

- A) Exchange students are allowed to choose any courses at the school since it is only a business school. Since regular students here are completing a 3 year degree, there are only undergrad courses up to third year. It is confusing at first because here they refer to their studies by semester and not year, so you will be choosing from either 1st, 3rd, or 5th semester courses with 1st semester meaning 1st year and 5th semester meaning 3rd year.

Another difference is that the semester is broken up into two quarters. So you will have two completely different sets of courses throughout the semester. In total, if you are looking for 15 units you will probably need to take 7 courses in the semester here. I am taking 4 courses in the first quarter and 3 courses in the second quarter. Generally courses are in 3 hour and 15 minute blocks and you will have between 1 or 2 sessions a week (most only one). And due to the quarter format you will have probably 6 sessions of each course over around 6 weeks. The course dates also vary so you may have a course on Monday at 8am one week and then the next week it is at 330pm on a Wednesday. The dates however are fixed in advance so you will know all the details before you even register to the course.

- B) In 2023 the first day of courses was September 4th. The first quarter ran until about October 19th (varies depending on your course dates), and then I had one final exam on the week of the 23rd. The second quarter then started on the week of October 30th. If you organize your classes properly and get lucky you might get a period of time off over the middle two weeks of October when classes end and exams start. The exam period at the end of the year starts December 11th and runs until the 21st. I have my last exam on December 20th. Also note that you may have an exam in December for a course that ended in October, because some courses have 2 courses that are somewhat related (with one being in the first quarter and one in the second quarter, such as Money/Banking and Asset Management). I would recommend taking both parts of the course (which count as 2 different courses for exchange students) and then taking the combined 3 hour exam in December. You can only take one of the courses and then have a single exam of about 1.5 hours.
- C) Arrival in Vallendar is pretty easy. Koblenz is a fairly important city between Frankfurt and Cologne so trains run frequently. You can then take a bus (number 8 or 150) to Vallendar and be there in 20 minutes. From the bus stop here you will likely be only 5 to 10 minutes walk from your residence and only a few minutes from the WHU campus. The campus is really in the middle of the village. And I do not call Vallendar a village for fun, it has 6,000 inhabitants of which 2,000 are students. There are two main roads, two stores and a couple restaurants. The International Exchange Office is very accommodating and will help you with everything you need from registration to help with residence permits or assistance if you need a doctor or anything else.

You will only register to courses once you arrive so I would not even worry about it while still in Canada. There is plenty space available in almost every course so it is a completely stress-free exercise. You get a google form to fill in with your preferences and then are automatically enrolled. If for whatever reason you do not get every course you asked for, there is an info

session hosted by the IRO which shows how to manually enter the application and register/deregister yourself from courses. Generally everyone I know ended up in their desired courses.

The IRO also organizes a whole bunch of social activities for exchange students. There was a local wine tour where we visited a vineyard and walked around while getting free wine samples. We also had a boat tour along the river organized. There was a dinner with local food set up as well, and another bingo night with food and drinks provided. We also have an upcoming trip to Cologne that is organized by the international office as well.

- D) The cost for flights from Ottawa to Frankfurt are around \$1200 CAD. This is the best and most convenient way to get here especially when you have all your luggage. You could try to get cheaper flights into other airports but I personally would not recommend it. Housing costs \$2,400 Euros total (plus a 500 deposit), which comes to under \$1,000 CAD per month. Living costs here are relatively low, as you can shop at Rewe or the cheaper option Lidl. You will notice food costs are significantly lower than in Canada. There is no cost for textbooks.

Vacation spending truly depends on how often and where you intend on going. There is a train ticket for students that costs \$24 euros per month and gives you access to all local trains in Germany. You can use this for trips to Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Dortmund, etc. In terms of further travel, I went to Brussels with a friend and train tickets were 60 euros round trip plus an AirBnB for 75 per person for two nights. Flights within Europe can be found for really cheap. I would recommend looking at RyanAir or Eurowings flying out of Cologne (CGN) or Dusseldorf (DUS). You can find some roundtrip flights for 50 euros. If you want to travel to a few places and stay in relatively decent hotels or AirBnB's, I would say travel costs come to around \$1500 euros. I personally have been or am going to Vienna, Budapest, Brussels, London, Mallorca and Switzerland. In total the exchange will cost around 8000 euros, but of course can vary significantly in either direction based on your travel desires.

- E) I am an EU citizen so I did not have to go through a visa procedure but other friends from Canada that are here have said that it was easy. The IRO is very accommodating and will help you with the application before you arrive and then with getting the residence permit after you get here. It did not sound like a problem.

You will be emailed about selecting your housing prior to the start of the semester. There is guaranteed housing and they are all quite nice. You then will submit your application and desired residence building and pay the deposit as well as the full amount before you arrive. Everything went smoothly with this as well. Course registration was previously discussed but also easy.

- F) I lived at Hohrer Str 34b and it was great. You have the option to have a single room or roommates. I live in a single room and it has a bed, desk, bathroom and kitchen (no oven). There is definitely enough space for a person and it feels more like an apartment than a dorm room. There is a shared laundry room in the basement with adequate machines. The housing costed \$2400 euros for the 4 months. I would strongly recommend any student to select the Hohrer Str housing because it is a close walk to campus and the stores and also the largest building filled almost entirely with other exchange students. I say large building but it still only is 4 stories and has 80 students. This will almost certainly become the spot where people come to hang out and has a bar literally 1 minute walk away (they give a free shot at the end of the night).
- G) I did not work during the semester and I know that you would need a special visa to work in Germany as a Canadian. There would definitely be enough time in the course schedule to work part-time, but I would **STRONGLY** suggest to use this time to travel (either around the area or on bigger trips).
- H) I would very much recommend WHU to anyone from the University of Ottawa. I think it gives a completely different perspective on education and the world. The setup of the school as a private business school offers a new vibe that is very much contrary to that of Ottawa. Here almost everyone has internships at large Investment Banks or the Big 4 and you can really feel the competitive business energy everywhere. This is definitely one of the most elite school in Germany and you will regularly see people wearing clothes or jewelry that we could only dream to afford. I think this is definitely worth seeing.

Despite the status of many of the students, the village of Vallendar still very much gives an old German vibe to the experience. You can visit the local bakery in the morning and find seniors having their weekday morning coffee and croissant. Then you can go into a new fancy building for class and during the break head over for a gelato or coffee. The school also hosts many events throughout the year which often offer free drinks.

I also love the location being between Cologne and Frankfurt as it gives many options for travel. You can fly on main airlines from Frankfurt or get some good deals and go pretty much anywhere in Europe from the airports in the area.

The professors are very accommodating and nice. Many of them are industry experts themselves, from either consulting, investment banking, accounting or marketing and bring this expertise with them into the classroom. Their lectures include much more interaction and have more frequent guest lectures from current professionals than we get in Ottawa. I believe they were almost all interesting. They are also happy to offer you advice for your career, especially if you are thinking of going into finance. This is definitely the place to be if you think a Masters of Finance is in your future because 99% of the undergrad students here are going to do that.

- I) My experience so far has been amazing. I have found a great group of friends and had lots of fun (a few drinks) and gone on some exciting trips. The courses are interesting and I have learned quite a few new things from a European perspective. I would say the best part and main reason I came to Europe in general was to travel often. This has certainly lived up to expectations. I would absolutely select WHU if I got to choose my exchange destination again and strongly recommend you come here. You will experience a whole new version of university and make friends that you can travel the world with.