Report

**Your study**

Home Institution: Banasthali Vidyapith  
Receiving Institution: Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten  
Study course (Home Institution): Bachelors in technology (Electronics and Communication)  
Study courses (Receiving Institution): German Language and Intercultural Subjects

**Personal data**

First name, FAMILY NAME: Varnika, Tyagi  
E-Mail Address: varnikatyagi709@gmail.com  
Start of Exchange: April 2018  
End of Exchange: August 2018  
Name of scholarship holder: Baden Württemberg Stipendium

Please click

**Yes** □ 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.

**Yes** □ 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.
I am an Exchange Student from India and I can say that this experience of coming to Germany and studying here for a semester was the quintessence of my life. I have never thought that this journey would be that much memorable and wonderful. I am very happy and found myself a lucky person to become a part of this Exchange. I had thought a lot of things before coming to Germany but everything was different here. I thought it would be difficult to adjust in new country, at new place, But it was not like that. It was really amazing to come and interact with the people here. I never felt that I am living in some new country as the people here also are very kind and friendly. So it was not difficult for me to stay here and I learned a lot of new things here.

After my own experience, I now believe that exchange students can help change some of the assumptions and preconceived ideas in their societies because people are more likely to accept the change from within their society rather than from the outside. That is why I strongly believe that an exchange experience is one of the most powerful ways to promote human beings and help end those centuries long conflicts that happened years ago.

Being thousands of miles from home was not always easy. Like everything in life, my experience had its ups but also its downs. The hard times helped me grow up and move away from my comfort zone to gain maturity and independence. Although I had a great experience here but still sometime I think about my family, friends, teachers or fellow volunteers, I cannot help but get emotional. They did so much for me. My family gave me a place in their hearts and minds. They were always there for me whenever I needed them, always making sure that I should adjust and enjoy my stay here. I use to have video call regularly with my parents and talk to them more than an hour daily explaining each and everything going on here and they listen to me and enjoy with me.

Living with other five flatmates was the best thing and the best time to spend which I’ll always rejoice. One of my flatmate is Chinese and the others are German, living with those guys I learned new food to make. We usually cook together when everybody is home and eat together. They treated me with käsespätzle which was literally fingerlicking and very tasty. I had the great time with my flatmates. We all sit together in the evening and conversate and talk about their family and the funniest and craziest things they did when they were child. One of my flatmate had birthday when I came here. We all celebrated his birthday and his parents also came to wish him and they brought a lot of gifts to him. They were very sweet and I remembered my parents after seeing them.

I know I am one of the lucky few to live overseas for a semester, but I also think that too few people know and those of the thousands of other young people who are part of exchange programs every year would have loved this place and want to stay longer. I wish I could have stayed here more because I felt this place as my own home now. And I want to come back to my home again. The lessons I learned here will stay with me forever and my belief in cultural exchange will never leave me.
2. Scholarship
Please give details of your scholarship and/or your financing
My experience as an international student has, overall, been positive; any challenges I meet are outside the academic programme, namely affordable housing and the general cost of living. First, Germany is one of the most expensive country in the world, so it is by no means student-budget friendly. I always thought that when I had a problem back home, that was hard, but here, having something go wrong, feels 500 times worse. Germany is very expensive country to stay and live. I get the scholarship every month but I still need the support from my family, but I don't have the comfort of what I've always known. Instead, I need to think of new ways to overcome these things. I've found that student exchange has been a life changing experience that has made me realize I can do so much more than I ever thought was possible. I have had a great experience, and I am looking forward to what comes next. More fun filled times, more excitement, and more challenges. BRING IT ON!

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.
It all starts somewhere. You pack your suitcase, you say goodbye, you forget at least 3 things that are important, and you get on a plane... to fly away from what you have known as home your whole life. For me, Germany is what I called home for the four months. Confidence, independence, and becoming who I really am, are the 3 aspects I have noticed myself really grow in! Student exchange has impacted me greatly, as I have become a lot more open to new things and a world bigger than just my comfort zone. It took one full day to apply and fill the application forms and rest of the other required formalities. My host institution helped me with every sort of problem I faced and I experienced new culture and lifestyle after coming here to Germany. Although I faced a lot of problems with my Visa but I am happy that I got it before my session started and I came to know a lot about the procedures of going abroad. My mom packed everything that I should need here and luckily I got every important things that are required for me to stay.

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.
Every day was a new adventure that was completely different from my life at home. German people are punctual and they had the full procedure of every course and other things. We were taught everything about the enrollment in the subjects, how to choose the subjects, how to check the mails, where to upload our homework and all the necessary details. Lisa and Nicole were always there to help us in every need. If we need something we can easily go and ask them about the things. These people are always welcoming and ready to help us and try to do every best possible things. I would like to thanks the international team members the foremost for helping us in every case of situation. I loved the excursions organized by them to Zurich, Memmingen, Uberlingen and to other places. There were guides with us who explained each and every thing about that place. The Professors in Germany are always helpful and understandable. I loved each and every thing I did and learned here. The Barbeque, the international meets in alibi and other activities are superfabulous.
5. Studying in the host country
Please include the following topics: personal experiences and impressions, life outside the institution.

Living away from home, on the other side of the world, has impacted me in ways that will stick with me for life. Since being in Germany I have come out of my shell, so to say I'm much less shy! I've become more independent, and confident in myself and the choices I make, and I've learned to take in everything as it comes, and not to judge things by their first impression, which I didn't necessarily do before my exchange. Being here and experiencing a different culture, a different lifestyle, and a different language has changed my perception of life. I am so much more aware of the world now, and when I get back, I can't wait to pass on all of my new knowledge. Being put outside of your comfort zone is a scary thing, but I've realized now that really it is just an opportunity to try new things. I found some precious friends here from all over the world. They did so many little things for me that made my exchange more than perfect. My friends were the best. I can proudly say that nowhere in the world will anyone find friends better than the ones I found in Germany, I will never forget them nor forget what we did, they changed me into what I am now, they helped me become fluent and achieve all my other goals. I feel proud to say that my exchange was a huge success, I see my friends as the best friends anyone could ever want. As soon as I get the chance I will come back to see them all and we all will get together again and will have a lot of fun and will spend time and stick together. I found new lifelong friendships. These have been formed not only with my wonderful families but also with people from school, fellow exchange students and my coordinator. I now feel comfortable approaching strangers and find it easy to form new friendships. I am no longer as anxious or shy about meeting new people. The building of my interpersonal skills will help me greatly in the future as I feel like I can now communicate easily with anyone.

6. Handy tips for future students
In my opinion, studying abroad improves the person immensely – both in the personal side and intellectually. You will have an opportunity to meet many people from different cultures and also represent your own country in a foreign institution. I also had the opportunity to travel around the rest of Europe, which put me in several situations in which I had to adapt and solve simple problems in order to keep going. Don't get afraid from anything because it will always be a new experience and you'll really miss those days. In summary, going abroad is essential for the development of a person in personal level! The best thing that happened to me was learning the new culture: the local way of living, the history of the country and also some chances to live with the locals. Visit other countries of Europe and explore the world. I went to France, Paris and found the place like I dreamt ever and if I'll ever get any chance to visit the country again I'll definitely visit Europe again.

7. Further
Feedback, wishes, ideas for the International Office of Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten
I would like to thanks each and every member of Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten for supporting me and helping me. It was an amazing part of my life that I got to know these jolly members and the International Office members are always there to help us and I would like to say sincerely thanks to you. Thank you Wiengarten for an amazing 4 months. Thank you all for allowing me to learn your rich history and experience your beautiful culture. Saying goodbye was harder than I thought it would be. I will miss this city so much and each and every person I have ever met here. I will miss everything here.
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)

Date 16.07.2018

My flatmates (Lazarettstraße 2, WG 6)

International Meeting in Alibi
New International friends

Some Indian Friends
Parties

Some Relishing people
Trips with some Besties I found