

Report for Exchange Program National Yunlin University of Science and Technology

Program : Exchange Program
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A. Abstract

I always dreamed about visiting Europe since I was a child and it was beyond my expectation that finally I could stay in Germany for 5 months. Germany is famous of its study system in the world, so it was really nice and I felt so blessed.

My exchange program was at Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences and the major was Business Administration. Even though the major was different from mine, it did not matter because I finished all my required courses in Yuntech, so everything was fine. I took five courses namely Corporate Finance, Business Plan, Communication across Culture, German for Beginner and Profiling Germany. I think those were quite a lot for an exchange program, but since I was there, I thought I should take as much as I could.

The teaching method and environment were relatively similar to Yuntech. All lecturers used power point presentation to assist their teaching and attempted to involve the students as much as possible through question and discussion. If most of lecturers in Yuntech, especially in finance department, the course refers to text books, Germany lecturers did not really do that. They usually had their own power points and some study cases or mini cases to explain the main concept of the courses. Another major difference was the reduction of the total meeting within a semester. Because of that, the class could be very long, for example started from 12 pm to 6 pm and we actually had two times long breaks, like 15 until 30 minutes.

Experiencing study in Taiwan and Germany will be a great advantage for me since I am going to be a lecturer and apply those teaching methods later in Indonesia.

B. Relevance with your study

Since I come from finance major, Corporate Finance was the most related course for me. It is almost similar to Financial Statement Analysis in Yuntech. While for Business Plan and Communication across Culture are relevant to Corporate Valuation and Professional Finance English.

I took Business Plan because I wanted to learn deeper about business, especially how to start a business properly. I was failed to run some small businesses, so I hope this course can help me if I want to make a new business once I go back to Indonesia. Communication across Culture was pretty interesting. I never had this course before because my major was Accounting and now is Finance. It is related to business as well,

how to communicate and solve the culture barrier when you are expanding your business overseas. Through Profiling Germany, I got to know Germany more. I was supposed to do it actually since I stayed there quite a long time. I studied about Germany's Economic, Population, History and so on. It will be a benefit if someday I want to have Germany's market for my business expansion. The last course is German Language for Beginner. One of my purposes to go to Germany was learning German Language in its original place. Thus, it was so nice that I got a very talented teacher and a good score as well.

C. Experience Sharing

I stayed at campus dormitory. The dormitory is different with Yuntech. If here everyone shares the room, in Germany everyone has her/his own room. There are two types of apartment; a single room and a sharing flat. For a sharing flat, students share the bathrooms and a kitchen, but for a single room, they have their own kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen include a stove, an oven and a refrigerator. It was quite convenient since everyone has privacy. Actually I stayed in a single room, so it was even more convenient. The dormitory fee was quite expensive compared to Yuntech's dormitory or even the rent room near school in Taiwan, especially Douliou. It could be double or triple Taiwan price. I also had to pay the room deposit. However, the general living expense seemed to be relatively similar to Taiwan, although after a while I stopped converting everything I looked at back to NTD!

Travelling is one of my main reasons why I want to have an exchange program in Germany. I visited nine countries in total which are Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Austria, France, Belgium, Netherland, Hungary and the other cities in Germany. I usually had 3 days until a week trip then went back to Brandenburg (my city which I stayed). I did not travel those 9 countries at once because it would be so tiring and winter in Europe was absolutely so cold!

There were around 20 exchange students on that period. We came from different countries like Indonesia, Taiwan, Mexico, Netherland, Turkey, France and Latvia. Such a nice experience that I could make friend with people from a lot of different countries. We always held a party in order to get to know each other. We were very closed and sometimes hung out or travelled together.

Through Profiling Germany course, I got to know and visit some world famous company from Germany like BMW. It was really nice that we had a tour on their motorcycle factory in Berlin. We also had an underground tour of the relics of world war. I had an excursion to Sanssouci Palace and Park in Potsdam as well.

D. Suggestion

Perhaps I should divide the suggestion part into three; the preparation, during staying and before leaving. For the preparation, try to make a list which documents you will need. Make sure you complete and finish documents before the deadline. There are some documents during preparation such as an application form, a motivation letter, a study plan, an English certificate, the recommendation letters, a blocked account, a visa, a health insurance and a flight ticket. For Germany, the preparation process spends around four months.

When you are already there, you will find the difference between living in Asia and Europe. I can say it was totally different. It will be better if you learn about your exchange program country in advance, especially their culture like the daily life. One thing that I learnt is how to appreciate who people are and where they come from.

Everyone has a different background and sometimes we cannot always relate to it, but I found that it was important to understand the cultures that make life more interesting, and I had so much fun learning more about other people.

Be careful whenever and wherever you go since Europe is not safe as Taiwan. Take yourself and your important stuff care, especially when you are travelling. If you are a girl, do not go only by yourself! Try to travel in group or at least two of people, it will lessen the possibility to get scam. I think Germany is quite safe, but for some other European countries are not safe as Germany. You can try to find information about the country you would like to visit in advance.

Before go back to your home country, finish the documents you will need to submit such as the letters of closing bank account and moving from your flats and country (usually submitted to your exchange university). Empty your bank account before you leave because it is very difficult and expensive to transfer money from Europe to Asia, it is better to take it on cash.

E. Appendix (Photos or other Additional Materials)

Looking back, I think I have gone a little wiser and more independent as a person. The exchange program provided an extremely enriching and rewarding learning experience outside of the limits of a classroom. It was about people and the world we live in. What I had and hoped to achieve on the exchange, these I got and more memories and friendships to last a lifetime. Then I would like to thank lecturers and staff at the Finance Department and the International Office of National Yunlin University of Science and Technology for their kind assistance in making this experience possible. I also would not hesitate to recommend an exchange to anyone – I wish I could do it all over again!

Here some memories my friends and I made in Europe:

1. Republic Square, Berlin, Germany



2. Amsterdam, Netherland



3. Paris, France



4. Villach, Austria



