

Erasmus mobility in Stuttgart

2021/2022

It was always my dream, to have the chance to study abroad. Germany stood close to my heart since my childhood, that is why I started to learn German. The Erasmus program is one of the best chances for every university student, to be able to try themselves out in real life. I started to organize this trip in 2020, but unhappily I had to delay it with one semester due to Covid. When it finally looked so that I will be able to come, as many people, I was also a bit terrified. Moving into a new country, among new people, where I do not know anything or anyone, is terrifying. But in the end I understood that this was what I really needed. It was also really good that I did not travel alone, I came with one of my best friends, who also wanted to travel and improve her German language skills. We helped each other in many times and ways out, it was a lot easier this way. But do not be afraid, if you will arrive alone, many kind and friendly people will welcome you immediately. Stuttgart, the Erasmus program and the people I met gave me so much. I am really happy I had the courage to take this step, because it was one of the greatest journey of my life so far.

Beginnings

I arrived to Stuttgart on the 5th of November 2021 and I stayed for three months. I travelled with a train from Hungary, Budapest and it took 10 hours to arrive. In the first week there were a lot of difficulties, which is totally normal, so do not be afraid if in the first week nothing goes well. :)

The city

Stuttgart has about 650.000 citizens, it is not an enormous city but perfect for first-timers. In my opinion it is possible to visit all the sights in the city in three months. Stuttgart is a great choice for young people, there are great night life possibilities, clubs, bars, restaurants. The famous street of Stuttgart is the Königstraße, where there are numerous shops and restaurants. It is beautifully lightened in winter and leads to the Schlossplatz, into the heart of Stuttgart. In winter there is an exhibition, where the most famous buildings of the city are on view, made of

flashbulbs. There are also musical performances and play of lights in every hour. There were some sellers in wood-houses, selling almond in different kind of flavoring, strawberries and bananas dipped into chocolate or gingerbread. You can also buy punch-bowl and Currywurst from tents, which are typical German specialties. Other sights: Feuersee, Marktplatz, Stadtbibliothek, Mercedes-Benz Museum, Fernsehturm, Schloss Solitude.

Traveling

The transport in Stuttgart is really well-crafted. Almost every point of the city is available within 5-10-15 minutes with U-Bahn or S-Bahn. The vehicles are very clean and tidy. We bought the StudyTicket, which allows you to use all kind of public transport in the city for six months. It costs 210€.

The college

I learnt Logistics at the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg. It is a dual college, which means that everybody has a dual partner, where they are working in the exam periods. The school is very modern and well-equipped, although we could not enjoy it so long because due to rising numbers (Covid) we switched to online education. I had only three subjects, because I was also doing my semester at home in Hungary, so I only wanted to reach the minimum credits, which I have to take home from Germany. I learnt these three subjects in German, so it helped me a lot in improving my language skills. We had a really helpful a kind professor, who helped us in everything.

Our accommodation

We lived in a “Studentwohnheim” at Neckastraße 172/a. It was a four-storey building, with four flats. In one flat there were eight rooms, three bathrooms, three toilettes and one big kitchen. On the whole I can say that it was perfectly enough for eight people, we never had to wait for each other, we could divide nicely. There was a cleaning lady, who came twice a week, on every Monday and Thursday. In my opinion that was a big help for us, because everybody only had to cleaning up after themselves, the cleaning in the common areas were solved in this way. The rent was 345€/month, which is quite good in context.

Trips

Of course, while we lived in Germany, we wanted to visit as much city as we could. We were in Berlin, Munich, Nurnberg, Heidelberg and Ludwigsburg. All of them was total different from each other and still beautiful on its own way. We tried a lot of specialties, like the famous beer and “Weißwurst mit Brezel und Süßsenf” from Munich. We planned to travel to Schwarzwald and to Cologne, but unfortunately these did not happen.

Community, people

I have spent most of my time with the people I lived together. There are many stereotypes that German people are not friendly and they are too rigid. I had a really pleasant disappointment, because they were extreme friendly. All of them. Of course, they are maximalists and perfectionists, but they are also calm, peaceful, open-minded and helpful. Our flat was really international. There was an Albanian, a Maltese, an Austrian, and an American besides us (two Hungarian). Everybody has spoken fluent German and they were the most patient people, when we talked. They helped us a lot with words and expressions. They repeated words and explained them, if we did not understand something. I could learn the most from them and I will always be thankful for this.

To sum up I can say that this truly was the biggest journey of my life and I could learn a lot about the world, about other people and about myself. I could see the world from another perspective, which I never would, if I do not come here. I suggest everyone to go to an (or more) Erasmus mobility and see the world. There are numerous surprises, joy, friendships, memories and experiences that you can only gain here. So do not be afraid. It is going to be amazing!



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Bettina Kiss

