

SILVIA IRMA VÁZQUEZ AGUILAR
FROM MEXICO

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**HOME UNIVERSITY: UNIVERSIDAD
AUTÓNOMA DE COAHUILA**

HOST UNIVERSITY: DHBW STUTTGART

**FIELD OF STUDY: COMPUTER SCIENCE AND
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

TIME ABROAD: 1 SEMESTER



Preparation for the stay:

- **Language:** I had never studied German before coming to Germany, so I only took courses in English at DHBW. Naturally it's a huge advantage if you already speak German, nevertheless almost everyone in Germany speaks English, especially students, so communicating wasn't a problem. Furthermore, a lot of Germans speak Spanish or any third language, so I was lucky enough to communicate some of the times in my own language.
- **Culture:** Germans are very punctual and disciplined. My impression of them is that they like order, organization and are patient. You must respect the lights when crossing the street, be on time on a date and separate the trash properly. They also recycle bottles, both plastic and glass, so there are machines to put them inside and you will get money back for it.

They love beer, really. This was one of the most notorious things for me, it's allowed to drink alcohol everywhere and they make the most of it.

German beer is the best, and attending the beer festivals is a 'must do' thing in Germany.



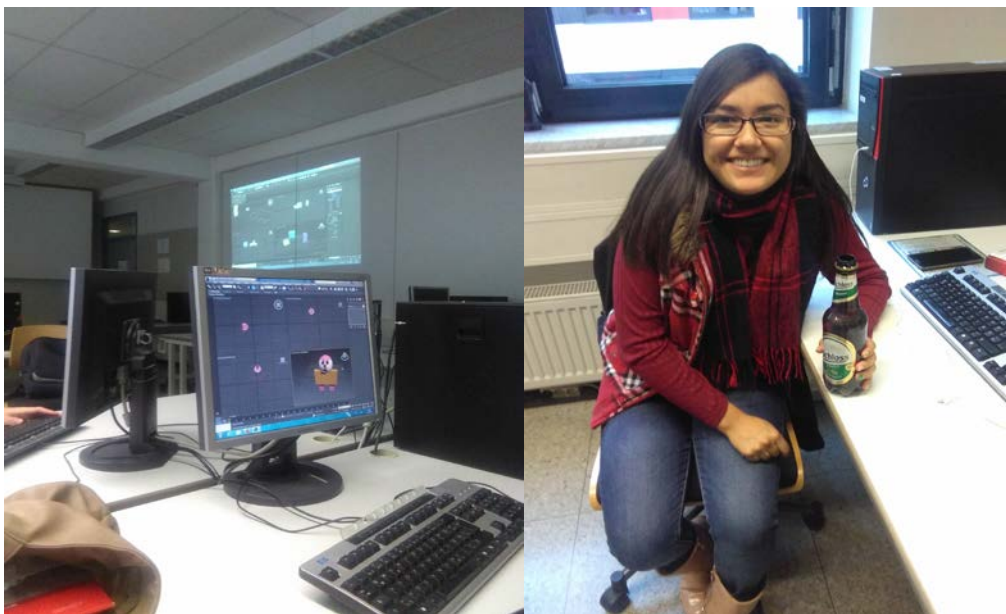
Study in Germany:

- I was an international student at DHBW Stuttgart. In total I took 6 courses: 4 from Computer Science and 2 from Business Administration, the latter ones with german groups and the first ones with the international group. The most challenging course to me was **Finance and Investment**, because in my home university I study Applied Mathematics with a more computational approach, so a lot of concepts from business and economics were new to me.

My favorite courses were **Genetic Algorithms** and **Film and Animation 3D**.

Genetic Algorithms was about optimization, and in **Film and Animation 3D** the whole group made a short film as final project.

- My experience in the international group couldn't be better, overall, all the internationals got along very well, some of us took the german language course and had a great time together, we learned that each country has a remarkable difference in education and that made our interaction even more interesting.



Stay in Germany

There were a lot of 'favorite things' for me in Germany.

- The transport system: In my opinion the transport in Stuttgart was very efficient, the timetables of the buses are very accurate and it never happened to me that the s-bahn or u-bahn were out of work.
- The christmas markets: Christmas is a big celebration in Germany, I enjoyed the christmas markets more than anything because of the glühwein and the decorations. Esslingen's christmas market was specially beautiful with its medieval ambiance.
- The landscapes: Needless to say that Germany's forests and hills in winter are lovely, as a mexican I'm used to the sun and hot weather, therefore watching the snow falling so often was memorable.

My experience on the DHBW

I'm utterly happy and satisfied with my semester at DHBW. The dual approach they have works as an excellent career builder for the students, they study for 3 months and work the rest of the semester on their companies, so they're always practicing what they learn. Besides, the international office is supportive, helpful and encouraging all along.

I'm really thankful with the DHBW, and I would definitely comeback to Germany.



My advice for international students:

Try to blend with the german culture and german things, learn from the people and their countries, make the most of your courses, and if you have the chance, visit other cities.

