



Ana Karen Alvarez Cabello

Mexico

Personal Report (Summer 2018)

Home University: Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila

Host University: Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart

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Personal Info

My name is Ana Karen and I am 22 years old. I come from Mexico, where I study Organizational Communication and Public Relations.

Synopsis of my stay

This study abroad was a completely new experience for me. All of my expectations during this study abroad were satisfied, and I consider this semester was really fruitful for me. During my time in Germany I had the opportunity of continue with my studies, learn a new language, meet a new culture, and, of course, travel around Europe. Furthermore, the scholarship that I received gave me the opportunity to meet new international people, hang out with them and learn a lot about their own cultures.

Before Germany

Last september, on 2017, I started to prepare everything to make an exchange semester in Germany. As an student of UAdeC, in Mexico, I needed to fill a lot of papers for the uni and some others for the DHBW. Right after that, I received the acceptance letter, so I started to make the visa process to study in Germany for 6 months. During this process I discovered that the host University helps a lot international students.



Here are some specific things I did to prepare myself before Germany...

Language:

Before arriving in Germany I studied some German, just because I wanted to know the basics of the language. Once that I was in Germany I discovered that almost everyone in Germany speaks English, so if you don't know german, don't worry, you won't have problems at all.

Culture:

Those classes taught me about German culture, but also about their traditions. Once that I was in Germany, I found out some important facts about germans, like punctuality and organization. I learned that they are direct and do not like to laugh about themselves. Maybe you already know, but it is important to know... **Germans LOVE Beer**, they really do. An extra would be that germans say "hallo" to catch people's attention.

Study in Germany

Courses:

I lived six months in Stuttgart and studied in the DHBW, where I took eighth courses. Five of them were related to the Business Administration program: 1) “Intercultural Negotiation Training”, 2) “International Management-Case Studies”, 3) “International Marketing: Consumer Behavior”, 4) “International Social Media Marketing and Digital Storytelling”, and 5) “International Student Case Competition”. Two of them were mandatory for international students: 6) “Basics of scientific working” and 7) “Intercultural training germany”. And the extra one was 8) “German Language”.



Dual System:

As you must know, students in the DHBW study 3 months and work 3 others in a company. So your schedule is going to be weird, some weeks you are going to have a lot of classes, but some others you are going to be completely free to do some research, travel, or home study.

Culture Connection:

At the beginning of the semester the International office assign a group of people to the international students. They do a lot of activities during the semester, which are great to meet new people, new cultures and new places.



Stay in Germany

Personal experiences:

- The German language is really difficult to learn, so if you want to learn it take a course and try your best to always **speak in German** with people, if not.. they will switch to English.
 - If someone says "hallooo" to you, then pay attention because you are probably doing something wrong.
 - **Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest** was a wonderful German experience, over there you can enjoy German beer, love, typical music, food and traditions.
 - Due to the dual program, the semester offers you the opportunity to **travel around Europe** on your free time. I personally recommend not to skip classes and travel on the free time.
 - Stuttgart has a lot of **international people**, and advantage for everyone to learn new languages and cultures.
 - **Punctuality** is really important, don't be late.
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“

Nobody can discover the world for somebody else.
Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a
common bond and we cease to be alone.”

- Wendell Berry
