



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.

Name:	Somang Ji
E-mail address:	1somang617@naver.com
Home university:	Dongguk uni.
Host university:	DHBW Stuttgart
Period of the exchange from - until:	Start of your scholarship until End of the scholarship 03-05,2021
Creation date:	23.07.2022

- 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.

Notes on Writing the Personal Report

Feel free to be as creative as you like. We look especially forward to innovative and original forms of presentation (e.g. video, blog etc.).

Of course, you may also share your experiences with the scholarship by answering the key questions below.

As a general rule, your personal report should not exceed the length of 5 pages incl. cover sheet.

If you have an exceptional idea for your report, please coordinate with your international office or with the staff of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM (studierende@bw-stipendium.de).

PREPARATIONS FOR THE STAY ABROAD

How did you find out about the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

I didn't know about this foundation before I got the scholarship mail. When I got the mail, I asked about this to Incoming of DHBW, and they let me know.

Did you have contact with other scholarship holders of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before you left or abroad? Did you participate in an event (e.g. summer festival or annual meeting) of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before or during your stay?

No.

STUDYING AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

At which host university did you spend your semester abroad? Why did you choose this university in this country? Germany. I thought that Germany has the main power of the EU and lots of international companies. Also It is located well and good position to travel around Europe.

Were there any major differences compared to your home university? What were they?

Unlike In Korea, the courses of DHBW has much longer class hours. So at first, I could't get used to them. It was very hard to concentrate all day long. However, I can get used to them as professors gave us enough break to refresh and lots of interesting activities. In some courses, they don't evaluate by your attention.

How did you prepare for your stay abroad?

DHBW asks students to submit English official score, so I preped TOEFL. The other kinds of test are also accepted. I tried to communicate with foreign friends in Korea on th phone or SNS. I made a friend from international program our home university provides. To apply for that, we need to write application form, so I submitted my TOEIC score. I also watched a lot of contents with English.

For German, I studied by myself. I found a helpful online lecture for free in Korea.

Not Germany, but some countires in Europe were notorious for pick pocket. So I bought some locks and safe guard tools for my phone and other belongings.

In Germany especially as a exchange student, the food delivery service is not that activated as much as it in Korea. It is more general to cook by myself. So I brought some ramen, kimchi, and other meal-kit for eating before I got the dishes or cooking tools.

Would you recommend the host university to other students? Why or why not?

Yes. Because DHBW has a lot of good courses for business.

#German course (in Tricos) : I still can't believe that DHBW provides us this quite good courses for free. The tricos building is so nice, clean and located nearby Stuttgart Hbf. The interaction between students and a teacher was also good, so I felt that our teacher considered our own comprehension on and on. Thanks to this class, I learned German far easily and with much more fun. I can read and speak basic things in German and can speak to the clerk in the restaurant or any kinds of stores in Germany.

#Intercultural course

Our professor of this course was so kind and respectful. She prepared much for good courses every time. All of cases she told us was very interesting and helped me to understand other cultures. Understanding and knowing each other is the first thing that we need when we meet people from other cultures. And we should be careful not judging them without any efforts to know them. This lesson can be somehow simple, but I felt this so directly and lively with the communication. Also, our professor made a field class one day with impressing activities. I will not forget this class forever.

#Negotiation

It could be quite hard courses to someone like me. This class requires us to participate in the discussion. And every day has discussion. The discussion is about negotiation, of course. She provides us some materials to explain our virtual roles and situations. Sometimes it was a business meeting about trade or about firing employees or how much each part wants to account for their cooperation. Some of them was little hard to understand because I didn't know which figures are important to those specific topics. However, as several discussion passed, I got used to read the materials and caught the point. In addition, I can experience lot of kinds of attitudes from other students. I wanted to respect and follow them sometimes while I felt some discomfort from someone's attitude. Anyway, I can realize that there are multiple kinds of attitudes and thoughts. Besides discussion, this course consists of two parts. The other part is theory from the professor. It also includes very important elements to negotiation. They were also interesting for me. And our professor tried a lot not to make students boring. She made a break when we want. This course is holding for quite long hours so sometime It can be hard to concentrate strongly, but I think It would be much harder without our professor.

#Financial market

This course was online course. I heard that It was online on last semester as well. It was appropriate to hold online, and I didn't feel any dissatisfaction about this. This course explains us from start of Financial market and the materials he gave to us are also great. He provides the record files ever time, so I can watch them again and understand with my pace. This course evaluation is by one exam and one presentation. The presentation topic was the exchanges in Europe. Preparing it was so helpful to understand how the exchanges work in Germany and Europe. It was a good opportunity. The test was not that burden. Every question was from things the professor explained before. From this course, I can learn general information of Financial market, especially German and global levels. To understand some English terms and cases, I have to search by myself and that experiences were also impressing for me.

#International case study

I felt a lot of fun from this course. The materials were great and constructed very well. The course includes theory and presentation. After the theory, he wants us to make a team and presentation about that. It helped us not to get sick of just listening and sitting on the chair.

His class and cases were really interesting to me. Thanks to this course, I learned lots of international companies and their special relationship, even some trades between them. It helped me to find my other interest.

LIFE IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY

Was it difficult to find your way in the host country? What surprised you the most?

Not difficult, but somethings were suprising to me.

Unlike Korea, the price of grocery market in Germany is much lower. And Germany has lots of good supermarket branches like REWE, PENNY, LIDL, EDEKA, KAUFLAND, etc. They sell good quality products with good price. Going to supermarket and buying foods for my daily diet is not common to me in Korea.

However, I got a new habit, grocery shopping and cooking. I felt like getting more independence.

Also, I really like 'Pfand' system in Germany.

We just put the empty bottles to the recycling bin in Korea. But Germany's Pfand returns around 0.25€ when we return an empty bottle. I think It can really motivates people to recycle plastic bottles with good condition. We have to pay pfand fee when we buy, but we can pay back. It is really eco-friendly policy. I can find the pfand machine easily through my town.

Which experience do you remember particularly well?

I lived at Student Dorm in Unterturkeim. Most of exchange students live in Heilmanstrasse. I'm the only DHBW girl in my dorm. At first, I felt awkward. Soon, It became a good opportunity to make friends from other univiersity. I met really kind and good flatmates there. On the first week, I didn't know anything about

my dorm (garbage, kitchen, public stuff, refrigerator, etc.) But my flatmates didn't hesitate to teach me the basic rules. I really appreciated their kindness. Even some mates cooked for me. The memories were really precious. I'll miss them much. And I went to London on a trip with one of my flatmate. It was really happy trip. We are from different country, but live in same dorm now. As this coincidence, we became good friends and travel mate as well. In addition, we shared out cultures and foods a lot. We could talk a lot the difference between us. There were lots of things to talk and very interesting.

I cooked Korean popular dishes and traditional foods to her. It was good. Also, we shared the politic issues. Likewise, I strongly recommend to live in Student dorm and travel with them.

What advice would you give other scholarship holders coming to this host country?

VVS: My buddy let me know this app, VVS. I really like most of things of Germany. But often Delaying of transportation is really bothering to me. Just depending on Google map is not credible to keep on time. I solved this problem with VVS. It shows exact time considering the delay. So I strongly recommend the other exchange students to install this app.

Flixbus student discount : I took Flixbus a lot to travel. I haven't known I can get special student discount from Flixbus for the first month. With international student ID, we can get 10% discount voucher of Flixbus. The total figure I saved with this voucher would be quite large, I guess.

PERSONAL CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

What did you expect from studying abroad? Were these expectations met?

Getting familiar with foreigners and breaking the borders. Thanks to even scholarship, I explored much more than I expected. I went to Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, UK, Italy, Spain and France. Besides, I found several beautiful cities in Germany, even I didn't know before. This valuable journey made me grow and broad my insight a lot. I don't feel any fear from Europe countries. Before I came here and traveled, Europe seems little unfamiliar and not related with me. However, after this experience, I became much familiar with them and threw away every border of nationality.

In hindsight, what were the most important lessons learned for life during your stay abroad?

Just Do It.

Would you recommend the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

Sure!

Thank you very much for your openness and your time.

We wish you all the best for your future and hope that you will stay a part of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM network, e.g. in one of the national and international Regional Chapters.

Are you interested?

Then have a look at <https://www.bws-world.de/portal/spa#orgstr/my-groups/index> and <https://www.bw-stipendium.de/netzwerk/regional-chapter/>.