



Baden-Württemberg
STIPENDIUM

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG-STIPENDIUM

FOR STUDENTS

PERSONAL REPORT

Please upload your personal report to BWS-World, the online portal of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM*, at the latest four weeks after your scholarship stay has ended. Note that the International Office of your university may request the report already earlier.

Please use the box labelled "personal report" in the documents section of your personal profile. You can upload the report in Word or PDF format. The file size should not exceed 4 MB.

If you have any questions, please contact the International Office of your university or write to studierende@bw-stipendium.de.

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Host university:	DHWB Stuttgart
Field of Study	Industrial Engineering with a Minor in Systems Engineering 9th Semester
Period of the exchange from - until:	01.10.2021 until 31.12.2021
Creation date:	01.01.2022

- I hereby agree to my report being published on the websites of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM* (www.bw-stipendium.de) and of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung (www.bwstiftung.de) as well as on BWS-World, the portal of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE STAY ABROAD

I would like to start my personal report with explaining a little bit of who am I so you can know more about my background. I am Armando González, a 23 years old student, from Guadalajara, Mexico, who loves dancing, running and spending time with my friends. I love traveling, meeting new people and finding always new experiences and challenges for me while learning about the different cultures. Since I was in high school, I had always dreamed about studying a semester abroad, and what better way of studying in one the most developed countries in Europe, Germany. I began in 2014 learning German with some friends, and after going to GLS Berlin for a month to get more deep into the language, there I learned more about the German culture as well as the language. I finished high school and I was decided that I wanted to study in Germany, so I began to prepare more myself. I enrolled into B.S of Industrial Engineering and continue my German classes, while I was still in University I took the time to learn more about the different cities inside Germany that I could go and study abroad, I started by participating in events where I could meet the exchange students from all around the world studying in Guadalajara and making contact with them, they told me about the wonders of Germany and the different cities that I could apply, I remember well that my strongest option was Cologne, Stuttgart and Pforzheim. When the time came to select an option (2020) I knew instantly that all the decisions taken along the years (2014), have been leading me to this moment, I remember selecting wisely and choosing Pforzheim as my option given that I wanted to reinforce my German and I wanted a city with a good location for traveling around Europe, but as we all know Covid came, and the exchange programs got cancelled. I was really sad about what had happened but that meant that I had a second chance to select again my program. All of a sudden everything changed, the time came to select once again, but things weren't going so well in Europe, so I decide to go and study to Tel Aviv, Israel, it was something unexpected but I was really excited about it, I went and study there on my previous semester (March 2021 – July 2021) and there was many new things that I learned but there was a problem, there was a conflict that started in the beginning of May 2021, I remember running to the sounds of sirens, living in bunkers and seeing rockets fly on top of my head, it was not the experience abroad that I was looking for, so I remember that 15 year old me who had a bigger ambition, I remember how much I was looking forward on studying in Germany, so I started once again my research and found DHBW Stuttgart. I applied and I got in!!! That meant that I would not only go to study to Germany, but that I could put in practice all my German learned through the years. I remember how I started my process by applying to the German Visa in the German Consul in

Tel Aviv, I was really excited on coming to Germany and having a second semester abroad, the process went really fast and I had my visa ready to come and study to Germany.

In my first week in Germany I remember receiving a mail from the department of the International students from DHBW telling me that I could apply for the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM, and I couldn't believe it at first, I was amazed on how they could help me out and give me the visa, I remember applying to it by sending my CV and a cover letter, a week passed and then I received a mail that informed me that I got the scholarship! I was really happy that finally after all that time, I could now begin to live one of my biggest ambitions and now with a financial help! On the way, I met other holders of the scholarship that were also in my classes in DHBW, I made a strong bond with them since the beginning and had some of them as my classmates in class. We did some trips together to different parts of Germany and spend a lot of time together at Stuttgart. We spend most of the time together and did different activities in Stuttgart. Some of them where going to the Fernsehturm, the Mercedes Museum, do some international dinners where we all did a traditional dish from our hometown and then share it with each other's. Unfortunately we couldn't attend to any event of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM due to covid, but we had for sure some good time together.

STUDYING AT DHBW STUTTART

Studying in Germany made me realise the difference of studying in Mexico and outside of it. I would like to start by the classes and the way they were given to me, in Mexico usually the classes are for the whole semester and we take them simultaneously, while in DHBW we took almost one class per week, meaning that some weeks we had free time of academic studies or others where a bit more demanding. I like the difference given that it was a new experience for me and a new challenge that I had to adapt. The teachers as in Mexico they were really nice and we could have a nice conversation with them and the other students which that was really nice. I remember enrolling as well to different classes (extracurricular activities) imparted in DHBW or others outside the campus, I took Latin Dance Workout and Meditation, I really enjoyed both of the classes, but I have to be loyal to my roots and say that the Latin Dance Workout was definitely my favourite class. I would really like to recommend DHBW Stuttgart given that it's not only an international school, but it also allows you to have the freedom to explore Germany and its wonders, the teachers are always open on explaining and having a nice conversation with us,

and they want us as well to have the best of times here in Germany so they were constantly giving us tips when we asked them about new places to visit.

LIFE IN STUTTGART

Was it difficult to find your way in Stuttgart?

Getting in to Stuttgart was easier than planned, almost everything was settled down before I arrived and that was quite nice, given that there was no pre-stress. The hardest thing about being here was trying to connect to Selfnet and Eudoram for the first time (the Wi-Fi services), but I think that's pretty self-explanatory, so in other words, living in Stuttgart was an amazing opportunity and good experience with out any unpredicted conflict such as in previous exchange experiences had.

What was more surprising to me was the climate change in Stuttgart, one week we could have a lot of sun and the next one be extremely cold, I can remember perfectly that the 20 of December we were at -4° C and then one week later we were at 15° C! So for sure that was really unexpected and I learned to make a habit of mine to check always the weather before going out!

Which experience do you remember particularly well? I remember perfectly the Christmas Market, after classes we decided to go and wonder out what it was, given that in Mexico is not really common to have them, I was really excited when I first saw it, and I had never seen something like that in my life. It was really nice being able to share this experience with my friends and classmates. Due to the increase of cases of Covid, we knew they where going to cancelled the Christmas Markets, so we hurried up and went to other cities around Stuttgart to see the most that we could, and enjoyed the last second out of it.

What advice would you give other scholarship holders coming to Stuttgart? Don't be afraid to try new things and open up to the world that is in front of you! Go around, walk the streets of Stuttgart and try to visit every spot in the city, you won't regret it! Living in Stuttgart opened my mind and showed me new things, such as the difference in communication styles, the different cuisine and the multiculturalism in Germany. Here I met people from all around the world, I ate food that hadn't tried before and learned how to be more open with other cultures.

PERSONAL CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

I would like to conclude saying how amazing my experience was here in Stuttgart, I really had an amazing and calm time where I could enjoy many different activities with people from all over the globe. I had always dreamed of having this opportunity and I can now say that I have now live them. All my expectations were met and I couldn't be more happy about it. There is nothing else left to say but, thanks to all of the support provided by the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM and the International office in DHBW Stuttgart, I could really enjoy my time in Germany and it was a huge help from the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM to have the financial support to get the maximum of this experience, I 100% recommend for the following students to apply for the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM and to go to DHBW Stuttgart, you won't regret your time there. I am now taking with me really valuable lessons, moments and most importantly friendships. I couldn't feel more happy about taking this decision and I really wish I could come back one day and see how the city has change. Thank you Stuttgart you made me grow in a personal and professional way!

Down below I would attach some of the pictures so you could see a little bit of what I lived.

