

SEMESTER EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME - RIJUL KHANDELWAL

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HOME UNIVERSITY -

**K J SOMAIYA INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT, SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR
UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI, INDIA.**

HOST UNIVERSITY -

**DUALE HOCHSCHULE
BADEN - WÜRTTEMBERG UNIVERSITY,
STUTTGART, GERMANY.**

NUMBER OF SEMESTER - 1

MARCH 2023 - AUGUST 2023

**DEGREE - MASTERS IN BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

GUIDED BY – PROF. SATYENDRA UPADHYAY

Introduction

I am Rijul Khandelwal, a student from K J Somaiya Institute of Management, Somaiya Vidyavihar University pursuing Masters in Business Administration. For my 3rd semester, I got the opportunity to take part in the semester exchange program.

There were various options for Universities to choose from various countries, However, I chose DHBW, Stuttgart Germany as Stuttgart is one of the important financial hubs of Germany. It also accommodates famous automobile companies like Mercedes and Porsche.

Germany is one of the biggest economies in Europe and learning about the way companies and businesses are managed over here would help me gain knowledge and insight which would be beneficial for my future perspective in Business administration.

I got the opportunity to meet various new students all across from different countries and gained valuable insights about their cultures, traditions, economy, food and most important their way to run businesses.

Initial Preparations



I started my preparation by learning about German tradition, culture and their way of living. I also started learning a little bit of the German language so that it can help me figure out things.

However, DHBW offered us a buddy to whom we can ask any questions regarding any problems.

I also got to know that I won't be able to find many Indian vegetarian food options so I started learning to cook in advance and also carried the necessary utensils which really helped me survive. Other than that, DHBW conducted an online orientation program to solve our queries and they gave us the necessary information regarding the arrangement of our stay, public transport pass, insurance, city registration, opening of bank account and other necessary information we would require. This helped us a lot with the initial preparation and all our other queries were managed by our buddies.

The course classes held at the university were very interactive. The conversations held with professors during our lectures helped me a lot in understanding the subjects.

When I reached Stuttgart, I was duly welcomed by my buddy and he assisted and helped in every step of the process. The other students also helped me a lot in completing the formalities. However, the incoming office also explained in detail each and every requirement and our queries were answered.

They also had prepared some icebreaker activities which would help us introduce ourselves and bond with other exchange students

Education

I took 8 courses for my semester and each of them was of different domains. It gave an overview of all the dynamics involved in running a business. The way of teaching was unique and different which made it easy to understand the concepts and gave practical knowledge regarding the day-to-day working of any company.

The case studies presented in the classes gave us an insight into the company and how it faced the situation.



The courses were also very interesting and unique in their way. Especially courses like Intercultural Negotiation Training helped me learn some negotiation skills and how to negotiate with people from all over the world. It gave me an insight into the traditions and customs of different countries and taught me how to negotiate with them.

Another course, Applied Market Research was very interesting and had a different approach. It was very practical in concept and helped me learn a new tool to do research. We did research about the market of E-Scooters in Germany and were also asked to make a presentation for which we had to collect actual data from German citizens and it actually helped us in connecting with new people.

Experiences

Duale Hochschule Baden Wuttemberg

The semester exchange program at DHBW proved to be very helpful and beneficial for me. I had a great experience, be it in the way of teaching or interacting with the students around me. The professors were very kind and helpful and were always ready to listen to our queries and solve them. I liked their way of teaching and their

approach towards studies. The international office was also very helpful and supportive throughout the duration of my course and even before I reached there. They were very prompt to answer my queries and also helped me beyond the classes and university. Some activities were also arranged by them for all the exchange students.

Industry Visits and Intercultural Trips

The enriching Student Exchange Program included a visit to the German prestige Porsche Museum and a transformative Intercultural negotiation Trip. The Program aimed to provide students with valuable automotives industry heritages and foster cross cultural understanding through intercultural negotiation exercises with Students.

PORSCHE MUSEUM - The Porsche Museum located in Stuttgart is a shrine of automotive excellence and innovation. During our visit, we were immersed in rich history of Porsche, tracing the brand evolution from its beginning to becoming a global automotive. The museum showcased remarkable collection of classic and modern Porsche models demonstrating the brands commitment to craftsmanship, engineering and design.



INTERCULTURAL NEGOTIATION TRIP - The Intercultural Negotiation trip brought together students from different backgrounds. The objectives was to foster cultural empathy, improve communication skills, and develop effective negotiation strategies.



Activities included group discussion, role playing exercises and real life simulation of negotiation scenarios. By engaging with students from different cultural backgrounds, we confronted cultural barriers and learn to adapt our communication styles to bridge gaps effectively.

Learning Outcomes

Cross Cultural Communication - Through interactions with students from different countries, we learned to appreciate cultural differences and became more adapt at communicating across diverse backgrounds. Understanding the nuances of non-verbal cues and social norms helped us in mutual respect and empathy.

Conflict resolution - The negotiation exercise presented challenges that required a common ground while respecting each other's

viewpoint. By embracing constructive conflict resolution techniques, we cultivated a cooperative approach to problem solving.



Flexibility and Adaptability - The intercultural negotiation trip demanded adaptability to unfamiliar situation and unforeseen challenges. The experiences taught importance of flexibility and open-mindedness while dealing with cross cultural interactions.

Diversity - Interacting with students from various countries and universities allowed us to appreciate the richness the global diversity. Embracing diversity became central to our mindset in approaching both personal and professional relationship.

Stuttgart

Stuttgart is one of the nicest places to live in Germany. It has a very good transportation system, good connectivity to different places and countries and also you'll get to meet a lot of people, especially international students. There are also many public events and activities that take place which are very fun to take part in. Visiting different countries is very convenient from Stuttgart as it is close to

many of them. It also has one of the finest libraries where you can sit and learn from a lot of books available.



I also got to witness many events held at the University of Stuttgart and met a lot of new students studying at that university apart from the exchange student.

An unforgettable experience of witnessing the "Frühlings" fest that happens only twice a year in Germany was also an amazing memory of the city of Stuttgart.

Student Dorm

I had flatmates from different parts of the world and living with them for so many months gave me an insight into their way of living and understanding the customs and traditions they followed, be it in their day-to-day routine or the food they made. I also learnt the differences and similarities in our cultures and it was enjoyable.

I would also sincerely appreciate and Thank Mr. Bruhn, The Housemaster, who helped us in every and any sort of difficulties during our stay at the dorm.



Exploration

I got the opportunity to explore many countries from Stuttgart. I travelled to almost 10 countries in the exchange program and each of them taught me something new. There I got to learn a lot about different cultures and traditions in different countries. I also learned how to plan and manage my schedules which actually made me independent.

Every country even while sharing borders has so many differences in their cultures, language, food and people.

Countries that I explored were Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Croatia and Of course Germany.

I express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my university and program coordinator for providing this transformative opportunity.

This experience has equipped me with essential skills and insight that would undoubtedly benefit myself in the future endeavours in an increasingly interconnected global society.

This was my first experience in Europe and I am really glad to experience this in Student Exchange as I really was able to witness day-to-day life there for a few months of the span of time.



I surely returned the home university with cherished memories and a renewed commitment to promoting the student exchange program because of such an amazing experience.

Recommendations

I would recommend everyone learn the basic German language first and foremost as it would help you in understanding and communicating in Germany.

The buddies assigned by the university are one of the most useful and important assets that you have before your arrival in Germany, so take full advantage of that.

Explore as much as you can. The university conducts various events and participating in those events will definitely help you build international connections.

Don't miss the opportunity, squeeze it and make the best memory of yours.

Scholarship

I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable assistance provided by Prof. Satyendra Upadhyay for nominating me in securing a Scholarship provided by BWS Foundation in Germany.

Because of the scholarship I also got connected with the BWS World community - a platform where students from different universities and countries are made to connect with each other.

It further helped me in establishing and developing more connections with people from various domains.

The DHBW University duly sent me a link to apply for the scholarship after nomination. They also sent me the instruction to apply. After the application, I received a scholarship confirmation from BWS Foundation.

After reaching Germany, I was duly asked to present the certificate and within no time, I received the Scholarship.

The experience in Stuttgart undoubtedly broadened my cultural understanding and provided me with the chance to interact with diverse groups of people from all walks of life. The academic journey contributed a lot to my personal growth for which I am very grateful.



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Bestätigung zum Stipendium / Scholarship Confirmation

RIJUL KHANDELWAL
24/63
305001 Ajmer
Indien

Hiermit bestätigt die Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, dass die unten genannte Person ein Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM für Studierende erhält. Das Stipendium ist leistungs- bzw. begabungsabhängig, wird aus privaten Mitteln gezahlt und ist zweckgebunden für einen temporären Studien-/Forschungsaufenthalt im Ausland zur Sicherung des Lebensunterhalts im Gastland und Abdeckung anfallender Zusatzkosten.

The Baden-Württemberg-Stiftung hereby confirms that the following person is awarded a Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM for University Students. The scholarship is related to performance and talent and is funded with private means. It is granted with the specific purpose of covering the subsistence costs and any occurring additional expenses of a temporary study or research visit abroad.

Vorname / First Name:	RIJUL
Name / Last Name:	KHANDELWAL
Zeitraum / Period of Scholarship:	März 2023 – Mai 2023 (0 Jahr 3 Monate)
Dauer in Monaten / Duration of scholarship:	3
Stipendienhöhe pro Monat / €: Scholarship Amount per Month / €:	700
Gesamthöhe des Stipendiums / €: Total Scholarship Amount / €:	2.100
Heimathochschule / Home University:	Somaiya Vidyavihar
Gasthochschule / Guest University:	Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart

ppa. Dr. Andreas Weber
Abteilungsleiter Bildung
Head of Education Department

i. V. Dr. Ágnes Sebestyén
Referentin Bildung
Project Manager

Baden-
Württemberg
Stiftung
WIR STIFTEN ZUKUNFT



Appreciation and Gratifications

In Germany, I got the opportunity to meet new people from all over the world and interacting with them was not only limited to my university. I personally met a lot of people from different nationalities which helped me develop a new array of vision and opened up a new horizon for me.



I would highly recommend everyone to take up this semester's exchange program and achieve this must-have experience and exposure.

A sincere thanks and appreciation to K J Somaiya Institute of Management, Somaiya Vidyavihar University and Duale Hochschule Baden Württemberg (DHBW) University for providing this great opportunity which not only made me learn a lot of new things but also gave me great exposure.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards BW Foundation's Stipendium for helping me make the most of my stay in Stuttgart, Germany. I would also like to sincerely thank the International office for constantly helping and solving my queries.