

Study Experience Report at UDE

by Low Heng Bong

Preparation prior to leaving Germany

I attended all the briefings organized by Mercator Office UKM before deciding that coming to Germany is the path I want to take. I met with my mentor professors to certify my previous certificates to facilitate the application process in UDE. To fulfill one of the exchange requirement by UDE, I attended the German Language Course, up to the level A2, and the technical German Language Course, organized by the Mercator Office in UKM. Besides that, I renewed my passport and applied for my student visa in the German Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Through Mercator Office, I applied for my student accommodation in Germany.

Learning and Studying in UDE

It is never easy to study in a foreign language, especially for a newcomer engineering student like me. The exams here can be challenging, partly because all our grades depends on the final examination. However, after a semester and two, things changed for the better when I got familiar with the examination system here. Studying in UDE during my final year was a much more hands-on experience, because of the project work and bachelor thesis. Fortunately, I came with many course mates in my 2012/2013 batch so we could helped each other out during revision.

Life in Germany

First and foremost, in order to survive in this place, I had to take care of all my daily needs on my own. I had to cook everyday. Besides that, I had to do my laundry and clean my room on my own. This had suddenly pushed my out of my comfort zone when I stayed at home and made me a more independent person.

Another fun part of staying in Germany is travelling. In Malaysia, we can only reach the other countries by plane. It is different in Germany, or more precisely, Duisburg. Many neighboring countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, Paris, Luxembourg are reachable by train within hours. I preferred to travel alone during weekends for a break after finishing my exams and projects.

Socializing and partying are, too, great activities for foreign students to participate here. Germans loves partying, and therefore, there are festivals all-year-round serving the partying needs in this country, from the New Year eve and Rosenmontag, to the Oktoberfest, the Halloween and the Christmas party. I was quite active in my first year here, but then I realized that too much partying is not for me, so I turned less active since then. After all, I am the one who choose my own lifestyle.

Future Benefits to Stay Around

I would stay here to explore job and business opportunities for half a year before leaving for Malaysia. To me, it would be great if I can work here for several years when I am still young and have the opportunity to work overseas. Not to mention, the pay here is lucrative.

Studying a master was once under my consideration but after some thoughts, I would choose to do it after some years of working experience. After all, who knows what might happen in a few years' time?

Advice to Future Juniors

Grab the opportunity. It will be a life-changing experience. Trust me.