

Report on living in Germany

Mikko Hagman

+358 442603934

mikko.hagman(at)gmail.com

Laurea University of Applied Sciences

Finland

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1. Preparation

I was quite well prepared for the stay in Germany, as I had studied German language in Finland previously. At first it was hard for me to get used to the German language, but after one week I got used to hearing it and using it. For me as a European, the culture shock was not big one. I hear a lot of news from Germany all the time in Finnish news, so the political situation and what is talked about now is familiar.

Preparations with DHBW went well. I could easily choose my courses. One of the best things for me was, how easy it was to find the international study programme's course list from DHBW website. I checked other universities in Germany, but in DHBW I could find the course list quite easy compared to others.

I checked I had to send a lot of documents to DHBW, compared to my friend who went to England. Also, there was a miscommunication or misunderstanding before the exchange from my school and DHBW, but it was handled well and I got to send my documents to DHBW a little late.

2. Studying in DHBW

I started my studies in DHBW the next day I arrived to Germany. I had a lot of school in September and October, but after that it got easier with classes, so I had more free time. Courses were nice and interesting. I could follow teaching easily and the teachers had good English. The lectures were around the same length as in my home university and in my opinion that is ok length. I did not see any big differences in the university study system compared to Finland. One thing was a little bit surprising is to write exams with pen instead of pencil. For me it is not as good, because I make sometimes mistakes in writing, so with pen I can't correct those mistakes.

For me it was not too difficult to change between buildings in Stuttgart. Thankfully most of the classes were held in Paulinenstraße. The communication between

the International office and me functioned well, and I knew if had any problems where to go.

3. Living in Germany and tips

For me living in here has been easy. One thing came a little surprise was, that grocery stores are not open on Sundays. But I learned that in couple of days. The flat where I lived was nice and it was really fun, that other international students also lived there.

It was really fun going to small trips organized by our buddies. With those we could see and experience more Germany. A big plus to DHBW International office who paid some of the trips for us.

For European students I think it is quite easy to live in Germany, because of EU. I think non-European students had bigger culture shock in Germany compared to Europeans, as I think it is the European culture after all in Germany.

I didn't have any problems with bank or currency changes as it is the same currency in Finland. One tip is to keep ID with you, but I think you can go pretty far with only driving license. Although I heard, that you should keep ID card or passport with you in Germany. Another tip is to always have cash with you as Germans love to pay by cash. Luckily, I heard this before I came to Germany, so I was prepared for that. Third tip is to be on time in meetings, as many people know Germans are punctual with time. But luckily we are punctual in Finland too, so this wasn't hard for me to get used to. It helps a lot if you know the language a little bit, so you don't have to ask someone to translate everything to you.

4. Last words

In the end my stay was pleasant, and I like the city of Stuttgart a lot. I learned more German as that was one of the reasons to come to Germany. I managed to get through the bureaucracy of Germany, so I think anyone can do it.