

## Report

### Your study

<b>Home Institution</b>	Banasthali Vidyapith
<b>Receiving Institution</b>	Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten
<b>Study course (Home Institution)</b>	Bachelors
<b>Study courses (Receiving Institution)</b>	German, English language, and cultural

### Personal data

<b>First name, FAMILY NAME</b>	Mahima, Jain
<b>E-Mail Address</b>	mahi.01mj@gmail.com
<b>Start of Exchange</b>	13 April 2018
<b>End of Exchange</b>	30 July 2018
<b>Name of scholarship holder</b>	Badem Wurttemberg Stipendium

Please click

I agree to the publication of my personal report included all pictures (approval for publication of those can be seen in the pictures is available) on the websites of the International Office of PHW and the website of the scholarship holder.

I declare that I am willing to help other students with questions. The International Office of PHW may publish my report with my email address or show it other students.

You may adjust the given space for the bullet points. But note that the length of your personal report should not exceed 5 – 10 pages excluding the cover sheet and pictures

### 1. Synopsis

Write a short synopsis of your stay abroad. Were your expectations on a study abroad satisfied? How would you evaluate your study abroad?

Getting into an exchange program was one of the best things that happened in my life, and I feel very lucky that I could have this opportunity to study in Germany for a short time. Germany is a very beautiful country, and the southern part near the Bodensee is very calm and full of nature. I think it's a good place to start when you live in Germany for the first time, as it is easier to get used to the culture here and it seems much less stressful. The people here are also very nice and polite, many are a little reserved, as I had heard before too. But they're happy to help you. It was easy to get used to the life here. However, the fact that markets and most other things are closed on Sundays, and in the evenings was very strange to get used to. This sometimes limited the travel options or things I could do at the weekends. Getting my groceries before the weekend was another thing I had to get used to. Learning the language was another experience. German language is hard but many people here do know English. So I did not have problems often, although it's better if you talk in German to improve your language skills. Taking German language course also helped a lot. The university campus has a very nice environment, one could sit by the lake, or get food and eat in the Mensa, or just read in the library. The courses I attended were really interesting and fun. The Basilika at the entrance is an enchanting sight. I also had the opportunity to attend some summer festivals here, it's a great way to experience the culture. Because of Germany's location, I could also get to travel to France and Switzerland. Overall, studying in Germany was a truly enriching experience. Living here was a memorable experience and I can't wait to come back again.

### 2. Scholarship

Please give details of your scholarship and/or your financing

The Baden Wurttemberg Stipendium covered most of my basic expenses for staying in Germany. This included the monthly dorm rent and the health insurance for my stay here. I received 500Euro per month. The scholarship was only for 4 months. I will have to pay another month's rent without the scholarship. The flights to and from Germany were self funded. Life in Germany is expensive, so its better to not spend too much in the beginning and bring some cash with you.

### 3. Preparations for to the stay abroad

Please include the following topics: application process at the host institution, personal preparations, help during the preparation given by your home and your host institution.

The application process for the exchange program was a long one. But the international office at P.H. was always there to answer all our queries.

We had received various checklists regarding our preparations and things we needed to do from the university, that made it easier for us to organize our travel.

Before coming here, we also had a review of things we needed to pack and the life in Germany by our home university. This really helped us gain some perspective and ready ourselves for the journey.

The only problem we had was regarding our visa. It was a huge problem, and we were not even sure that we would get the visa at all. In the end, we did get the visa, but we had missed the orientation week because of it. However, once coming here, the international office helped us the best it could to catch up early, and feel at ease. We did not have any problems once we came here as they were there to guide us. It made our start in Germany much more comfortable and pleasing.

#### **4. Your stay in the host country/host institution**

Please include the following topics: enrolment and choosing courses, description and assessment of the study system and the courses, organized leisure activities, other events organized by the host institution, support by the host institution in general

Having missed the orientation week, choosing the courses was a daunting task. But the international office was there to help us at all times and had organised the session for it to guide us. Since German was difficult for me, I chose most of the courses which were in English.

The teachers in most courses were warm and welcoming. I enjoyed the courses and had opportunity to learn many different things. Since we needed ECTS, the teachers readily gave us tasks to earn our grades. We mostly had to do presentations or write some papers. They were fair tasks and were not too difficult.

We had German class once a week for 4 hours. It really helped us to learn German.

Apart from studies, there were often international evenings in the Alibi at the campus, which provided us with the opportunity to mingle with other international students, along with some presentations by some of the groups.

There were also many excursions organized by the university. All of them were to nearby places in Germany, except one which was to Switzerland. It was a good opportunity to explore and enjoy travelling with others.

#### **5. Studying in the host country**

Please include the following topics: personal experiences and impressions, life outside the institution.

As I said, Germany is a beautiful country. I often went to the lake side to the nearby cities when I had time, like Friedrichshafen and Lindau. The Bodensee where you could see Germany, Austria and Switzerland – all 3 countries together is quite a sight.

I also tried some local cuisines there. However, it's a little difficult when you are a vegetarian to find appropriate restaurants.

I stayed in Ravensburg, instead of the campus. While I don't consider it a huge issue, it did have some impact on the time I could spend with others. The dorms here in Ravensburg are about 20 minutes from the city centre. On my days off, I was stuck at my room at times.

Since the university often organized some events for the international students, it helped to interact and mingle with others.

There are many interesting places to see nearby. It is worth to travel around to the nearby smaller and bigger towns. I also travelled to some cities like Ulm, Stuttgart and Heidelberg. It was amazing to explore other parts of Germany, there's so much to see and discover in this land known for poets and thinkers.

#### **6. Handy tips for future students**

- I would suggest to bring some cash with you. You will really need it.
- Apply for the room in the dorms early. They have many applications and limited rooms.
- Even if you're coming in summer semester, bring your jackets with you. The weather here is constantly changing. Even in the summer, it would be cold enough to wear warm clothes.
- It's better to learn some basic German at least, before coming to Germany. It helps in case you encounter people who do not know English.

## 7. Further

Feedback, wishes, ideas for the International Office of Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten

Kim and Anna from the international office were there to receive us when we arrived in Germany. They were very welcoming and we did not feel like strangers in a new country. They helped us settle in and catch up with everything (since we were very late in coming to Germany). The international office helped us with everything, from signing for the health insurance to getting the courses we needed. As I lived in Ravensburg, and I had to take the bus, Kim was very generous and travelled with me to the university in Weingarten on my first day to help me understand the bus system and not get lost.

They were always there to help us and guide us through our problems and questions. And they were more than happy to entertain any suggestions/ requests we had.

I was happy with the fact that they organised the international evenings which gave us a chance to interact with other students as well. I'm grateful to them for making our stay much more smooth and easier here.

I would also suggest, in case someone has problems with the visa application, the host university could contact the visa administration early, if possible. This might help speed up the process.

Again, I'm very happy with my time spent in Germany, and it would not be possible without the International office. Coming to Germany was an exciting experience for me, and I'm thankful to P.H. Weingarten as well as Baden Württemberg Stipendium which could provide me with this wonderful opportunity

## 8. Please feel free to add some picture of your exchange (Please make sure you have the right of all persons who are in the picture to be published)



**Welfenfest Weingarten**



**Fest in Friedrichshafen.**