

Stuttgart, Baden Württemberg und Deutschland. Meine zweite Heimstätte.



As I reflect on my journey that began on August 27, 2023, when I arrived in Stuttgart from Ecuador, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and a sense of achievement. Fulfilling my childhood dream of studying in Germany, I found myself in what I now consider my second home.

My initial days were spent acclimatising to the new environment. I arrived a few days before university started, giving me the chance to become familiar with the local surroundings. Mastering the use of the U Bahn and Sbahn and obtaining the Deutschland Ticket, I quickly adapted to the efficient German public transport system.

Stuttgart, a gem nestled in the heart of Baden-Württemberg, is a city that effortlessly blends modernity with tradition. Its picturesque landscapes, marked by vine-clad hills and verdant valleys, provide a serene backdrop to the bustling city life. Walking through the city, one can't help but be captivated by the harmonious blend of historical architecture and contemporary design. The Schlossplatz, with its grand palace and sprawling gardens, stands as a testament to the city's rich history and is a popular gathering spot for both locals and tourists.

The warmth and hospitality of our 'Buddies' in Stuttgart played a crucial role in easing my transition. They dispelled the stereotype of the aloof German, welcoming us with open arms and introducing us to the vibrant nightlife and culture of Stuttgart. Their guidance was invaluable in helping us adapt smoothly to our new surroundings.



Our exploration of the city began with a visit to the Stuttgart TV



Tower, offering a breathtaking perspective of the city. The automotive history of Stuttgart, highlighted by visits to the Porsche and Mercedes Benz museums, was a testament to the city's renowned automobile industry.



My German language classes at Tricos were both challenging and rewarding. The high standards of teaching significantly improved my language skills, preparing me for university life. The Dual Education System at DHBW Stuttgart, known for its prestigious standing, welcomed us with open arms. The International Office, particularly Asita

and Sarina, were instrumental in our smooth integration into the university and the German culture.

During my stay in Stuttgart, I had the fantastic opportunity to go to the Volksfest. This festival is full of life and shows the rich German culture. Right when I walked into the festival, I felt the excitement and happiness around me. The place smelled amazing with cooking bratwursts, fresh pretzels, and roasted almonds. There was lively German folk music playing, and everyone was laughing and having a great time together. The Volksfest, which is a bit like the famous Oktoberfest, had lots of fun things to do. There were many carnival rides, from thrilling roller coasters to classic merry-go-rounds. I especially loved the Ferris wheel. Riding it, I saw an amazing view of the festival lights and the city of Stuttgart – it was really beautiful.



Courses like Business Simulation Game, Financial Market in Germany, Alternative Investments, Intercultural Training, and Leading Effectively were particularly impactful, enriching my academic experience.

This journey was not just about academic growth but also about personal and cultural exploration. I had the opportunity to make lifelong friends from diverse nationalities and cultures, enhancing my understanding of the world. My passion for fruits and wine led me to explore Stuttgart's organic markets, experiencing the quality and diversity of German produce.

On the Weekends I spent my time exploring the beauty of Baden Württemberg and other cities like Esslingen, Tübingen, Metzingen, and Heidelberg. The Deutschland Ticket made travelling convenient, allowing me to embrace the rich German culture fully.



This exchange programme was more than just an academic pursuit; it was a journey of self-discovery. It taught me the importance of non-verbal communication, the challenges of expressing oneself in a foreign language, and the beauty of cultural diversity.

I am profoundly thankful to DHBW Stuttgart, its faculty, especially Sarita and Arina, for this life-altering experience. Germany has left an indelible mark on my heart, inspiring me to return, learn more, and continue my journey towards fluency in German.

In conclusion, my time in Germany was an enlightening chapter in my life, filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences. The gratitude I feel towards DHBW Stuttgart and Germany as a whole is immense, and the memories and friendships forged will be treasured forever.

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