

# Personal Report



- Name: Andrea García Teijelo
- Contact Information: [andrea.garciateijelo@usp.ceu.es](mailto:andrea.garciateijelo@usp.ceu.es)
- Home University: Universidad CEU San Pablo (Madrid)
- Host University: DHBW Stuttgart
- Field of study: International Business
- Degree Intended: Business Administration + Marketing
- Number of semesters: 1
- Period: 3rd September 2023 to 2nd February 2024

## MY EXPERIENCE ON AN ERASMUS + IN STUTTGART:

My experience in Stuttgart began on September 3, 2023; it was the first time I had ventured outside my home country to live and study abroad. At that moment, I felt a lot of uncertainty, some fear, and many doubts about what this significant academic and personal opportunity I was about to embark on would bring.

The initial days were about adaptation, as you gradually transform a new place into your home and safe place. This posed a challenge initially as I encountered some issues with the student residence, particularly regarding cleanliness. However, once I addressed it with the residence authorities, they took measures, and in this regard, conditions improved significantly, and I didn't face cleanliness issues for the remainder of my stay.

During the Welcome Days, I got to know all my classmates and respective buddies. They organized activities and visits to important sites in the city of Stuttgart, such as the Porsche Museum or the TV Tower, which were super fun. These days are crucial as you meet a lot of new people right upon arrival.



I am grateful to the international program at DHBW Stuttgart for the fantastic opportunity to take a mandatory intensive German course at the beginning of the stay, preceding university classes. In my case, having some prior knowledge of German from my school years proved to be immensely helpful. The academy's teachers were excellent, and the class methodology was engaging.

Regarding the courses I took at DHBW Stuttgart, I would highlight the Business Simulation Game. It was an incredibly useful and different experience from conventional courses I had taken in Spain. The intensive four-day course, conducted from 9 am to 6 pm, involved a computer simulation game where we understood and learned how the market functions, how to differentiate ourselves from the competition, and how to gain the largest possible market share by adjusting various parameters and launching different products based on the target audience. I believe this type of course should be implemented in other countries as it provides students with a semi-real experience of how the market operates, leading to better long-term learning.

Another course I enjoyed, which happened to be mandatory, was "Intercultural Training in Germany." The emphasis on learning from different cultures and engaging in empathy games to understand each other was significant, given the diverse mix of cultures in the class.

I also greatly enjoyed courses like "Applied Market Research," "Leading Effectively," and "Global Megatrends" because they covered very current topics relevant to business careers and, in general, were useful for various fields.

During my stay in Stuttgart, I had the opportunity to visit many neighboring countries I had never been to, thanks to the city's central location in Europe. I traveled to cities like Zurich (Switzerland), Venice and Milan (Italy), Innsbruck (Austria), Munich (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Budapest (Hungary), Warsaw, and Krakow (Poland). In these five months, I traveled more than ever, and it was truly one of the experiences I will cherish for a lifetime. Traveling with people I had connected with during these months was one of the most rewarding aspects of my time abroad.



In the initial months, we immersed ourselves in German culture by attending the famous Oktoberfest in Munich, which was an unforgettable experience. We also went to Cannstatter Volkfest in Stuttgart and explored German cuisine, including its typical sweets. We visited nearby cities like Esslingen, Ulm, Heidelberg, Konstanz and Tübingen during these months.



One excursion that holds a special place in my heart was when the international coordinators organized a trip to visit Neuschwanstein Castle. That day, we explored the stunning surroundings of the castle, featuring a beautiful lake complemented by a sunny day with perfect temperatures in early October. I appreciate that the international coordinators suggest these types of excursions as they give us the opportunity to visit important places in an organized manner, and at very affordable prices. If I had to make a suggestion in this regard, I would recommend more excursions of this kind, as I personally loved it.



In conclusion, several aspects make this experience the best of my life, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone considering whether to participate in an Erasmus+ or exchange program in Stuttgart.

Firstly, DHBW has been incredibly supportive since the day we arrived in the city, understanding our needs and empathizing with us as exchange students living in a foreign country with a language, culture, and customs completely different from our own. I want to especially mention the international relations coordinators, Asita and Sarina, as they have conveyed the feeling that they were there to help us, attentive to our needs, and concerned about making our stay in Stuttgart the best possible. Their efforts have been entirely worthwhile, as the activities we participated in during this time (both at the beginning, middle and end of the program) allowed us to connect and get to know each other much more, which is crucial when you are away from your home country. Additionally, whenever I or my friends had any questions, they responded to emails very quickly, and I greatly appreciate that.

Looking back, I realize that it was a wise decision to spend a semester at this university because the courses and professors exceeded my expectations. I learned a lot from highly qualified individuals with a passion for teaching.

I also highlight the people I met and lived with during this time. I have been fortunate to meet incredibly special people from different parts of the world who have taught me to see things and live from a different perspective than I was accustomed to, broadening my mind. I have made lifelong friends, and for that, I am thankful for having come here.

I am extremely grateful to have experienced my Erasmus program in Stuttgart. Everything surpassed my expectations and was a thousand times better than I could have ever imagined.