



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

PERSONAL REPORT

Winter Semester

Name: Garazi Aranburu Altuna

Home University: University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

Host University: Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW)

Degree: Telecommunication Engineering

Going to Erasmus to DHBW Stuttgart has been the best decision I have ever made. Now that it is December and my Erasmus experience is over, I would like to come back again at the end of August to repeat everything again, due to the fact that it has been a wonderful experience.

First of all, all the students who wanted to go on Erasmus had to choose 8 destinations. In my case, I wanted to go to Germany, because it seems like an ideal country to go to study. I also wanted to study a new language and Germany also met that requirement. There were many options in this country, but since I did not know German, I looked for those universities that offer classes in English, and this was the reason of the selection of DHBW Stuttgart.

After a month or so, they assigned us the destination. Luckily, it was DHBW Stuttgart, the one I wanted. And all the paperwork I had to do was easy, since everything that the university asked for was well organized and clear. I also had to choose the courses.

Then I had to get on the list to get accommodation in Stuttgart. I had to choose 3 at first, my 3 favorites. I didn't expect to find accommodation so easily. It was a really easy and very effective process. Since we only fill in our data and preferences, and after a month, the residence was assigned and I directly accepted the offer. The only thing that they asked us for was a German bank account to pay and that I had to do just when I arrived in Stuttgart. But, by May I had everything ready, all the paperwork done and the accommodation waiting for me. I was looking forward to leaving.

The day arrived, August 25th, to go to Stuttgart and say goodbye for a season to my friends from the Basque Country. I went with my family to spend the first days of my stay. We spent a few days in Stuttgart, we also went to Munich and the Black Forest. Every place was amazing and even more the food. We all really enjoy those days. But after that week, I had to say goodbye to them for a while. At that time I was quite sad, because I didn't know what was coming to me.

The first week was also very good, as they organized a Welcome Week for the international students and we got to meet all of us, internationals and the buddies. We visited many places in Stuttgart, the TV tower, the city, the Mercedes Benz museum... and we even went to spend the day to Tübingen. The buddies that I met had been really kind and friendly.



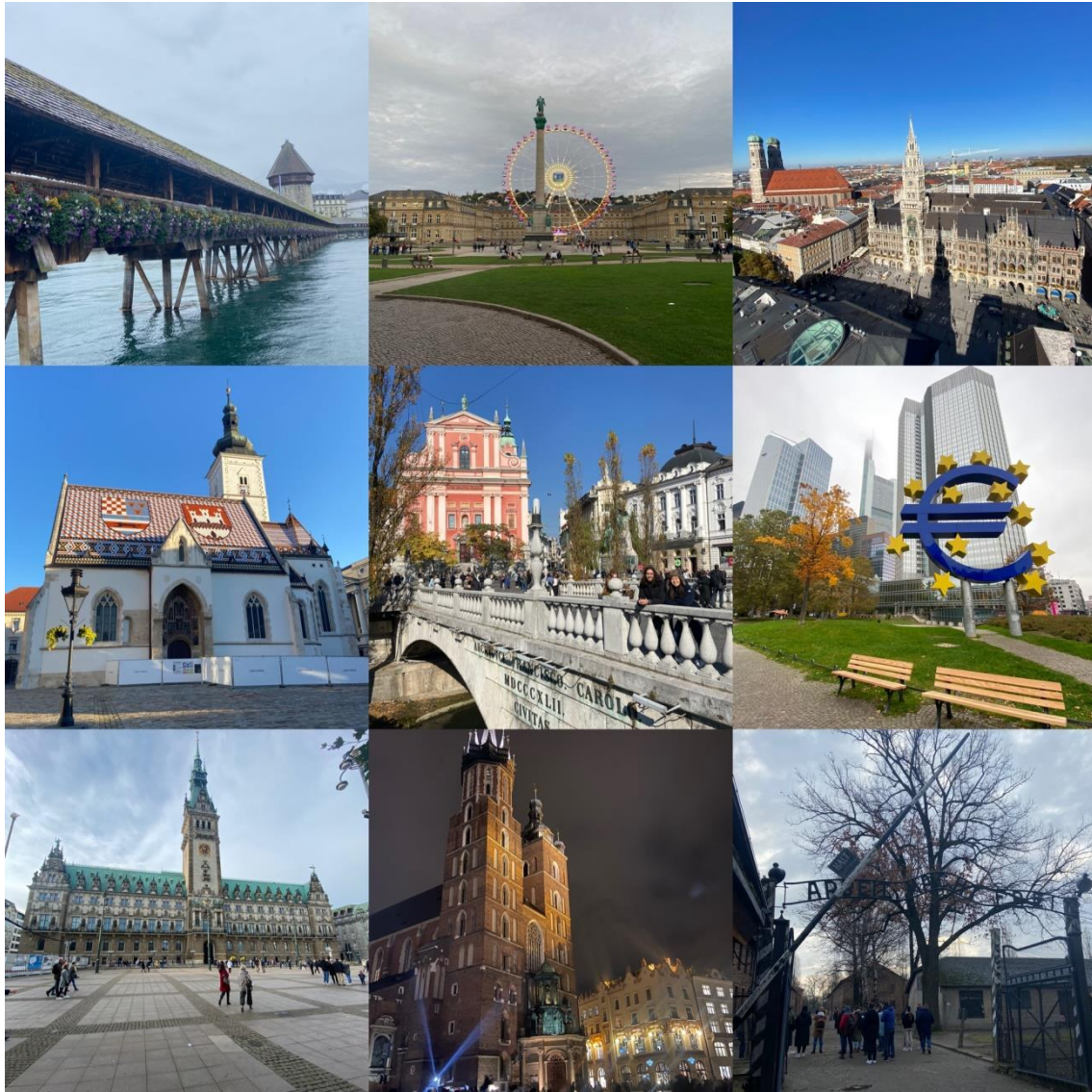
Day trip to Tübingen

After that, we had our time to adapt to the city and with that, the intensive German course began. They were three intense weeks, with classes of 3h per day. I have to say that it had been really effective because I learned the language a lot. We also started with university classes. At the beginning, when they gave me the timetable, I was very surprised, because I am used to having the same timetable every week. I'm usually 5-6 hours each day in my home university with classes of 1 hour for each course. On the other hand, at DHBW, we have had classes all day (7-8 hours), of the same subject and even all the week with the same subject. But it was very good, due to the fact that you spent more hours at the university but you could go home without loads of homework.

The university also offered free sports classes, and there were many options such as Full Body Workout, POP Pilates, Indoor Klettern, Zumba, Latin Dance Workout, Football, Basketball ... I was going to many classes and I really enjoyed, because I could also meet new people there.

I have to say that the weather in Stuttgart is not so good either, it is quite cold and the sun hardly even appears. But despite that, the weather has not been a problem to enjoy the time I have been there. It has been 4 very happy months of my life, I have laughed a lot and met wonderful people.

We have travelled a lot within Germany (Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt) and around the world (Slovenia, Krakow, Zagreb, Switzerland). Because in that aspect Stuttgart has a perfect location.



Places I've travelled to

In general, I want to encourage people that have the opportunity to do Erasmus at DHBW Stuttgart. It has been a very pleasant experience to evolve as a person and to know to enjoy life.

All in all, I want to thank my university and DHBW for making a dream come true, which has turned out to be awesome.