

# PERSONAL REPORT

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NAME: Rodrigo Hernandez Gomez

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FIELD OF STUDY: International Trading

HOME UNIVERSITY: Universidad Autónoma  
de Coahuila

HOST UNIVERSITY: DHBW Stuttgart

DEGREE INTENDED: Bachelor Student

NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1 Semester

PERIOD OF TIME: September–December 2023

## **Preparation of the stay**

It all started when I joined college, since I knew that my university had exchange programs because I have a brother that did the same but he went to Spain, but for some reason I chose Germany so I started taking language courses but when COVID happened I stopped taking those courses and never took them on again, so because of all of that I started thinking that I might never have the chance to do my exchange to Germany or anywhere in Europe until I reached the main office of exchange in my home country and they told me that they have now in-person exchanges (they stopped for some years due to COVID) so when I realized that I could actually do my exchange I got all hands on deck and starting my process, such as document applications, then DHBW application and when I received my acceptance letter I knew that there was nothing stopping me from achieving one of my dreams, so I got on and made my visa application, if it's true that it's a different culture I wasn't nervous at all, I kind of knew that everything was going to be different but I had a bit of preparation since I had met German people before and also my German teacher was from there so I learned a lot about the German culture before arriving.

## **Study in the host country**

I would say that studying in Germany is really interesting because they have a very different system to what I'm used to in Mexico, for example in Mexico we are used to studying around 6 to 8 hours a day but 1 or 2 hours of different courses, when I realized that in here it's 8 hours a day of one single lecture I was kind of shocked and worried to see if I was able to handle that and not lose my focus since it's a lot of time and not lose any interest on the class as the time goes by, but the teachers made everything really smooth adding activities, and different methods of giving classes,

One aspect that made everything more interesting was the fact that we were having classes with everyone being of different countries and cultures, but it was perfect because I learned a lot from that people and it was definitely an experience that I will never forget.

## **Stay in the host country**

I would say this is by far the most interesting topic, since we are used to a totally different life in our country, although the welcoming week was a really good experience it was kind of hard to adapt specially when you are a person that is really close to its family that made it really tough for me, the first weeks I was really homesick, I missed all my friends and family but I knew that with time I was going to be able to beat all those challenges, then I also had to do a lot of paperwork, such as opening a german bank account which was a little bit of a struggle, and also the office registration, but despite all of that I knew that this kind of experiences are going to make me a better version of myself since I was getting out of my comfort zone, and indeed I believe that all these experiences made me a totally different person that I was when I first got here

But I finally got to adapt, made new friendships that will last forever, learnt a lot, got to discover the world and different perspectives of it as well, also when you first get here you hear a lot of stuff such as germans being so cold and harder to deal with, I would say that is 100% accurate since everyone its different and there are really nice germans but in my opinion they are like everyone else (just latinos are way to warm) at least that is my personal opinion

## **Hands-on tips**

- . Always, always carry cash!! It will make your life easier
- . Deutschlandticket is the best thing you can buy
- . Be patient with the German bureaucracy
- . Travel as much as you can, Germany is close to everything
- . Be punctual (Germans are really punctual) completely opposite as Mexicans
- . Always do your groceries before Sundays
- . Learn to cook
- . Don't forget your grocery bag while doing shopping
- . Be open with everyone people here are nice
- . REMEMBER TO ENJOY

## **Personal evaluation**

Overall I think it's a beautiful experience that will forever be on my life, since I made a lot of new friends, learnt a lot and became a different person when it comes to the host university I think they provide top quality education and have really good teachers and for the country don't believe in all the stereotypes that they make of the german people in the end here and there will always be nice people all around the world, Stuttgart and DHBW are really good for you to grow as a person and as a student/professional I have nothing else to say other than THANK YOU!

