



## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

*Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back 1 time, would you go to this university and why ?*

The words that would define this semester in Stuttgart would be: meetings, happiness, richness, experiences, learning and discovery.

I don't have any regrets about having done this experience, even if the preparations and organization before, during and after the semester were not always easy, I would definitely encourage everyone to do this adventure. You will learn so much, meet so many people and have such great experiences.

## II. Before the travel

### A. Preparation

#### 1. Visa

*Help : Do I need a visa ? If yes, what is the process ?*

You will not need a visa because it is in Europe

#### 2. The flight

*Help : what flight did you take (the company name, airport etc.) and when did you take your flight ticket*

I personally took the train because I found the tickets way too expensive. I took the train from Montpellier to Strasbourg then Strasbourg to Stuttgart for only 79€ via the app SNCF connect (8/9 hours in total). I was really lucky on this one because when I wanted to go back to visit my family or even for my return ticket this trip was not proposed and not at this price. I advise you to look in advance and during several weeks to come back on the application to see if the prices have changed but don't delay too much. For the return ticket, I did Stuttgart - Paris Gare de l'Est then Paris Gare de Lyon - Montpellier for a total of 147€ but I had taken 10€ more because I had a lot of luggage. Think about your return luggage too if you plan to buy a lot of things and bring them back with you to France!

#### 3. My luggage

*Help : what to not forget in the luggage (what was useful and what you would like to have taken)*

My suitcase when I went was quite heavy because when I arrived in March it was still very cold so I had a lot of warm clothes. Know that you will find everything on the spot, but that the first day might be less comfortable because you won't have everything you need to live for 5 months (towels, kitchen utensils (most of them will be provided in your accommodation) or other things), the bedsheets will normally be given to you if you apply like me to be in the dormitories. Think about taking warm clothes for the first months but also summer clothes because it is also hot in Stuttgart from May/June. But this is up to you because you can always take a few things and buy a lot there or take what you need for the first few months and then change if you plan to visit your family and friends.

#### 4. Bank account

*Help : did you have to change bank? To respect some amount requirement on the bank account etc.*

My bank account in France is the *Caisse d'Epargne* and I think that most bank accounts today allow you to use your card in Europe without any fees if you have a visa I think. Most of the time I was able to pay with my French account but sometimes merchants won't accept it because it's too expensive for them and sometimes because they only take cash (it's not like in France where you can pay by card everywhere but you'll get used to it quickly don't worry). I advise you to always have some cash on you especially when you go out in a club or in a bar. Then concerning the accommodation they will ask you to open a German or international bank account for the payment of the rents. I personally chose the N26 bank, there are several offers including one that is free (which I chose) and that I find amply sufficient, you will just not have a physical card but only dematerialized on your phone. You can open this account when you will be installed because for the first month payment they accept your French card. If opening another account is a problem for you I learned later that you can pay all your rents at once, so if you are interested I advise you to ask the person who will send you your housing documents.

#### 5. Insurance

*Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?*

My parents took care of the insurance, they called our insurance in France and explained to them what we needed and they sent us a quote. The insurance I had was April International for a total of 195€ and you will be covered for everything you need. They offered me to pay all at once or to spread it over the 5 months, I then paid 39€ per month for 5 months.

## B. Housing

### 1. Where to live

*Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)*



## 2. Find a flat or a room

*Help : How did you find your flat? Do you have any recommendation*

In Stuttgart we are very lucky because everything is organized by the international office and you can ask questions by e-mail at any time. For the accommodation they helped us, you apply online (there are two residences, one in Stuttgart and the other one in Esslingen, 30 minutes by train from the school) and they will tell you where you have been taken. I think they work on a first come first served basis so don't delay as soon as you get the emails. I personally lived in Esslingen, at first I wasn't too happy but in the end I loved living there. I met a lot of great people and I knew at least by sight the people who lived in the other residence and honestly I corresponded more to the people in my residence but it depends on each person and each year too because the students change. I also loved living there because Esslingen is a very beautiful village, I discovered something new, there is a shopping center, buses and the train station is 15 minutes away by foot or 4 minutes by bus. But you can always find your own apartment or a flat share, closer to the university. It may be more comfortable, but to get the full experience I would advise you to apply for a dorm because you will be constantly surrounded by your friends and you will constantly be doing something in a very simple way. I met a boy and a girl and they each had their own apartment, and honestly not that we wanted them to, they were always out of the way because they were so far away from us. But that's up to you.

## 3. Cost

*Help : How much should I plan for a room?*

I think the rent depends on each apartment because they are not all the same. I used to pay 315€ per month for rent + 7€ per month for internet. A price that I find quite reasonable. Some of my friends pay a bit more but it never went over 350€ I think.

### III. When I arrive at the university

#### A. Inscription at the university

*Help : How was the process, what did you have to do?*

I think that most of the paperwork was done online but anyway everything is very well explained and you can write to your coordinator at any time, they are very nice. A little before the beginning of the school year, we had a video and they explained to us how everything was going to work, what paperwork was needed, etc. Also know that you will be assigned to a buddy, someone who will help you with all the procedures, who will answer your questions and explain everything to you, so don't worry.

#### B. Information on the university

##### 1. Courses

*Help : List the different courses, and for each course, describe the format, the content, the exam, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?*

At HdM you can't choose courses à la carte, but you must choose your minor. These are ready-made course packs. Here are the packs they offer:

[https://www.hdm-stuttgart.de/en/prospective\\_students/academic\\_programs/exchange\\_programs/my\\_studies\\_at\\_hdm](https://www.hdm-stuttgart.de/en/prospective_students/academic_programs/exchange_programs/my_studies_at_hdm)

Personally I chose **Online Media Management**, because it corresponds to what I like & to the continuation of my career. It is a particularly interesting minor because of its concrete learning methods (group work, presentations, role-playing), but also because of the diversity of the subjects. However, if you choose this one I warn you, compared to the other minors, there is a lot of work throughout the year (the other minors require a significant amount of work at the end of the year). But honestly if you're well organized it's largely doable and you'll even be able to enjoy a lot with your friends.

Here are the subjects:

- **Introduction to International Business**: honestly when I first saw the name of this class I thought it was probably going to be my least favorite class, but it turns out to be a very interesting and super important class for the fields we (MOMA students) love to study and would like to pursue our careers in. The professor gives a lot of concrete examples of how relationships are made in international business: different customs depending on the country involved, customs common to all countries, etc. Then, about halfway through the semester it will be just orals (your final grade), a topic will be given to your group and you will have several weeks to work on it.
- **Marketing**
  - **Online Marketing & Digital Marketing**: this subject is very interesting, if you have chosen this minor it is not for nothing after all. But I warn you to hold on because it is one of the only courses in a large lecture hall and the concentration is sometimes complicated to maintain. Anyway, if you want to succeed, you will have no choice but to stay focused because there is an assignment every week. The semester is cut in 2 with two different sub-subjects. In the middle of the semester you will have to hand in a first report

with all your assignments for each week and the same for the second part of the semester.

- Multimedia storytelling: I loved this course which explains to you how storytelling is done and teaches you to work on your imagination. You will have some homework during the semester to prove to the teacher that you have understood what you have seen in class through exercises with concrete examples. At the end of the semester, you will have two major assignments to complete, one individual and one group. These are the projects that I preferred to do because you are particularly free and you can really use your creativity and imagination.
- Media Production: I think this is my second favorite class, the teacher is great and super nice. It's almost all about practice. The teacher will first teach you all the technique behind creating videos/films: all the preparation work beforehand, how to set up a set, light, sound, camera, etc. and also about editing. Thus, throughout the semester you will have to apply in groups what you have seen in the first part of the course. At the end of the semester you will have to present 2 projects in group (2 videos). For this course it's the same, there will be some rules to respect but overall you will be able to really apply your creativity and imagination. In addition, you will have the opportunity to see the projects of others which were (in my class anyway) incredible projects, the students are really talented.
- Management:
  - Leadership & Management: this course was not one of my favorites because there was very little interaction with the teacher. During class time you have to prepare your projects: a group presentation on leadership in a given field and an individual presentation on a leader that you interviewed beforehand.
  - Strategic Management: this course was also not my favorite, well-structured and organized course, you will learn (or review) the most famous management strategies and you will apply all this on writing reports and presentations as well.
- German : your group and your teacher will depend on your level but I think it's good that there is a German course, it will allow you to integrate but also to tell your friends and family when you go back to France that you know how to speak a little German ! For the evaluation, some groups had a mid-semester knowledge test and then the final exam but my group only had the final exam. We all found it particularly easy but you still have to work for it ;)

## 2. Advice on “contrat d'étude”

*Help : would you recommend for a student when picking its courses*

To complete your contrat d'étude I advise you to read carefully everything written on this link and to click on each minor and look at everything written there, because indeed the course packs are already done.

[https://www.hdm-stuttgart.de/en/prospective\\_students/academic\\_programs/exchange\\_programs/my\\_studies\\_at\\_hdm](https://www.hdm-stuttgart.de/en/prospective_students/academic_programs/exchange_programs/my_studies_at_hdm)

## IV. When I live there

### A. Safety

*Help : Is it safe? Is there areas or times I should avoid*

In general the city of Stuttgart is quite safe, but like all big cities never walk alone at night, either on the street or near the train stations. In Esslingen on the other hand, I felt safe all the time, if you can avoid walking alone at night do it, otherwise I was honestly never afraid.

### B. Phone and Internet

*Help : How to be able to call and have internet*

Personally my phone plan works everywhere in Europe, so I just had to change the network in my phone settings but that's it.

Concerning internet, if you are in the Esslingen residence you will have to pay 7 euros per month. You can check this with the same people who will give you the information of your dorm.

### C. Events

*Help : How to know about the events?*

*Regarding events, you can join this WhatsApp group*

*(<https://chat.whatsapp.com/F4nldT3OZ6ml5nmpFWtk40>)*

*Which will allow you to meet people and see the parties and events organized. Also, there is an ESN group, but you'll get the link in due time. And HdM also organizes events and you'll get the information at the college entrance and on their Instagram account.*

### D. Sports

*Help : What sport can I do ? and how?*

Honestly, I didn't have enough money or the time to do sports. I think that HdM must offer to do sports for free or cheap but I don't know more. The first few months I joined the gym because it was only 30€ per month for students which I think is very cheap.

### E. Eating

*Help : Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g. aninternational house buffet)*

Restaurant in Stuttgart: The Avocado Show, Abbacco's Steakhouse, Ackerbürger

Restaurant in Esslingen: L'Osteria, Pop's Burger, Joe Peñas

And I recommend almost all Kebabs in Stuttgart and Esslingen that they call Döner

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

*Help : How did you get access to the bus, car or bike*

If you live in Esslingen you can take the bus to the train station (4min) or walk there (10/15min). From the station you have to take the S1 line to Universität. If you live in the center of the city, you should know that in Stuttgart there are buses, subways and trains, so it's very easy to get around.









