

Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey –
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I will begin by explaining how the process for applying for an international experience works in my home university. The entire process begins when the international office releases the international offer for students, then we have to check the requirements regarding the language. In my case, the DHBW asked for English only (Institutional TOEFL 550 /97 on the TOEFL IBT), at the moment of application I already have the required score so I did not have to make the examination again. The following step is choosing the universities you would like to go and submitting a form before the specified deadline. There is an internal selection process which assures that the applicants get a university, once you have been assigned to a university the paper work begins.

When I received my acceptance letter, I had to do two very important things: the visa process for Germany and selecting the courses in the DHBW. In my case I had to choose a mixture of RSP and ISP classes because the syllabus was similar to the content of the classes in my home university. In relation to the visa process the university was very helpful, they sent the acceptance early on in the process and helped me clarify some doubts I had about the residence I had to pick, the insurance and some other requirements.

From the beginning of my semester Germany has been amusing, however there are cultural differences to Mexico and Bolivia. I think the one that struck me the most at the beginning was how direct the German communication style is, they speak their mind whereas in Latin America we often try to “frame” the things we say. Another thing that is really different is the eating and shopping habits here. Back home I used to have larger storage units in my residence and it is very common to fill the fridge with food for 15 days. Perhaps the biggest difference, and the one that took the most time for me to get used to, is that almost all shops and supermarkets are closed on Sunday.

I knew the dual system of DHBW before starting my semester abroad, but I was never part of it, unfortunately I could not work during my staying. This system is quite different to what I was used to in Mexico, here I had longer classes for shorter periods of time, I also didn't have the same schedule for the entire semester, but the most

important difference is the qualification system, in Mexico the grades are split into two terms and a final exam. I took 6 courses thorough out the semester: Finance and Investment, Intercultural Negotiation Training, International Management, International Marketing, The contemporary economic and Political System of Europe, International Innovation Management. I would have to say that my favorite classes were Finance and Investment and International Management, the content of both was really interesting and the professors were also great. However, I must note that there is a difference in difficulty between the RSP and the ISP courses. I would also like to say that I would have liked to have more RSP courses available, as I most of my classes were with the international students. Another recommendation I have for the university is that, if possible, is to give an electronic copy of the handouts.

The content of the subjects were really interesting tough classes were very different one from another. The highlights of each course were: for Intercultural negotiation training to understand cultural differences and act on them; the best part of International management was the Brexit chapter; Finance and Investment was my first approach to Capital markets; the history and the Evolution of the EU in the Contemporary economy and political system of the EU and Germany; the examples of successful companies in International innovation management were really helpful and finally the marketing strategies.

Regarding the extracurricular activities, I know the DHBW had sport classes but I did not participate in any of them. However, at the beginning of the semester we were introduced to cultural connection, Tricos and the Buddy program who took as out to excursions to Strasbourg, Frankfurt, the Black forest and some touristic sites in Stuttgart and the surrounding towns.

I would like to finish this paper by saying how great my stay in Stuttgart was. The DHBW opened so many doors for me, getting to know more about the German culture and the university environment, it has was a sneak peak of the German working environment and allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. I would like to thank Claudia, Andreas and all those who were involved with the

International Program for their great work and for making me feel welcome since day one. Finally, I need to thank my international colleagues for sharing their culture, their knowledge and experiences, they made me a better a person, helped me broaden my thinking and helped me to understand how in spite of cultural differences we can achieve great things by collaborating and being creative.