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**Home University: German University in  
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**Host University: Duale Hochschule  
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**Field of study: Mechatronics  
Engineering**

**Degree intended: bachelor**

**Number of semesters: one semester**

**Period of time: 6months**

# Semester at DHBW Stuttgart

My name is Karim Tanas, and I am writing my bachelor thesis at Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart (DHBW) in Stuttgart, Germany. The purpose of this report is to describe that semester Overseas in terms of academics, logistics at the host university, Germany's culture and social life.

In the beginning it started with the preparation of the stay in terms of getting an invitation letter and starting the procedure for visa issuance as I am not from an EU country. After getting the invitation letter I had to open a bank account in a German bank in order to get the visa and the procedures went really smoothly and I got the visa on my passport in less than a month after the embassy interview.

Concerning the language I have already studied four courses in my university in Cairo and one course during my previous semester abroad experience in Berlin last year. In addition, we studied a 9 weeks course in Stuttgart. My German is not fluent however I can manage a conversation in German.

The academic structure at DHBW is much different from my home university (German University in Cairo). Students at DHBW study six semesters to get their Engineering bachelor degree while at my home university it takes three more semesters to get a bachelor degree. However, I didn't get so involved in the classes, courses and grading

system because I had only to work on my bachelor project and writing my thesis. I had to intensively deal with my professor and my supervisor only. My professor is a very nice person and he is also very good in supervising the project and helping us to make the best of the experience on academic and life experience basis. Also, my professor wants us to reach the best output of the project but also have fun in our weekends and enjoy our stay. Our supervisor is also a very friendly person and works very well with the software we are using so he gives us so much support. Moreover, we have a weekly long meeting and presentation with our supervisor however if we have questions any time during the week he is usually available too.

The university is also trying to make our time as much fun as possible. On our arrival there was a daily program for the first week to visit the most important places in Stuttgart as Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart (Stuttgart library), city center and tour in the university and many other places.

During the first month there was an excursion to Frankfurt where we visited Frankfurt Stock Exchange and had a presentation there about the history of the place there and the main information about the place. We also had an English guided tour in the city and enjoyed the place there so much.

Next month there was another excursion to the very beautiful city of Strasbourg in France where we visited the European Parliament and

had a talk with one of the fourteen vice presidents of the parliament. Then, we had lunch in a breathtaking place in the city center followed by a walk in the old town. The cathedral is built with the gothic style which is really very beautiful and has a marvelous view from its top.

The international Culture Connection group is very friendly and we had so much fun. The university organized cultural competence sessions and presentations for every country students to present their country.

Transfer opportunities for me are not very promising as my German will not enable me to study engineering easily. However, if someone has German that will enable him/her to study in German shouldn't miss this life changing opportunity and living in one of the most beautiful states of Germany (Baden-Württemberg).