

# **DHBW Stuttgart**

# **Student Report**

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*\*I declare of consent to publish the report on the website of DHBW Stuttgart\**

### **>Preparation of the stay**

First of all, Germany is one of the countries in Europe that speaks English particularly well, so there is no problem with having to study German fluently. I came to a level where I could only say hello in German. Actually, as I was living here, I think I only said "Entschuldigung, mit Karte bitte". So don't worry of the language problem. And since Germany is also a place where people live, there was no particular culture shock for me though I'm from Asia.

In the first semester, DHBW arranged the visa meeting, but in the second semester, people had to do it themselves. For Koreans, it is recommended that you obtain a visa before coming. The only difficult part that I needed to prepare for was the food, but perhaps because I am Asian, the food overall was salty and greasy. Fortunately, there was an Asian store in front of the central station and dormitory, so it was easy to get Korean ingredients. If you are a person who is very influenced by food, I recommend bringing food from your country that may be difficult to find here.

### **>Study in the host country**

This is a continuation of the previous subject, but Tricos German classes held at DHBW allow you to quickly get closer to German. I started from A1, and the teacher was very kind. At first, I thought it would be difficult because I barely spoke English and spoke German during class, but I was able to learn German faster. Classes are held every day for four weeks, and due to the nature of the language, I feel like I am reviewing it every day, so I think I was able to learn much more efficiently. And after this 4-week class, a class called Intercultural Training Germany is held for 4 days. It was a class where students from various countries exchanged cultures, and it was fun to play cooperative

games. We also went to a winery for an outdoor class.

And the most refreshing class curriculum at DHBW Stuttgart is that the class times are long and focused. For example, one subject only lasts about 3 days, starting in the morning and continuing until the evening. This can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. Because the classes are continuous, the contents of the class are delivered effectively even without reviewing. However, since the classes are so long, it can be a bit overwhelming if you have short attention spans. Since the class curriculum is like this, it is really easy to plan a trip. Since we Koreans come from Asia, we traveled around Europe a lot, but because the classes were concentrated, I only went to school for two days in May and the rest was free time. In other words, I was able to go on a lot of trips back then. And it was nice that some subjects were tested immediately after consecutive classes. In Korean universities, there is not much interaction with the professor because the professor instills knowledge into the students, but the classes here are good because the environment is free to ask questions to the professor and there is a lot of discussion among the students. There are a total of 16 subjects, and you can choose what you want to listen to. Some subjects are only held in the summer or winter semesters, so you have to study carefully. And the school system is really good, so if you have any questions, they give really quick feedback.

I heard the school provides a lot of internship information. I didn't use it, but if you ask the international office they will provide more information. They also connect us with the sports club at our school. There are so many sports, but you need to sign up quickly because the popular ones fill up quickly. However, because it is a system where people are kicked out if they do not show up much, there are

opportunities for people to get back in once they leave. I joined the table tennis club in the first semester and the badminton club in the second semester. Since both allow you to exercise in a really free atmosphere, it would be a great idea to do it.

### **>Stay in the host countries**

I never regret choosing Germany. Germany is famous for its extremely bad weather, but if you come during the summer semester, you won't feel that way at all. In the summer, the sun is always bright and nice. And I've traveled to a lot of different countries, but I don't think no country is as safe as Germany. Of course, the administrative process cannot be said to be fast, but there is still a sense of stability that Germany provides. In particular, Stuttgart is a great place to travel because it has an airport. And since it's located in the south of Germany, the weather seems to be warm. Of course, the sun never really rises in winter. It feels like the weather changes every five minutes. Still, if I could choose another country for exchange students, I think I would choose Germany.

### **>Participation in workshops**

The DHBW buddy program seems to be well established. When I first arrived at Frankfurt Airport, my buddy came to pick me up and I was able to safely move into the dormitory. After that, there were events in which German buddies participated. There were things like going to a trampoline park and an amusement park. Anyone could participate if they wanted to, and I think they were events that helped me adapt to Germany for the first time.

In the second semester, I went on a trip to a nearby area accompanied by teachers from the International Office. We visited Neuschwanstein Castle, which served as the inspiration for Disney's castle. I rented a bus

and it was really beautiful.

### **>Hands-on tips**

Since you do a lot of grocery shopping, I recommend getting a payback card as soon as you arrive. I started using it in the second semester, so I didn't accumulate a lot of points, but last semester, a girl accumulated so many points that she used the points buying a lot of souvenirs. TK covers the Gardasil vaccination, so be sure to get it here. There are not as many places where health insurance is used as you might think, but it is beneficial to get the expensive Gardasil vaccination. In addition, you can also get an allergy test for free.

And since you travel a lot by train, I make sure to get a DB Bahncard 25. You get a 25% discount every time you buy a train ticket. Always collect Bahnbonus too. You can get a 5euro discount later with a voucher.

### **>Personal evaluation**

I would like to give it a 9 out of 10. To be honest, when I first saw the dormitory, I felt it was too run-down, but since all the exchange students lived here, it was close and nice. The school system is great, and the teachers are all great, so I think it will remain a really good memory. Of course, the weather is not so good during the winter semester, so if you only come for one semester, I would recommend the summer semester. There is a Christmas market in the winter semester, so if you want to experience that feeling, you can come in the winter. When I saw my friends leaving for the first semester after staying there for a year, I honestly thought that if it had been me who was leaving, I would have been disappointed because it was so short. Germany suited me better than I thought, and I would definitely recommend it to others. You are going to have a lot of experiences.