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Home University: Universidad de Cádiz

Host University: Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg

Field of study: Economy

Degree intended: Business Management

Number of semester: 8th

Period of time: 10 months in Stuttgart

Dear future international students,

First of all, when becoming an erasmus student, it is important to know that a plenty of formalities are needed. Nevertheless, it is nothing in comparison with the opportunity you would get.

These formalities for the **preparation of stay** include to find a dormitory, to open a bank account, to register as citizen in the new country, to get a new phone number, to register in the host university and to find a language school.

It has to be mentioned that for the most of them the university would help you, so there is no need to be afraid. In fact, the university, most concretely the international coordinators, have been available for us every time we needed help.

With regard to the language, English is really important because the classes are taught in that language. So you will be asked to have at least B2 English level in order to be able to understand the classes.

Regarding the German culture, please do not believe on stereotypes, they are friendly and they are looking forward to know people from another cultures.

Studying in the host country

Studying in Germany is very interesting and the teachers consider your opinion, moreover they prefer to interact with the students the most of the time. I would recommend to everybody to study one year in Germany.

With regard to the DHBW, they offer you a list of courses in English with two options: you can assist to classes just with international students (international program) or also with German students (general program). I recommend to choose classes with German students because they help you and it is a nice way of knowing new people. And there is also a third option: classes in German for those who have a fluent German.

The lectures are different depending on the type of classes you choose. In the international program, the classes last normally two or three hours during two months. And in the general program, the classes are more intensive but it is just for less than one month.

Regarding the evaluation, there are two ways for the international students: writing a paper or writing an exam. It depends on the subject and on the professor. And the marks range from 1 to 4, where 1 is the highest mark you can get.

And finally, if someone is interested in internships, I would recommend to choose the subject "Employability skills" and "Intercultural negotiation training", where the teacher explains how to apply for a German job. These subjects are really helpful and moreover here in Stuttgart, where there are a lot of internship opportunities.

Stay in the host country

This is my favorite part, however at the beginning it was the most scaring part.

In Stuttgart there are a lot of things to do and places to discover. Moreover, it is close to another interesting cities such as Heidelberg or Konstanz and to another countries as well.

I have met a lot of different people while staying in Germany, people from South Korea, China, Australia, Guatemala, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, the UK, the USA and Germany, of course. And they all taught me different things, because every country has its own culture, and you can always learn something from someone new.

Moreover, I had also the chance to live with German flatmates, which is really nice if you want to improve your German. And some of them helped me to know the city better and to orientate in this new country.

Personal evaluation

It is really difficult to summarize these eight months here in Stuttgart, to summarize this amazing and wonderful opportunity that this university gave me. Because at the beginning, the last September, when I came here for the first time I was really scared. Scared of a new city, a new country, a new language, a new university and a new culture; and scared of feeling lost, but I was lost in the right direction.

This international opportunity changes you like person, it changes your whole world. The main reason is that you have the chance to start from the bottom again, so take it as a challenge and show to yourself that you can do it.

In addition, there will be more people like you, international students, and they would probably become your friends. In my case, I made incredible friends and I am sure there will be my friends forever because we shared this experience and because they became my family while being here.

Regarding my experience, I will strongly recommend you to take advantage of this chance and please do not be afraid because the international coordinators of the university are available for you, to help you.

Finally, I think you deserve to know that after this experience you will grow as a person, you would be a little bit more mature and the problems will not seem so difficult anymore. But your heart will be divided between your hometown and the city where you live your erasmus year, for me it is Stuttgart.

Thank you for this experience to the DHBW, and specially to my coordinators!

Margarita Cordero

Pictures

