

Personal Report

Home university: Dongguk University

Host university: DHBW Stuttgart

Field of study: Business administration

Number of semesters: 1

Period of time: 09.2023~02.2024

I declare to agree of consent to publish the report on the website of DHBW Stuttgart

- Preparation of the stay (language, culture, politics, formalities etc.)

It was not easy to prepare for an exchange student. I was doing an internship before coming to an exchange student, so I had to prepare for an outbound while working at a company. The first thing I needed was a language score and a self-introduction letter. In my school, I decided whether to dispatch myself based on my language score and self-introduction letter. After my dispatch was confirmed, I had to apply for DHBW Stuttgart. The documents required by the school were recommendations, enrollment certificates, language certificates, and financial confirmations. Once the exchange school approved, it began to prepare the documents required in Germany in earnest. The visa problem was the biggest problem. I prepared the visa documents, but I was late, so I finally solved this problem after entering Germany. It could be easily solved because the school helped me, but it is much better to get a visa in Korea because the uncertainty is too high. In addition to visas, in order to live in Germany, I had to apply for medical insurance and a student dormitory with proof of balance. Visa was the problem that I was most worried about before I was sent to Germany. But it worked out better than I thought. Another problem that I was most worried about was food. Last year, I lived in Paris for a month. At that time, the hardest thing was food. It was something that I didn't expect at all. So this time, I brought as much dry food or finished Korean food as possible. Some foods were even brought in ice packs. But especially in Stuttgart, I don't think it was hard at all with food because of the large supermarkets and Asian supermarkets.

- Study in the host country (university, courses, internships, lectures, university system, aspects of comparison etc.)

For a month when I first started attending school, I had German culture and language classes. I learned German at the German Literature House in Korea for a month before coming to Germany. So I was a little bit familiar, but it was difficult to teach German in German. If you had taught German in English, it would have been much more efficient and effective in learning the language. The biggest problem was that I was learning the language intensively in a short period of time, but as I learned it in German, I could not communicate well with my German teacher. It is very difficult to learn a language other than my native language. That is also when it is not in my infancy. Most Koreans learn English in childhood. So English is not as easy as my native language, but there is no great reluctance to communicate with English itself. However, it was very difficult to learn the language as an adult. If I had learned German in English, I wonder if I could have understood more things that my teacher taught me. The teacher spent time explaining it if we could not understand it, but it was also made up of German, which we did not understand very well. I think this was a waste of time. The German culture class was interesting. It was fun to learn many things about Germany and explain each figure by substituting them into specific theories and laws. It was also interesting to introduce our country and learn about other incoming friends' countries. Most of all,

the different teaching methods from Korea were amazing. When I first took a German culture class, I thought I played games too often. In college, I don't play games this much. I thought playing games in class was only in the lower grades of elementary school and was somewhat inefficient. But one day, I came to play a game and I realized through the game how culture arises in society, and how different cultures interact when that culture is different from society to society. In the game, a small society was formed in groups, and when I suddenly played the game, I realized that. The principle was more relevant to me when I experienced it in person than to learn it in theory. The game was very scientific. It was a really interesting and interesting class. Major classes were not much different from Korea. However, it was interesting to talk to international students because they had a more diverse perspective.

- Stay in the host country (personal experiences and impressions, extracurricular activities, transfer chances)

As I said earlier, I have already lived in Paris several times. Of course, I didn't go to school and lived for a shorter period of time. I thought that staying as an exchange student in Germany would be very similar to then. But it was not at all. First of all, Germany was convenient because the marts were better than other places. In particular, Stuttgart was quite a big city, so there were large discount stores of various brands. There was a convenience store, rewe togo, within walking distance of the dormitory, and Penney was also within walking distance. If you go out to the main station, there were rewe, edeka, and tegut. Also, there was a large Asian mart called go Asia, so it was as convenient to buy something as in Korea. However, on Sundays, unlike in Korea, not all marts were open, so it was a little uncomfortable. The Germans were a little heavy, but if their luggage was heavy, they helped and held the door. I don't think I was particularly racist living here.

Above all, it was very nice to have a dormitory that offered students a place to live at a reasonable price. At first, living in a mixed flat with men and women was scary and uncomfortable, but I got used to it. I have never lived in a dormitory in Korea, and the culture of men and women living together was somewhat strange. But now I am very satisfied. In particular, Korean dormitories allow only simple microwave cooking for safety reasons, but it was very nice to be able to cook here. Living in the same building with friends, cooking and interacting with each other seems to have been one of the most fun parts of living here. The most difficult thing about living in Germany is administrative processing. The school helped me a lot with this part, but it was really not easy. When I first live here, I have to report my residence, but it's not easy to make an appointment to report my residence. I failed twice, so I woke up at 6 a.m. and headed to City Hall by 6:30 a.m. After waiting so long, I was able to successfully report my residence in the morning. I think this is very inefficient and inconvenient. Such administrative processing is impossible in Korea. In Korea, even queuing up for delicious restaurants is computerized, so I don't wait in front of them, but wait in line on the Internet in advance, and go when it's my turn. However, I was very surprised

and a little embarrassed that I had to go ahead and line up from dawn to do administrative processing. It was also very embarrassing to know that many administrative processes were not yet computerized and were sent by mail. I couldn't really understand why people still use mail without using convenient e-mails and have to wait several days and risk losing it. However, I just came to live with acceptance as I had to follow Roman law in Rome. However, I hope Germany will also computerize quickly.

Speaking of transportation in Germany, the recent 49 euro Deutsche Land ticket was very useful. I don't think I would have traveled all over Germany like this without that ticket. This ticket was very nice, and I was able to travel freely with this ticket. It was a very special experience, especially to see Christmas markets in small cities in Germany. However, Deutsche Bahn's frequent delays and train cancellations frightened us. There were cases where we couldn't return home, and the sudden cancellation embarrassed us. In severe cases, delays lasted more than two hours, preventing people from taking a connected high-speed train, and putting them in danger of missing flights. In addition, there were quite a few cases where high-speed trains were suddenly canceled. In Korea, it was automatically refunded unconditionally. However, Deutsche Bahn had to apply for a refund by himself, which took weeks to complete. And Deutsche Bahn has a very strange system that allows automatic payment if you don't cancel the subscription 10 days before the delivery by adopting a subscription method. This can't happen in Korea, but I was embarrassed by the unique method here. Even since most of these sites are in German, and emails were sent to us in German, it was a bit difficult. However, I eventually adapted to live here. But what I really liked the most about my life here was traveling. Germany, especially Stuttgart, has very convenient transportation, so it is really easy to travel to various countries in Europe. Stuttgart had an airport, so faraway countries could move quickly. Also, the trains were very well-equipped, so it was possible to reach France and Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom by train. I have been here and traveled to countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom. Also, from Germany, I went to nearby Munich, Tübingen, Baden-Baden, Heidelberg, and Mannheim, and also to Cologne, Berlin, Mainz. These were precious experiences and times that could not be changed by anything. Also, what I especially liked about coming to the winter semester was that I experienced Oktoberfest in Germany. I went to Munich and enjoyed Oktoberfest in person, and the next week I enjoyed Kanschant in Stuttgart. Both were similar but slightly different, and it was very fun. And I learned that it was a very traditional event more than I thought. It was a traditional festival where men and women of all ages gathered together to dance excitedly while drinking beer and snacks together, so it was a fascinating and fun experience. And of course, the beer was so delicious. If I were to leave Germany, the most regrettable part would be beer. German beer is not only very delicious, but it is much cheaper than Korea. And German sausages are really delicious. Beer is delicious in the Czech Republic, Ireland, and the Netherlands, but Germany is the best as far as sausages. I really won't forget this German sausage. Another event that made the winter semester enjoyable is the Christmas market. Since Korea is not a Catholic Church and has various religions, Christmas is more like a winter festival like an event. So, I often spend Christmas with my family, but also with

lovers and friends. But Christmas in Europe was much more family and local. Especially, it was fun to go to various Christmas markets in Germany, to feel their traditions and drink glühwein. It was a new experience to feel the characteristics of each region, and it was fun to collect different cups from each region. I will bring the cups I collected in the markets to Korea. It was also fun to enjoy Christmas and the end of the year throughout the month. I enjoyed the culture where I could feel the excitement and warmth of Christmas throughout the month. Also, I got to be with my friends in London who exchanged the countdown on January 1 of the new year. I bought a ticket to the fireworks festival in front of the London Eye and waited for the countdown in front of the London Eye for more than 5 hours. It was very difficult, but it was the first new year I spent abroad, and the fireworks were so ecstatic and cool that I forgot all the pain and coldness in my legs. It will be a great memory. It was a meaningful time to travel to various places during the exchange student to expand my view and experience various foods and cultures. Above all, I was happy to make a lot of memories with my friends.

- Personal evaluation of the stay at the host university and in the host country
DHBW stuttgart has helped us a lot in our exchange life in Germany. And their unusual timetable was very easy to schedule to travel around us. I think I was able to travel a lot especially because I was exchanged for this school. Stuttgart is not pretty compared to other German cities. But it is large and very safe. Also, the markets, stores, and restaurants are well established, and the transportation is very convenient. I think this place is very good to live in. It is good to take a walk in the park on a nice day and to lie down. I think I will miss this place very much when I return to Korea.