



Baden-Württemberg
STIPENDIUM

**BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG-STIPENDIUM
FOR STUDENTS
PERSONAL REPORT**

Name: Leonardo Reyes Consuelo

E-mail address: leonardo_reyes@uadec.edu.mx

Home university: Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Facultad de Ciencias Químicas

Host university: Duale Hochschule Baden - Württemberg

Period of the exchange: 01.03.2020 until 01.05.2020
Beginn Ihres Stipendiums

Creation date: 07.01.2020

PREPARATIONS FOR THE STAY

Since my childhood I always wanted to study a part of my career abroad. It was a dream that I needed to accomplish anyway possible. So I studied hard everyday in order to grow emotionally , professionally and be prepared for my moment to come. During my first bachelor year, I heard about a studying abroad program where students could chose which country and university would you like to do your staying. I always wanted to go to Germany, so did my research and found out I had the essential requirements to go to Germany.

My tutor was like a guardian angel for me. He helped me all time along the way and made sure I had the right information within my hands. Long story short, I was selected to study abroad a semester in Stuttgart, Germany. Next step was get into talks with international office of the host university. I couldn't be more surprised since Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg offered me an scholarship through the Baden-Wurtemberg STIPENDIUM program. I am really grateful for this life changing opportunity, and for all the support both my home and host universities had given me.

I really desired to meet other people in person and get to know them and build a good relationship, however, due to this year pandemie, social distancing was necessarily. I won't lie saying everything was fine, sometimes I felt my stay would be nothing but a bitter time. Knowing everything I could not done during my stay if were not because of Covid-19, I would have participated in all activities as possible.

STUDYING AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

When I was younger, I heard amazing things of Germany, about their education system, life quality,, ancient culture and work opportunities. My desire of going someday to Germany grew day by day, so i put all my effort into accomplishing it.

Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg received me with wide open arms. Honestly, I thought it would be a hard process getting to adapt and be by myself. But it was completely the other way around. DHBW made me feel like home anytime. Since first day, they helped me to settle and made thing easier. My only worries was to study and do my best. I couldn't choose a better option than DHBW as my first international study experience and gladly to name as my second home university.

Not only where they differences between my home and host university , but also the whole environmental context.. It was a cultural shock and I'm still impressed of the large differences I've found. During my stay I learned about the education system that differs on the capacity of each student and how it is directed to certain work areas. Besides that, everything seemed pretty similar to my home university, both motivate you to keep studying.

First of all, I proposed myself to learn german in order to understand and interact with natives so I could practice my speaking. I aimed for a decent german level for the moment, although I plan to keep studying german to get a higher level. I searched for information about life and culture in Germany and what to expect when arriving. I also prepared mentally and emotionally to this new challenge I was willing to accept. As I was going to be in the International Business Program, I did some research about my future courses in order to have some previous knowledge.

If I had the chance to come back to DHBW someday in the future, I would totally do it. As I mention before,, I feel Germany, Stuttgart and DHBW as my second

home. I recommend to first timers DHBW as their first option when studying abroad. I couldn't imagine how awesome it would be before going to DHBW.

LIFE IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY

It was not difficult at all to adapt to a country who lets you drink alcohol in public spaces. I am joking! (of course not). Honestly , many things surprised me: public transport system, traffic education, waste clasification and recycling, awesome forest landscapes, amazing food and bier of course. I will definitely miss this incredible things once I go back to my home country.

I will always remember my first day of class in DHBW. The international office, my classmates, my new friends and every person who helped me along the way. Parties, meet ups, online classes (taken n my bed). Everything and everyone taught me a lesson I'll never forget.

If you want to go to Germany, the best tip is to do not try to understand any german word at the very start . I'm kidding. Enjoy everything , learn from everyone and be willing to be open for new knowledge .

PERSONAL CONCLUSION

Sadly due to Covid-19, most of the time we were in our dormitories because we couldn't get out so somehow, i felt bad because I thought I'd lose many great moments, but what I learned during this social distancing was that, it doesn't matter how far are you from your beloved ones, as long as you keep in touch with them, that's the essence of communication.

I learned how to survive a pandemic. I learned how to be with myself and trying to stay mentally and physically healthy. I cannot say everything was good but you can take something good even from bad situations. I am thankful and I do not regret my stay because I really enjoyed it and grew with it, and know I am better because I gained experience.

I would recommend every student to get in contact with Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM if you want to combine fun with learning. I am sure they somehow will find a solution in case you have any problem. Germany, DHBW and Baden-Württemberg STIPENDIUM changed my life in a positive way and thanks to them I am a better person.

