using the public transport, buy some groceries) is the same as in my home country so it was easy to get used to. Public transportation is way better than in my country, I was amazed how frequent and fast the U-bahn is. Thankfully I was able to communicate with people, many people spoke English, so it wasn't an issue that I didn't spoke German. I was surprised how friendly everybody was, because all you hear about Germans is how strict and non-friendly, they are for foreign people, but it wasn't true at all and every people I met was nice and friendly to me.



## **FREETIME**

Stuttgart has some nice places, there's the Chinese garden close to the city center which has an awesome view to the city, although the TV tower was way nicer, but its bit far from the city center. There two car museum the Porsche and the Mercedes-Benz, if you interested in cars definitely visit them since they all offer some really interesting stuff. Also, there are plenty of restaurants in the city, many clothing shops and a bunch of pubs/clubs so you won't get bored. Travelling is also easy to do since Stuttgart has an airport and a big train station. Frankfurt and Munich are really close so it's worth visiting them, also France and Switzerland are close by.



*Frankfurt New Old Town*

## **EXPERIENCE**

I'm glad that I had this opportunity to stay in a different country for a few months (wish I was able to stay more) and experience what the German life looks like. I was able to make a few friends (even if there are continents between us), learn about different cultures and practice my language skills.