

Erasmus Student Report

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I am delighted to write this short report on the Erasmus summer semester 2022. It makes me feel very lucky to spend this period of my life at DHBW Stuttgart University. This experience will always be of great importance throughout my life.

1. Preparation:

This stage begins from the moment we were first told to choose a university for the exchange period. I will consider this stage to be the most exciting and, of course, the most important because it affects all other stages. I would like to say that choosing the university is a challenging task, because there are a large number of well-known partner universities, and one has to choose the one that best suits him. I did the same and chose DHBW Stuttgart University for myself. One of the reasons I made this choice is I was curious about German culture and I wanted to spend a period of my life in this culture.

Once we had made our selection, came the application stage, which was very well organized by the International Student Office in charge of the mission. The list of requirements was very well provided to us on time and therefore we had enough time to complete the application process and manage the necessary documents. I would like to thank everyone involved in this process and my professors at the host university.

2. Accommodation:

The accommodation part was very well managed by the host university. We were given the option of staying in a dormitory and offered assistance in finding private accommodation. I chose to stay in the dorm to be a part of the culture and make friends more easily. The dormitory management was very cooperative. And they were always there to help.

I stayed at Heilmannstrasse 4b. When choosing the dormitory, I paid great attention to the location of the building. My dormitory is very close to the center and transportation from here was very comfortable. I was in an apartment for 6 people. The kitchen was very spacious and large 2 bathrooms had 3 toilets. Each of my housemates came from a different country. I quickly made friends from Peru, Sudan, Greece, China, and Korea. We organized many parties and events in the dormitory together, so I had the opportunity to meet more people and get to know the cultures I was very unfamiliar with. Since there are people from many different cultures and countries living together in a single building, the dormitory environment was a unique experience in itself. It was a place where we could always talk, experience cultural fusion with students from all over the world, have the opportunity to taste traditional dishes, learn new things and find beautiful people. Another advantage of the dormitory is that it is easy to hear from all events and meetings, especially those of interest to Erasmus students. I will advise others to choose the dormitory option as well.

The dormitory I stayed in had only one problem. The elevator was constantly breaking down and took a lot of time to fix. We had to use the stairs for a full month and that was very annoying.

3. Academics:

We started our training with a German course for the first three weeks. I would like to say that this course will be very helpful for you for a few months in Germany. The training was quite enjoyable and the feeling of understanding some of the words you hear outside in the city where you live will make you feel closer to German culture. The faculty courses were much different. The professors at the university were also very qualified. The German education system was, of course, different from my own university. Unlike my own university, I came across a practice-oriented education system rather than theory-oriented and I liked it. In my own country, there was an education system based on rote learning, and it was here that I realized how wrong it was.

At the same time the university has many clubs. It is a good idea to join any of these clubs that are in your field. This way you can meet German students. Because the friends you take your courses with will usually be Erasmus students from different countries. If you want to get to know German culture, making German friends will help you greatly.

I would like to express my gratitude to the professors who have entered our classes here. Especially endless thanks to my teacher Zeina Matar. She is so kind, thoughtful and sincere. I strongly recommend that you get to know her and choose her courses.

5. Hands-On Tips

Many festivals and events are held in Stuttgart. It is useful to examine facebook groups to be aware of them. You can find out the dates and locations of almost all events from there. At the same time, there are some alternatives to be able to travel around Europe cheaper. One of them is Blabla car thanks to this application you can travel cheaper or you can choose Flix bus. For flights, you can use the application called Skyscanner. For accommodation, I used the Couchsurfing application. Thanks to this app, you can stay completely free. Couchsurfing also gives you the opportunity to meet locals in the country you're going to. In this way, you can learn from the locals about the places you are going to visit that are not popular yet and really cool. This is really a great app! I've made friends from all over the world, and if I go back to the places I've visited, I now know who to communicate with. Thanks Couchsurfing users!

4. My Stay in Germany:

I was very nervous before I came to Stuttgart. It was my first time going abroad and the feeling of fear inside me was quite high. A new country, a new culture, a new language, new friendships, a new education system... All of this grew in my eyes as the time approached. But despite everything, I was so excited to experience it. And I knew that spending a period of my life abroad would completely change my ideas and my outlook on life. So I knew my decision was the right one.

Stuttgart is definitely a stress-free and relaxed city. It is quite possible to taste the peace of living in a stress-free environment here. There are many areas where you can spend your time picnicking by the lake with your friends to enjoy the beautiful weather. There's always something going on around

that is worth enjoying. At the same time in Germany there are beergardens that you will encounter in every park and square in the summer. Tiny concerts and events are held in these beergardens.

One of the environments where you can sip a real cold German beer with pleasure. I have to say that I loved this culture! You can have the opportunity to meet many local people here and feel really immersed in German culture.

You have a lot of time to travel around Europe. Because the class hours are few and the time left to you is too much. Definitely make good use of your time. Because time flows really fast in Erasmus! I still can't believe I'm writing a personal report right now. The first day I came here is still in my mind. My god!

I didn't just use my time here for training and sightseeing, but I questioned myself many times to search for myself and find out what I really wanted, and that was great. I felt very fortunate to be in this experience in my 20s, when our ideas were not yet fully established and could quickly take shape. Because when you set out and come back, you are never the same person. You add and change many things to yourself. I think absolutely every young person should experience this. If you have such an opportunity, do it without thinking!

I will end by stating that this is undoubtedly a unique and life-changing experience for me. Every moment was full of learning and fun. Germany is now home to memories that I will never forget in my life. It gave me so much more than the dreams I had before I came here. I will thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and highly recommend DHBW Stuttgart University as one of the best places to go for an exchange program.