

GERMANY – hochschule der medien (HdM Stuttgart)

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose



I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My semester abroad at Hochschule der Medien (HdM) was a very positive experience. It allowed me to improve my English, discover another teaching style, meet international students, and travel across Germany and neighboring countries.

The university offers practical courses and encourages teamwork. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to work on real media and business projects. Living in Stuttgart also gave me the chance to discover a dynamic city with excellent public transportation and many cultural activities.

If I could go back in time, I would definitely choose the same university again. The exchange helped me grow both academically and personally.

GRADE : 5/5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) – 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

As a French student going to Germany, I did not need a visa because both countries are members of the European Union.

2. The flight

I flew from **Bordeaux Airport (BOD)** to **Stuttgart Airport (STR)** with a connection. I booked my flight around two months before departure, which allowed me to get a reasonable price.

3. My luggage

Things I recommend bringing:

- Warm clothes (especially from October to March)
- A good rain jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- European health insurance card (EHIC)
- Laptop
- Passport or ID card
- Power bank
- Basic medicines

Things I wish I had brought:

- A larger suitcase for souvenirs and winter clothes.

4. Bank account

I did not need to open a German bank account. My French bank card worked everywhere without any issue.

5. Insurance

I used my European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which was sufficient during my stay.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I recommend living near:

- Vaihingen
- Möhringen
- Stuttgart-West
- Stuttgart City Center (if your budget allows)

These areas have good public transport connections to HdM.

I would avoid living too far outside Stuttgart because commuting can become long.

2. Find a flat or a room

I found my accommodation through the university's student housing recommendations.

I recommend starting your search as early as possible because accommodation is limited.

Student residences are usually the easiest solution.

3. Cost

Student room:

- Around **400–650 € per month**

Private apartment:

- Around **700–1000 € per month**

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The registration process was straightforward.

The International Office explained everything before arrival and organized an orientation day. Most administrative procedures were completed online before the semester started.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

Recommendation: **Yes**, especially if you already have some finance background.

1. Media Creation

Very practical course where students produce a television program.

Recommendation: **Yes**, but be prepared to work in teams and sometimes in German.

2. German Language

Useful for everyday life.

Recommendation: **Yes**, even if you are a beginner.

3. Organization of the Class

Courses usually last between **3 and 4 hours**.

Teachers are friendly, approachable and encourage participation.

Compared to Montpellier Management, there is generally:

- less theoretical learning,
- more group work,
- more practical projects,

- more presentations.

Workload is moderate but continuous throughout the semester.

4. List of courses and recommendation

Course	Level	Professor	Recommendation
Management for International Media Corporations	Similar	Very interesting	Yes
Corporate Finance & Entrepreneurship	Slightly easier	Excellent	Yes
Media Creation	Practical	Demanding but rewarding	Yes
German Language	Beginner friendly	Good	Yes

5. Exam

Most courses were evaluated through:

- group projects,
- presentations,
- written reports,
- learning diaries,
- participation.

Very few traditional final exams.

This continuous assessment reduced exam stress.

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

Stuttgart is a very safe city.

I never experienced any problems.

Like any large city, remain careful around the train station late at night.

B. Phone and Internet

My French mobile plan worked perfectly thanks to European roaming.

Wi-Fi is available across the university.

C. Events

The university regularly organizes events.

Instagram, student associations and WhatsApp groups are the easiest ways to stay informed.

D. Sports

HdM offers different sports through the university.

There are also many gyms throughout Stuttgart.

Running and hiking are also popular.

E. Eating

The university cafeteria (Mensa) offers affordable meals.

Prices are generally around **3–6 €**.

I also recommend trying:

- Maultaschen
- Spätzle
- Döner (very popular in Germany)

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

Public transportation is excellent.

I mainly used:

- U-Bahn
- S-Bahn
- Bus

The Deutschlandticket is highly recommended because it allows unlimited regional travel throughout Germany.

G. Travels

Germany has an excellent railway network.

I recommend visiting:

- Munich
- Heidelberg
- Cologne
- Berlin
- Black Forest

I also traveled to:

- Prague
- Vienna
- Belgium
- France

The Deutschlandticket makes many trips inexpensive.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

I wish I had known:

- how useful the Deutschlandticket is;
- that many practical projects require teamwork from the first weeks;
- that speaking a little German makes everyday life easier, although English is sufficient at the university;
- that student accommodation should be booked as early as possible.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I will return to France to continue my studies in a Master's degree while completing an apprenticeship in finance.

B. Did you apply for master?

Yes.

I have been accepted into:

Master Finance – Green Finance

Montpellier Management (University of Montpellier), France.

[remember to fill in the excel : https://lnkd.in/eUt_xB54]