

## PERSONAL REPORT

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**HOME UNIVERSITY:** UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE COAHUILA

**HOST UNIVERSITY:** DHBW STUTTGART

**FIELD OF STUDY:** INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

**DEGREE INTENDED:** ECONOMICS

**PERIOD OF TIME:** 1 SEMESTER (6 MONTHS)

## PERSONAL REPORT

### PREPARATION OF THE STAY

AFTER HANDING OUT ALL MY APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO MY HOME UNIVERSITY AND THEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF DHBW, I RECEIVED MY ACCEPTANCE LETTER. MY HOME UNIVERSITY TOLD ME THAT I NEED IT TO APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA, SO I KNEW IT WAS ALMOST THE LAST STEP TO FOLLOW BEFORE LEAVING TO GERMANY.

I MENTALLY KNEW I HAD TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER CULTURE. I TOOK A GERMAN COURSE A FEW YEARS AGO, BUT FOR SURE WAS NOT ENOUGH, ONCE MY CLASSES WERE OVER IN MY HOME UNIVERSITY I STARTED PRACTICING GERMAN AGAIN, TWO MONTHS PRIOR MY ARRIVAL. HONESTLY GERMANY IS SO COMPLEX TO STUDY ALONE, SO WHEN DHBW OFFERED US AN INTENSIVE GERMAN COURSE I TOOK THE CHANCE. THE INTENSIVE GERMAN COURSE WERE SO MUCH FUN, WE WERE A SMALL GROUP DIVIDED BETWEEN MEXICANS AND KOREANS AND WE GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME CLOSER BECAUSE WE HAD TO SEE EACH OTHER ALL DAYS FOR FOUR HOURS, BESIDES WE HAD AN AMAZING TEACHER. THE TEACHER ALWAYS ENCOURAGE US TO USE WHAT WE LEARNED THE DAY BEFORE AND DO NOT BE AFRAID TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC. THE WHOLE COURSE WENT FAST AND I WAS GLAD I EXTENDED MY GERMAN VOCABULARY.

I KNEW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE GERMAN CULTURE, BUT AFTER TAKING THE INTERCULTURAL TRAINING COURSE I COULD UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT GERMANY. THE POLITICS IN GERMANY ARE SO IMPORTANT, EVEN IN THE NEW CONTINENT WE KNOW THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF GERMANY AND HER CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL. FOR ME THE EUROPEAN UNION IS A COMPLEX ENTITY THAT I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND, BUT WHEN I ASKED EUROPEAN CITIZENS ABOUT IT AND THEY COULD NOT ALSO EXPLAIN IT TO ME I DID NOT FELT BAD ANYMORE. IN THE EYES OF AN AMERICAN, WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF A HUGE PARLIAMENT WHO ORDERS TWENTY SEVEN COUNTRIES, SO FOR ME THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE HOW COUNTRIES LEFT THEIR NATIONALISM TO BECOME AN ENTIRE EUROPEAN BODY. ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES I WILL TAKE WITH ME IS VISITING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG.

ABOUT FORMALITIES I DID NOT KNEW MUCH ABOUT THEM, MOSTLY BY SOCIAL MEDIA I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT GERMANS WERE STRICT PERSONS WHO LIKE TO FOLLOW RULES AND HAVE A COLD PERSONALITY, BUT ONCE YOU HAVE A DIRECT EXPERIENCE ALL CHANGE.

## **STUDY IN THE HOST COUNTRY**

**STUDYING SYSTEM IN DHBW IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MY HOME COUNTRY, THERE YOU GO TO THE SCHOOL FOR EIGHT HOURS PER DAY, BUT YOU TAKE FOUR COURSES OF TWO HOURS EACH. WHEN WE GOT INTRODUCED TO FOUR HOURS OF EVEN EIGHT HOURS PER LECTURE I WAS AFRAID IT WILL BE EXHAUSTING AND STUDENTS WILL LOSE INTEREST IN THE CLASS, EVERYTHING CHANGE WHEN THE COURSES WERE TAKING PLACE AND THE TEACHER KNEW THE STRUGGLE, SO THEY MADE CLASSES MORE INTERESTING WITH ACTIVITIES, VIDEOS, FOCUS GROUPS, GROUPS PRESENTATIONS. PRETTY MUCH, STUDYING IN DHBW IS A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.**

**BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT GERMANY, YOU CAN HEAR ALL THOSE NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT GERMANS AND HOW COLD THEY ARE, BUT IN THE MORNINGS, WHEN THE TEACHERS ASKED US HOW WE WERE, WE WERE REALLY GREAT. I SHARED TWO COURSES WITH ONE GERMAN CLASS, AND I ENJOY IT, THEY WERE THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF WHAT PEOPLE SAID, THEY WERE SO NICE AND FUN TO WORK WITH.**

**SHARING COURSES WITH ALL THE REST OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BROUGHT AN INTERESTING MIX TO THE CLASS, EVEN TEACHERS WERE SURPRISED. YOU WERE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH CULTURE AND HOW DIFFERENT OR SIMILAR IN SOME ASPECTS WE ARE. GETTING TO KNOW THOSE AMAZING PEOPLE IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.**

## **STAY IN THE HOST COUNTRY**

**STAYING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY WHERE YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE THINGS YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH, SPECIALLY MEXICAN FOOD SOMETIMES IS CHALLENGING, BUT YOU LEARN TO ROLL WITH IT. PEOPLE SEE YOU IN A DIFFERENT WAY BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LOOK LIKE THE OTHERS, AND THEY STARE AT YOU FOR A LONG TIME. ONCE YOU GET TO THE CITY, YOU CAN SEE ALL THIS MIXTURE OF CULTURES, PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM INDIA, NIGERIA, SPAIN, ARGENTINA, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA AND PERU. MEETING NEW PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OR STREETS, SHARING LAUGHS AND STORIES WERE A GREAT HOBBY. I STAYED OUTSIDE THE CITY OF STUTTGART, SO GETTING TO CLASS WAS A NEW STORY EACH DAY, THE S-BAHN WAS DELAYED OR OUT OF SERVICE, SOME BUSES STOPPED WORKING EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON SO I HAD TO WALK A LOT, I EVEN GOT LOST IN THE FOREST, BUT ALL THAT ARE MEMORIES THAT I AM HAPPY TO TAKE WITH ME.**

## **HANDS ON TIPS**

**EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT, SO MY TIPS MAYBE WILL NOT WORK FOR EVERYONE. WHAT I COULD SAY IS HAVE AN OPEN MIND, DO NOT FORMULATE EXPECTATIONS IN YOUR MIND, BECAUSE MAYBE YOU WILL BE FRUSTRATED IF YOU DO NOT REACH THEM. IN RELATION TO STUDY, MAKE SURE TO FOCUS FIRST IN THE SCHOOL, THINGS ABROAD CAN BE SO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY. RESPECT ALL CULTURES NO MATTER WHAT, ANYONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER. ACCEPT OTHER OPINIONS AND DO NOT BE RUDE. BE PUNCTUAL, IN THE FIRST WEEK YOU WOULD SEE HOW TEACHER MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WANT EVERYONE TO BE ON TIME. THE MEMBERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE ARE THERE TO HELP SO DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK.**

**AFTER ALL, ACCEPT WHAT COMES WITH LEAVING ABROAD BECAUSE AFTER ALL YOU ARE HERE FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. ENJOY YOUR STAY.**

## **PERSONAL EVALUATION**

**MY PERSONAL EVALUATION WILL BE THAT I ENJOYED MY STAY AS MUCH AS I COULD, I LEARNED FROM MY TEACHERS, I TRAVELED AS MUCH AS I COULD, I MET PEOPLE AND ENJOY IT THE WEATHER TO THE MAXIMUM. SOMETIMES YOU ARE FRUSTRATED OTHER TIME YOU ARE HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE. I KNEW THAT SO MANY THINGS COME FROM STUDYING ABROAD, BUT I KNOW I DID MY BEST IN THE ACADEMIC ASPECT. I WAS SO TERRIFIED WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF SOME LECTURES, BUT TEACHER ARE OPEN TO QUESTIONS. I AM PLEASED WITH MY EXPERIENCE.**