

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I did my study abroad at Duale Hochschule Baden-Wurttemberg (DHBW) in Stuttgart, Germany.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

Business economics and IT on my 5th semester.

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

During my semester abroad, I took a total of 8 classes, accumulating 31 ECTS points. These were:

German language course:

Focus: Basic German language skills (A1.a level)

Content: Covered reading, listening, writing, and speaking

Topics: Grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure

Workload: 76 hours of lectures, 205 hours of independent study

Assessment: Continuous assessment (oral examination/participation), 6 ECTS

Intercultural training:

Aim: Understanding German culture

Mandatory course

Intercultural negotiation training:

Objective: Understanding and familiarizing with German culture.

Mandatory course held at the beginning of the semester.

Focuses on:

Exploring German cultural norms, traditions, and societal aspects.

Understanding communication patterns and social behaviors specific to Germany.

Enhancing cross-cultural awareness and adaptability for effective interaction.

Aims to prepare students for better integration into the local environment and facilitate smoother interactions within the German community.

Digital Marketing:

Covered online marketing concepts, social media strategies, and big data's role.
Workload: 40 hours of lectures, 100 hours of independent study
Assessment: Written examination, 4 ECTS

Financial Market in Germany:

Explored investments, stock markets, bonds, and central bank decisions.
Workload: 40 hours of lectures, 110 hours of independent study
Assessment: Written examination and presentation, 4 ECTS

Alternative Investments:

Focus: Providing an overview of alternative investment avenues with a focus on hedge funds and private equity.

Emphasis: Understanding investment options beyond traditional equity and bond markets, considering the current low-interest-rate environment.

Detailed exploration of:

Different categories of hedge funds and various private equity strategies.

Brief insights into real estate, currency, commodity, and cryptocurrency markets.

Advantages:

Builds upon prior knowledge from the "Financial Market in Germany" course.

Explores investment opportunities diversifying beyond conventional markets.

International Management - Case Studies:

Explored challenges of international business, market strategies, and cross-cultural management

Workload: 32 hours of lectures, 88 hours of independent study

Assessment: Written examination, 3 ECTS

Information Technology Service Management

Content outline:

ITIL

ITSM Governance

IT Outsourcing

Financial aspects

Academic Experience

How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

The receiving school proved exceptionally helpful throughout the process, promptly addressing inquiries, and remaining easily accessible. Personally, I navigated class selection independently, but their guidance during the settling-in phase was invaluable. They provided essential information, such as the registration process in Stuttgart, and assigned dedicated buddies who greatly facilitated our transition.

What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

The most rewarding classes included intercultural negotiation training, financial market in Germany, digital marketing, and ITSM. This choice stems from a combination of excellent professorial guidance and the enriching content of these courses, which significantly expanded my knowledge base.

What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

The least relevant or valuable experiences were found in the international management and alternative investments classes. The content covered material I was already familiar with, resulting in a diminished learning experience.

What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I recommend opting for intercultural negotiation and digital marketing classes, particularly those taught by Mr. Furkert. His extensive experience adds depth to the courses. However, be prepared for potential scheduling inconveniences, especially for online sessions held from 18:00 to 20:30

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?

a. The application process with KEA was smooth and well-guided. KEA provided valuable assistance with the necessary documentation, clarifications on application requirements, and prompt responses to inquiries. Their support significantly eased the overall application experience. Things will be overwhelming in the beginning but just hold on, everything falls perfectly to place!!

b. The school abroad, in this case, was instrumental in providing essential information regarding the application process. They offered guidance on the required documents, deadlines, and any specific criteria, enhancing the clarity and efficiency of the application process. Special thanks to Asita and Sarina from the DHBW!

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down at your destination?

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Settling down at my destination was a seamless experience, thanks to the exceptional support from the receiving school. They offered practical advice and assistance, guiding me through essential steps like registration and providing valuable insights into local practices. The receiving school's proactive approach and support positively contributed to a smooth transition and adjustment to my new environment.

3. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted?

In general, my expenses in Germany were quite reasonable compared to Denmark. I stayed within my budget, allowing for comfortable financial management. The major expenses included rent, WiFi, and transportation. Remarkably, transportation costs in Germany were notably affordable, with a monthly payment of 50 euros providing unlimited access to buses, U-Bahn, and S-Bahn services throughout the entire country. This convenience was particularly beneficial for cost-effective travel within Germany.

4. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received around 5800 kr in SU a month.

1.400 Euro in Erasmus onetime payment.

b Did you apply for any grants, and did you receive any?

I applied for the Nordea Fond and received 5.000 kr.

Cultural/Personal Experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

While abroad in Stuttgart, Germany, I encountered minimal cultural challenges. The receiving school played a crucial role in addressing any concerns by providing helpful guidance and support. They facilitated a smooth transition, helping as needed.

Although, be prepared there will be people who refuse to speak English, but the majority are super nice.

What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

The best cultural and personal experience during my studies abroad in Stuttgart was the opportunity to immerse myself in the rich German culture. Interacting with locals, exploring the city, and participating in cultural events enhanced my overall experience, creating lasting memories.

What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

For KEA students heading to study abroad at the receiving school in Stuttgart, I would offer the following advice:

- Embrace the local culture and engage with the community to make the most of your experience.
- Take advantage of any language or cultural exchange programs offered by the school to enhance your understanding.
- Connect with fellow students and participate in extracurricular activities to broaden your social and cultural horizons.
- Be proactive in seeking support from the receiving school for any challenges you may encounter, as they are likely to offer valuable assistance.
- Make sure to visit a lot of cities in Germany!!

Overall, my time in Stuttgart was overwhelmingly positive, and I encourage others to fully embrace the opportunities presented during their study abroad experience.



