



# SEMESTER EXCHANGE REPORT

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**HOME UNIVERSITY:**

**Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, India**

**HOST UNIVERSITY:**

**Duale Hochschule Baden Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany**

**FIELD OF STUDY: Bachelors of Commerce**

**INTENDED: Financial markets**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1**

**TIME PERIOD: September, 2023 to February, 2024**

# **INTRODUCTION**

My semester exchange at the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, was an enriching and transformative experience that immersed me in German culture, expanded my global perspectives, and honed my business acumen. I had the privilege of studying alongside students from diverse backgrounds, participating in a stimulating business simulation game, engaging in various cultural activities, and visiting the Börse Stuttgart stock exchange. This exchange program was a catalyst for personal growth and professional development, leaving an indelible mark on my academic journey.

## **Academic Experiences**

The courses I enrolled in at DHBW Stuttgart were meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the German financial markets, business simulation principles, leadership strategies, intercultural communication, and the German language. Each professor exuded passion and expertise in their respective fields, transforming lectures into engaging and interactive sessions. The business simulation game course, in particular, stood out as a valuable hands-on experience. Our team was tasked with simulating the operations of a company, making strategic decisions, and navigating market dynamics. The tangible nature of this simulation allowed us to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios, enhancing our understanding of business principles and decision-making processes.

## **Social Experiences**

The true essence of my semester exchange lay in the vibrant cultural exchange I experienced. Being surrounded by students from 8-9 countries opened my eyes to the rich tapestry of human experiences and perspectives. I actively engaged with

my peers, delving into their cultural traditions, customs, and viewpoints. This cultural exposure broadened my understanding of the world, fostering tolerance, empathy, and appreciation for diversity. I cherished the friendships forged during this exchange, forming a global network that continues to enrich my life today.

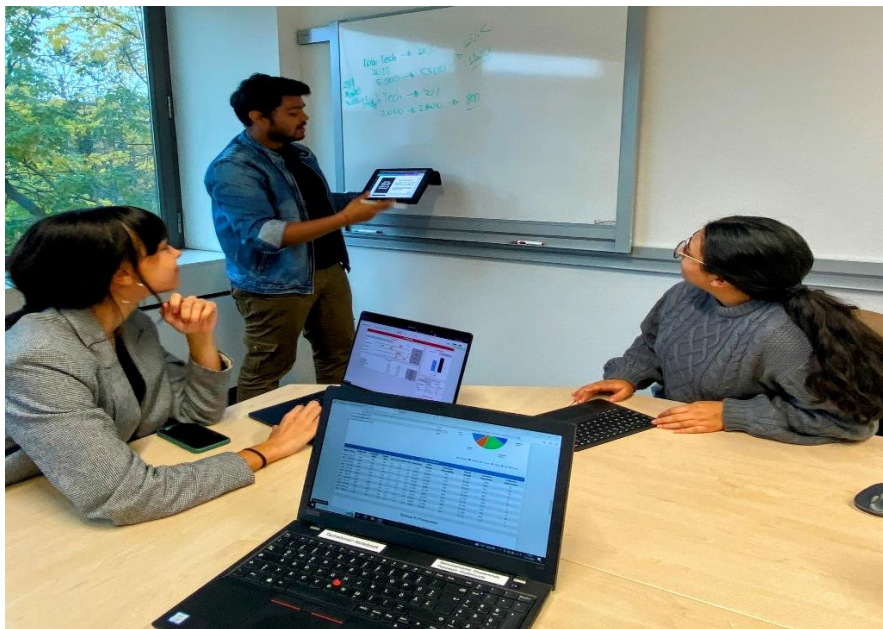
## Visiting the Börse Stuttgart Stock Exchange

One of the most memorable experiences of my semester exchange was the opportunity to visit the Börse Stuttgart stock exchange. This iconic institution, located at the heart of the German financial industry, provided a glimpse into the world of trading, finance, and market dynamics. Guided by knowledgeable professionals, we toured the bustling trading floor, observed the intricate mechanisms of order placement, and gained insights into the complex processes that drive global markets.



This visit was an eye-opening experience that solidified my understanding of the financial markets. It highlighted the importance of market efficiency, the role of technology in modern trading, and the delicate balance between risk and reward that underpins financial decision-making. The opportunity to witness the inner workings of the Börse Stuttgart was a privilege, and it served as a powerful reminder of the significance of finance in shaping our global economy.

## **Business Stimulation Game**



One of the most memorable experiences of my semester exchange was the Business Stimulation Game competition. This challenging yet rewarding exercise pitted six teams against each other in a simulated business environment. Our team meticulously researched market trends, analysed financial data, and devised strategies to position our company for success. The competition demanded quick thinking, effective communication, and collaboration among team members. Ultimately, our team emerged as the runner-up, a testament to our dedication, teamwork, and strategic acumen.

The Business Stimulation Game provided an invaluable hands-on learning experience. It allowed us to apply theoretical business concepts to a practical setting, testing our decision-making abilities in a competitive environment. The pressure of the competition fuelled our motivation, sharpening our problem-solving skills and fostering a spirit of innovation. This experience proved to be a springboard for personal growth, demonstrating the power of teamwork, adaptability, and strategic thinking in the business world.

## **Personal Growth**

My semester exchange in Germany was a life-changing experience. I learned a lot about myself and the world around me. I am a more confident, independent, and adaptable person. I am also more open-minded, tolerant, and respectful of different cultures. I am grateful for the opportunity to have studied abroad, and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning a new language, experiencing a new culture, and developing their independence.

### Benefits of Studying with Students from 8-9 Countries

- Expanding knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- Developing intercultural communication skills
- Building a global network of friends and colleagues
- Gaining a broader perspective on the world
- Learning about different ways of thinking and doing things
- Becoming more adaptable and open-minded
- Enhancing cultural sensitivity
- Strengthening critical thinking and problem-solving skills

- Learning new languages from faculty and Peers

## **CONCLUSION**

I am deeply grateful to the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg administration and faculty for their unwavering support and guidance throughout my semester exchange. Their commitment to providing a stimulating and enriching learning environment was instrumental in my personal and academic growth. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Jens Furket, my professor for the "Financial Markets in Germany and alternative investment" courses, for his passion for teaching and his dedication to fostering a deeper understanding of the German financial system.

Mr. Furket's enthusiasm for the subject matter was infectious, and his engaging lectures made complex financial concepts accessible and enjoyable. He encouraged us to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore the nuances of the German financial markets. His guidance and support played a pivotal role in my success in the business simulation game, and I am forever grateful for his mentorship.

In conclusion, my semester exchange at the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, was an exceptional experience that enriched my academic pursuits, broadened my cultural perspectives, and equipped me with valuable skills for future success. I am immensely grateful to the DHBW administration, faculty, and my fellow students for creating an environment conducive to personal and professional growth. I would highly recommend this semester exchange program to anyone seeking to immerse themselves in German culture, enhance their global perspectives, and gain practical experience in the field of business.