



# BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG-STIPENDIUM

## FOR STUDENTS

### PERSONAL REPORT

Please upload your personal report to BWS-World, the online portal of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM*, at the latest four weeks after your scholarship stay has ended. Note that the International Office of your university may request the report already earlier.

Please use the box labelled "personal report" in the documents section of your personal profile. You can upload the report in Word or PDF format. The file size should not exceed 4 MB.

If you have any questions, please contact the International Office of your university or write to [studierende@bw-stipendium.de](mailto:studierende@bw-stipendium.de).

Name: Farah Hussein Aly Manie

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Home university: German University in Cairo

Host university: DHBW

Period of the exchange from - until: From March 2022 until June 2022

Creation date: March 2022

- I hereby agree to my report being published on the websites of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM* ([www.bw-stipendium.de](http://www.bw-stipendium.de)) and of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung ([www.bwstiftung.de](http://www.bwstiftung.de)) as well as on BWS-World, the portal of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM.

## Notes on Writing the Personal Report

Feel free to be as creative as you like. We look especially forward to innovative and original forms of presentation (e.g. video, blog etc.).

Of course, you may also share your experiences with the scholarship by answering the key questions below.

As a general rule, your personal report should not exceed the length of 5 pages incl. cover sheet.

If you have an exceptional idea for your report, please coordinate with your international office or with the staff of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM (studierende@bw-stipendium.de).

### PREPARATIONS FOR THE STAY ABROAD

How did you find out about the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

I found out about it through my university, as they have offered me this scholarship.

Did you have contact with other scholarship holders of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before you left or abroad? Did you participate in an event (e.g. summer festival or annual meeting) of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before or during your stay?

Unfortunately, whenever I applied for an event, I was on the waiting list hahaha, sadly I could not meet any scholarship holders, but I would have loved that!

### STUDYING AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

At which host university did you spend your semester abroad? Why did you choose this university in this country?

I studied at DHBW Stuttgart, honestly speaking, it was a wild, random choice because I did not know which I should choose, but this choice has been proven to be the best! DHBW made everything easier for me, before I came and throughout my whole stay, everyone was welcoming and easy to deal with, help was offered right away.

Were there any major differences compared to your home university? What were they?

Definitely, the management of students, also can be said the student affairs handle the students in a much better way in DHBW than in my home university, I found that they cared about every detail and about each student being the most comfortable they can be, their emails even before coming were easily guiding us to our stay and made sure no one was anxious or lost.

**How did you prepare for your stay abroad?**

I read a lot about Germany, as this was my first time visiting it, I was also scared a bit because it was my first time travelling alone, so I had to familiarise myself with the language a bit and with how people deal here for example, what is considered offensive etc. I guess the cultural differences.

**Would you recommend the host university to other students? Why or why not?**

Absolutely! and without a doubt, like I have mentioned DHBW dealt so well with any concern I had, encouraged us to take the full experience, and make the most out of everything here, they introduced me to this scholarship program which enhanced my experience here a lot, I am forever thankful for being part of this program.

## **LIFE IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY**

**Was it difficult to find your way in the host country? What surprised you the most?**

Honestly, it was difficult at first to settle because Germany is very different from Egypt, the transportation was harder to get around at first but once I got the hang of it, it really is easy. A lot has surprised me hahaha, that shops close on Sundays, we do not have that in Egypt, everything is always open 24/7 and also that at night there is almost no one in the streets. It was new for me, everything closes early.

**Which experience do you remember particularly well?**

Probably the welcome week, it was my first time meeting so many international students and throughout the whole experience, that was what I liked and enjoyed most, just getting to know people from different cultures and making friendships that made the experience so much better.

**What advice would you give other scholarship holders coming to this host country?**

Get heavy clothes, April was so tough ahahaha suddenly it snowed and I was not prepared properly, try to make the most out of the experience even though it might be hard at first and you might want to go home, but remember that it will be worth it at the end of it, the growth and lessons learnt and the friendships will continue forever and you will be able to look back at this and be proud of yourself.

## **PERSONAL CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK**

**What did you expect from studying abroad? Were these expectations met?**

I expected a fulfilling experience with proper guidance to resources that can help me to increase my knowledge and that was always offered.

**In hindsight, what were the most important lessons learned for life during your stay abroad?**

How to deal with things alone, and how to endure being away from home, I think that teaches a lot about independence and problem solving.

Would you recommend the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

Definitely! They have made my experience so much better by offering me this scholarship, I am forever grateful to them.

Thank you very much for your openness and your time.

We wish you all the best for your future and hope that you will stay a part of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM network, e.g. in one of the national and international Regional Chapters.

Are you interested?

Then have a look at <https://www.bws-world.de/portal/spa#orgstr/my-groups/index> and <https://www.bw-stipendium.de/netzwerk/regional-chapter/>.