



PERSONAL REPORT

WINTER AND SUMMER SEMESTER

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PERSONAL REPORT & EXPERIENCE

Firstly, I would like to start my personal report with explaining a little bit of who am I so you can know more about my background. I am Esra Nacar, a 23 years old, student from Turkey, who loves dancing, swimming and spending time with my friends. I love traveling, meeting new people, learning new language and so on. It has always been my biggest dream to go abroad and study in a different country and I have realised it. I wanted to take the Erasmus exam just for fun and at the end of the process, I could not believe my eyes when I saw that I won the exam in the 1st place in my department. Then the real process started for me and I got my visa as a result of long efforts. I had the right to choose many countries and after doing some research, I decided to choose Germany and I was accepted. Some of the reasons why I chose this country are that there is no obligation to speak German and I came here with the confidence that the quality of education is really good. (Some countries wanted you to know the language of that country at least at A1 level) But I really came here with zero German.

It is quite difficult for me to write a personal report now in a country where I spent almost 1 year because I have experienced so many things and of course it is difficult to convey all of them. In fact, when I look back, it's like I arrived yesterday and it's almost over. Officially my university at DHBW is over but I am not returning to my country to utilise my remaining free time until the last day of my visa (11 September). When I first arrived in Germany, my buddy kindly met me at the airport and helped me get home. After that, to be honest, with the shock of coming to a different country for the first time, I went into a depression that lasted for 1 week and I recovered myself very quickly and realised that I actually wasted my first week. And now I am crying about leaving too. You can imagine change in emotions 😊 The first week I attended the welcome week that DHBW organised for us, everything was very nice and very welcoming. 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. Since I did not attend the intensive German course in the first semester, I had a gap of 3 weeks and at this time I got to know Stuttgart, I made new friends from many different countries and then the courses started.

2 of my winter term courses were online, but the other 6 were face-to-face. The professors were very understanding, polite and friendly to us. I got good results by studying a little and I did not fail any of my lessons. And most of my summer term courses were in the form of homework and the exams were quite easy. Some courses were taught and finished in 1 week, for example, the International Marketing course was held for almost 8 hours every day for 1 week, as far as I remember, and it was really a bit tiring and boring to be this way. In some courses, we were taking the exam immediately after 1 week and that course was completely

over. In summer semester, all my courses were face to face. That's why I think that I am very lucky.

In fact, since the winter period was cold, especially for someone living in Turkey and because of Covid 19, I could not enjoy it enough and I did research to stay in the summer period and extended my visa and my period and I can say that this decision was the best decision I made in my life. I had the opportunity to meet more new people by staying here during the summer and I had a great summer period with the lack of restrictions on corona and the warm weather. My friends and I have travelled outside Germany, visited different countries and experienced different cultures, different tastes, different places and so on. Stuttgart is really great as a location because it has very easy access to most places.

I live in Heilmannstrasse 4A as a dormitory and it is only about 10-15 minutes walking distance to the bazaar (Königstrasse), but since it is cold and rainy in winter, it is also very easy to reach by train because the station is only 2-3 minutes away. There is a heavenly park around the dormitory and you can picnic, barbecue, jogging, walking there. One of my favourite things has always been to walk in this park because I feel so good every time I walk through it.

HANDS ON TIPS:

- Before coming to Germany, research the German culture because the Germans are people who like distance and may seem a little cold. When I compared them with the people in my own country, they seemed very cold to me at first, but then I got used to them.
- Learn at least A2 level of German before coming to here. For this reason, I had real difficulties at times. Most people know English, but sometimes there are people who do not know or do not want to speak English.
- Official business is always done by post not an email or something and it takes a lot of time. If you want to do anything, for example, to extend the term like me, etc., you should start at least 2 or 3 months in advance.
- It is financially more profitable to buy a semester ticket.
- It is much more logical to come in the summer period. My reason for coming in winter was to extend the term and spend 1 year. If I only had one right, I would definitely come in the summer.
- The scholarship provided by the erasmus programme is absolutely insufficient, so you should either come by saving money or by working here part time. I live very comfortably by working 2 days a week and with scholarship support. There are many part time job opportunities for those who want to work.

To sum up, this experience was the greatest and most beautiful experience of my life. I made great friends, improved my language and started to learn a new language on top of it, got to know new cultures, studied in a different country with a different education system and many more... I'm already quite sad because I'll be back in almost a month but I am going to hopefully come again next year to do my master's degree and if people who read this report want to contact me, they can reach me by e-mail.

I would like to thank my own university and DHBW for making me live my dream and providing such a beautiful experience. Thanks a lot !

Finally, down below I would attach some of the pictures so you could see a little bit of what I lived.



1st September 2021 (arriving to Germany)



Heidelberg (I highly suggest!)

Mercedes-Benz Museum





Munih



Fun & Party (Tequila Club)



After lesson



Christmas in Stuttgart



Birthday of my Mexican friend



Strasbourg (France)

A day at DHBW



Jigger&Spoon (in Stuttgart)



Mallorca (Spain)

Amsterdam (Netherlands)



AND MANY MORE...