

Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire
Universität Mannheim

October 31st, 2024

1. Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

My program of study at the University of Ottawa is International Management. While on exchange at the University of Mannheim my program is labelled as Management within their Faculty of Business Administration.

In preparation of your semester at the University of Mannheim there are many courses to choose from. These courses can be intensive or weekly (if you are a master's student there are also weekly and intensive master's courses). Intensive courses take around 2-4 days to complete and they are 4–8-hour sessions. However, once you're done the classes all you have left is the exam during the exam period. The weekly courses resemble the same structure as classes at uOttawa. If you plan on travelling, I recommend taking as many intensive courses as you can, so that you do not have weekly requirements. While choosing courses it is important to ensure that they all equal at least 30 ECTS as that is equivalent to 15 credits at uOttawa (full-time student semester).

Through my experience I've noticed that the intensive seminars are more of an open-ended conversation, as the professor will use their own professional experiences to relate to class topics. With only 20-40 students in these classes, it helped me grasp concepts much faster. While the weekly classes closely resemble the lectures held at uOttawa, with 50-300 people depending on room size.

Course Code	Course Name	ECTS	Hours Per week	Examination
MKT 351	Marketing Management Decisions	6	Intensive seminar (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) (Sept 3 – Sept 5)	60-minute 100% exam
MAN 301	Strategic and International Management	6	Weekly class Two 1.5-hour classes per week	90-minute 100% exam
Language Course A1.1	German language course	6	Weekly class 3-hour class	3 Tests and a Final (120 minute)

MAN 358	Strategy and Sustainability	4	Intensive seminar Two 4-hour sessions (Nov 25 – Nov 26)	100% Term Paper
MKT 353	Brand and Product Management	4	Intensive seminar (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM) (Sept 6, Sept 9-10)	60-minute 100% exam
MAN/FIN 364	Environmental Finance	6	Intensive seminar (Two 8-hour sessions) (Nov 28 – Nov 29)	100% Term Paper

2. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).

- Officially the fall semester is from August 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025
- Welcome week is August 26 – 30, 2024
 - o Orientation
 - o School tour
- Classes begin September 2 and end December 6
- Exam Period begins December 9 and ends December 21
- Finals for intensive courses may vary (however most are during the exam period)
- Holidays
 - o No reading week at the University of Mannheim
 - o German Unity Day (October 3)
 - o Reformation Day (October 31)
 - o All Saints Day (November 1)

3. Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Obtain Apartment Keys

Prior to arrival students should book an appointment to obtain their keys for the day they arrive. If the appointment is booked for the next day than you will have to find a place to stay for the night.

Registering With the City

While living in Mannheim it is mandatory to complete the city registration. You can book an appointment online through a link found on the University of Mannheim's website. The appointment will take place at K7 (Address). Before attending the appointment, you must print and fill out the form, you will also need your passport.

Residence Permit

The University of Mannheim will provide you with an email regarding the residence permit. The process may take a while and the appointment may only be booked in 2-4 weeks after arrival, so it is important to sign up for the residence permit right away. I am a Canadian citizen; however, I also have a Portuguese passport (EU passport) so I was able to skip this part of the process as I did not need to obtain a visa to stay in Germany for the semester.

Rundfunkbeitrag Tax

This is a monthly payment that supports TV and radio tax and is paid by all Mannheim residents. This cost of 18 euros per month is shared between yourself and your flatmates. Usually shared between 3-5 people, the tax is affordable.

Course and Exam Registration

For the fall semester of 2024 the course registration opened on August 15. This is where you apply for your courses and need a minimum total of 30 ECTS. You can choose between weekly, intensive, and master's courses (only for 4th year students). The exam registration period for the fall semester of 2024 is October 23-November 6, however, this may change as certain intensive courses may have earlier exams.

Questions and Concerns

If any questions arise while one exchange you can contact the international office by email. You can contact them with questions regarding residence permit, city registration, course registration, etc. At the entrance of the business wing of the university there is also a small office in which you can ask questions about class location and other topics related to navigating the school.

Buddy Program

Before departing you can sign up for the buddy program. This is a program in which a student at the University of Mannheim is assigned to answer your questions and direct you to the right people if they do not know the answer. They will also let you know about fun upcoming events.

4. Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Airplane

- Montreal to Frankfurt (Round Trip)
 - o \$1400
- Frankfurt to Amsterdam (Round Trip)
 - o \$450
- Frankfurt to Lisbon (Round Trip)
 - o \$550

Travel Costs (shopping, going out, food etc.)

- \$1500

Apartment Rental

- \$3500

Rundfunkbeitrag Tax

- \$30

Food

- \$200/month
- \$1000 Total
- University Campus Cafeteria
 - o 3-6 Euros per meal

Medical Insurance

- \$1100

Trains and Busses

- D – Ticket (JugendBW)
 - o \$270
- Mannheim to Frankfurt x 3 (Round Trips)
 - o \$120
- Mannheim to Berlin (Booked last minute on a holiday so it was more expensive)(Round Trip)
 - o \$110

Total

- \$10,030

I would recommend having at least \$9000 – \$12,000 available as emergencies may arise.

5. Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Visa

I do not have knowledge on visa deadlines as I did not have to obtain one due to my European passport. However, I am sure that contacting the uOttawa international services will point you in the right direction of obtaining it and its deadlines.

Course Registration

As previously mentioned, course registration opened on August 15th for the fall semester of 2024. From August 15th to August 30th courses are available to be selected. It should be noted that the course registration does not abide by the same rules as uOttawa. At the University of Mannheim, it does not matter which day you select your courses within the period as it is not first come first serve (if I select a course on August 15th and someone else selects the same course on August 30th, we have the same probability of enrolling in that course). This is due the University attempting to ensure equality and fairness' when it comes to course selection. I recommend having 2-5 backup courses available (especially if you intend on enrolling in intensive courses).

Housing Deposit

Before arriving in Germany, you must apply for an accommodation. The University of Mannheim will send a list of accommodations for you to choose. From which you will select your 3 preferred locations. I recommend applying for a shared accommodation as it will increase your chances of successfully obtaining an apartment. It is good social interaction once you arrive, and you will have friends right away which will help with the anxiety of moving to a new place. I have 2 other people living in my section and we all share a kitchen, 2 washrooms and one shower.

Mobility Online

This will be a link provided to you via email from the University of Mannheim. There is a checklist of objectives you must complete before and just after arriving to Mannheim.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory for all German residents. The University of Mannheim will provide you with a list of health insurance options for you to choose from. I chose Barmer and after arriving you will contact the insurer in order to receive your physical insurance card.

6. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

Studierendenwerk Mannheim, Hafenstraße 45, room 507

My section of building 45 has 3 students living in it including myself. Although we share a kitchen and bathroom, we all respect each other when it comes to giving someone time to finish

what they are doing. The rooms are quite small but easy to get used to. They come with a single bed, desk, 2 chairs, dresser, shelf, and a sink. I would recommend Hafenstraße as other accommodations are much farther from the school and require you to bus. I am a 22-minute walk from the campus which I find perfect. There is a grocery store, convenience stores, cafes, restaurants, and a gas station all within 300 meters. The laundry for all buildings (35-45) is in building 39. I would recommend doing laundry at weird times as it can get busy on weekends. As previously mentioned, my accommodation is approximately \$3500 CAD for my 5 months of stay.

7. Other comments or recommendations.

I would recommend joining the WhatsApp group for ESN. They are a group associated with the school that plans fun events for students at least once a week. These events are pub crawl, beer pong tournaments, wine tastings, Halloween parties, etc. Mannheim's city is built in squares and becomes very easy to navigate once you learn how it works. There is a shopping district near the center of the city which is nice to walk to and a water tower near there which is quite beautiful. You can also go to the Mannheim Central Station and take a train to Heidelberg which will take about 15 minutes. Heidelberg is regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Germany and is definitely worth checking out. The Rhine River is very close and runs along the outside of Mannheim, I would recommend renting a bike strolling along the side of the river as it will bring you to beautiful places. Lastly, I would recommend trying to stay present in the moment. I know it is difficult to not think about what your friends and family are doing at home, but you have to understand that you are only here for a short amount of time. Enjoy your time on exchange as you will still have plenty of time in Ottawa when you return.

8. Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

My experience in Mannheim has been really amazing and I would like to encourage other people to go on their own exchanges as well. While you are on exchange you are going to meet people from all around the world. This can really broaden your view of life and allow you see opportunities you never knew existed. On an educational level I really enjoy how the school system works here. A lot of the professors use a 50/50 split between teaching course content and how those topics relate to their own professional careers. I have made bonds with friends that will continue even after the exchange is finished. Furthermore, this was my first time living by myself and it has taught me to be fully responsible for all the tasks I need to complete. In conclusion, my time in Mannheim has been wonderful, packed with adventure and friendship, and I hope that I can bring all of the skills I've learned here back home.