

## Program of study:

In university of Canada, the program that I am in is International Management. So after I got here I choose the courses that more related to management, such as performance management and brand management. Education concepts here are more focus toward case studies or presentations, professors in this school believe that real cases are the most valuable learning materials in education.

The course schedules here are different comparing to the home university. Because we usually have 1.5 hrs to 3 hrs lecture, the courses here are usually lasting longer such as 4 to 6 hours per lecture. In such case, students are not necessary to go to school every single day and sometimes there are long gap between the first and second lecture.

## The timetable:

### Procedures to follow upon arrival:

I was arrived a little bit late comparing to other students. The date that arrived was one day before the German intensive course started, I recommend students come little bit early like 3 or even 5 days before the courses started if it is possible.

The first day that I went to school, I picked up my student cards and get my student transportation cards. Because the European Business School is located in Oestrich-Winkel in Hessen state, we are able to travel around within Hessen with student transportation card without paying any extra money. The transportation card covers almost all the public transportation including buses, train and subways which is really convenient. Especially for people who do not want to live around school and prefer live in the city such as me can still travel between school and home freely. But what is worth mention is that public transportation may be little bit inconvenient in rural area, the train from my home to school comes once an hour. In such case, student should be able to management the time.

After all the procedure of getting the student card and transportation card validated, the info sessions came. Every schools are able to provide welcome fair to introduce more about the school, for example where is the reception desk and where we can find the assistants regarding academic help and Internet. Same as European Business School. Usually every schools are also able to provide the help to students regarding career or network. The European Business School also provide students services regarding career plan and personal branding. Furthermore, the first presentation that school provided to us, also introduced about all the clubs in school. European Business School puts the high value on expanding their students' network and their career plan, because they believe that network works closely with career in nowadays. During the academic year in EBS, I have seen many guests speaking classes as well as workshop. I had a class which is called advanced strategy, is a module that contain two classes. One of the classes is more about introducing all the theory related to the company's strategy, another one is a workshop that take place in a well-known company globally. The theory based class is more about introducing all the principles and measurements regarding the company's strategy. The workshop usually contains two parts: company presentation and case study. Usually the

company presentation takes place during morning and the case study usually takes place after the lunch break. The whole workshop can last about 8-9 hours in one day. The whole workshop sometimes stressful because of the time, however students were saying they can learn a lot from the workshop.

After the welcome session, the session regarding important procedures and deadlines and local authorities as well as housing matters at EBS followed after the welcome session. Everyone moving to or within Germany has to register the address with the local authorities. This is mandatory by law, to register the residence in Germany within 10-14 days upon arrival in Germany. If students should change the address during the stay in Germany, it will be their full responsibility to inform the local authority in time. For registering students should bring the passport, the document called "Wohnungsbescheinigung" which is a kind of housing proof that needs to be completed by the landlord in advance. And normally the landlord can find the document on the local authority's website. And also always keep in mind that students also need to de-register the address at the end of studies at EBS. Students need to do so 1 to 5 days before departure in person. And for de-register students need to submit a newly completed Wohnungsbescheinigung. And please note that nearly each town or city has its own registration office, so students need to check the nearest authority by their own.

Then the session for validation of private health insurance plan took place in another room. If students purchased the private plan, they should get it validated by the person who coordinates with all the insurance issues in School. In order to successfully validate the plan, a copy of passport should be handed in along with printed insurance confirmation.

After all the sessions, a welcome buffet was prepared by the school in a nice vine yard. During that time, all the exchange students are able to get to know each other better and share all their stories or life back to their countries.

The budget outlining the cost of studying abroad:

From Ottawa directly fly to Frankfurt international airport, the one-way air fare cost about 750 CAD. If the date is fixed, I strongly recommend student to buy the round-way ticket. Taking me as an example, since I am not sure when is the return date, I didn't buy the round-way ticket before I came to EBS. At that time, I was thinking about once I decided the date of return, I shall buy the ticket immediately. The price for the air fare change over the time, the price gets more and more expensive.

In terms of housing, I strongly recommend students to consider whether they prefer to live near the school or in the city. The European Business School is located in a small town there is not too much activities going on. Personally, I prefer to live in a city which you can have access to a lot of more resources. Some of exchange students complain about the life in small town saying that there is no fast food restaurant at all. And in terms of living, access to different groceries can be a difficult issue. However, comparing to the life that I have in the city. Everything seems so convenient.

Travelling is a most attractive thing for all exchange students, many people especially came from North America or Asia are taking this as a good opportunity to explore more about the country. There are a lot of ways to travel around the Europe, such as cheap airline, bus, carpool or train. There are many good deal from cheap airline like Ryanair constantly, 52 Euro round trip from Frankfurt ahn airport to England and 12 Euro round trip from Frankfurt Hahn airport to Barcelona. Even though the travelling date is usually fixed, if students plan ahead of time can still able to manage the time. The price of cheap airline can be attractive, but the time spend on road can be wasted. For example, on the day that I took the airport to England, I spend about 50 mins on train from home to Frankfurt main station. Then I transferred a shuttle bus from the main station to the Hahn airport. The total transfer time is about 3 hours.

The cost of living here is relatively low comparing to Ottawa. If I do not go to the restaurant for dinner or lunch, I can save a lot of money for every week. All the food in groceries stories are cheaper comparing to Canada, as well as drug mart. But dine outside is not that expensive.

Application procedures before arrival:

As a Chinese, I still need a visa to enter Europe. But with the Schengen visa, I am able to travel all around in Schengen area without any extra papers or documents. England is an exemption. In order to enter England, I still need to apply the English visa. The procedure of applying a English Visa is easy and every visa it issued can last about half year. There is just one thing need to be notice, there are not too many offices can issue the English visa. It is necessary to check where is the valid place to get a visa. For international students, I strongly recommended to check the processing time for a student visa for different countries and plan the whole travel plan in advance.

The course registration is different in every school because the different course selection systems. The course selecting tool on EBS is not very handy. What I recommend is that to check all the courses that students are interested online before the real registration period begin. And do not forget to send a confirmation about the course that selected online to the International Coordinator.

Address and description of housing:

For EBS, there is an online house hunting that aimed to find the appropriate place to exchange students. For some reason, I missed the deadline of the housing hunting so I need to find the place by myself. After all the experience, what I recommended is that find a place within a city and with good access to public transportation. Taking me as an example, I live in Wiesbaden where about 20 mins train to School and 45 mins to Frankfurt. The most important thing is the train station is close to my place. Even though I do need to take the train, the bus stop is also just within 5 mins walking distance.

The exchange experience:

This exchange experience is much fun than what I expect. Even though there are a lot of things that are not really pleasant, but the overall life here in Germany is still amazing. Here I met so many friends that came from different cities and different countries. We are all sharing the same

goal which is to enjoy our exchange experience as much as we can. Exchange program aimed to open student's mind and to let student embrace more culture backgrounds. The only thing that I feel regret is that I did not plan my first two months properly, so I wasted the most pleasant weather in Germany or I should say in Europe. Overall I gained so much from this great experience which I shall never forget. This is my last semester and this will be the most unforgettable time in my life. Choosing International Management as my major from the first year to last year of my university, I have never hesitated about my decision. And thank you University of Ottawa for providing such great opportunity for students. This is the most value gift in my university life.