

[GERMANY] – [Fachhochschule Kiel]

Agenda¹

I.	Your overall feeling after your semester abroad	2
II.	Before the travel	2
A.	Preparation	2
1.	Visa	2
2.	The flight	2
3.	My luggage	2
4.	Bank account	2
5.	Insurance	2
B.	Housing	2
1.	Where to live	2
2.	Find a flat or a room	3
3.	Cost	3
III.	When I arrive at the university	3
A.	Inscription at the university	3
B.	Information on the university	3
1.	Class	3
2.	Organization of the Class	3
3.	List of courses and recommendation	3
4.	Exam	3
IV.	When I live there	3
A.	Safety	3
B.	Phone and Internet	4
C.	Events	4
D.	Sports	4
E.	Eating	4
F.	Go to the university : bus, car, bike	4
G.	Travels	4
H.	Any other information you would have liked to know about	4
V.	After your semester abroad	4
A.	What are you planning do to?	4
B.	In which master was you accepted	4

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

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

This experience abroad was clearly the best of my life in all aspects. I got to discover a new country, a new education system, a new culture, and I really had to adapt myself quickly into this environment. I actually asked myself the question of what I would do if I could go back in time and I wouldn't change the destination or anything, because the city of Kiel in itself has everything needed to spend an incredible semester and I'm really grateful to Montpellier Management that allowed me to experience such an enriching and memorable academic exchange in Germany 🇩🇪

GRADE : 5!!!

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

Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

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

Since Germany is a EU country, you don't need to go through any visa procedure as a French/EU citizen.

2. The flight

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

I took a flight with Air France from Montpellier to Hamburg with a 1-hour stopover in Paris CDG that I paid 201€ in late November 2023 when my departure was in March 2024. The flight from Montpellier to Paris lasted 1h30 and the one from Paris to Hamburg lasted 1h35. Then I had to take a 1h30 bus ride from Hamburg Airport to arrive in Kiel.

3. My luggage

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

Basically, I came in Germany with a 23kg luggage and I packed inside of it basic clothes like 2-3 pullovers/sweatshirts, 2-3 pants, warm socks, a pair of shoes, a comforter and a pillow, a bed sheet, also some cooking tools, phone and PC chargers, the PC itself and I would say that it was enough, I managed not to forget important things and I bought the necessary conveniences at the grocery store the day after I arrived.

4. Bank account

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

I didn't have to change banks because the one I used (Hello Bank) was offering an international option that I just had to activate before moving, facilitating any transaction from abroad.

5. Insurance

[Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?]

I actually didn't subscribe to any insurance (there was no need to) other than the European Health Insurance Card that I ordered a few months before the mobility to make sure to be covered in case.

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)]



So the areas in green are the ones I recommend, respectively the city center if you want to be in the most animated area, the district around the Fachhochschule on the eastern side for the convenience even though the district is a bit empty apart from the uni and a beach, and the residential district Wik located a bit further on the west where I lived. On the other side, the two areas circled in red are the districts Gaarden and Mettenhof, these two having a less good reputation than the overall city when it comes to living conditions and/or safety.

2. Find a flat or a room

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

Concerning the accommodation, once you're registered at the Fachhochschule, you will receive an information email from the Studentenwerk (the equivalent of the CROUS in France) showing the different residences in the city as well as the other possible options in the private market. The biggest recommendation I can give you is to first focus on the public market with the Studentenwerk residences (unless you have an extended budget) which consist of shared apartments with single rooms in it, with the cheapest price in town. And the second important recommendation is to apply early so you can get the residence you really want, something I didn't do and ended up being located in a further residence (Edo-Osterloh-Haus) than the one on campus I was supposed to live in (Dietrichsdorf).

3. Cost

[Help : How much should I plan for a room or a flat?]

The average monthly rent for a single room in a shared apartment from the Studentenwerk is about 300€, mine was 286€ so it's really affordable and probably the cheapest option on the Kiel student market. I know that single apartments there were about 600€ so that is definitely another budget needed.

When I arrive at the university

C. Inscription at the university

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

After being nominated by MOMA, you will receive an email from the university indicating to you the platform to include all the necessary documents for the registration. For the Fachhochschule, and as a L3 IM student, you will be registering for the summer semester through the platform Mobility Online with documents such as letter of acceptance, application form, language certificate, CV, scan of ID/passport, proof of registration at the home university, transcript of records etc. So the overall process was pretty well organized.

D. Information on the university

1. Class

[Help : for each class tell us how the class was, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?]

So I detailed the classes further down but globally, the classes were really appreciable and enriching as the teachers offered a high level of expertise and really went further than the "basic" theoretical concepts to dive more into applicable case studies, which allowed me to have a corporate vision, and not just a narrow student vision. Also a thing that surprised me is that for each class, you have to register yourself for the exams on a online platform (named QIS) so be careful because the deadlines are very strict and you would be forced to retake the exam months after if you don't enroll so don't miss the registration period (which will be often reminded by the teachers).

2. Organization of the Class

[Help : tell us the duration of the class, the volume of work, the behavior of teachers etc. ?]

Five of my six classes lasted 3h/week except one that lasted 1h30/week so I had a total of 16h30/week which is great compared to what I was used to in France. Just to note that you have a 2-week pretty nice orientation programme at the beginning of the semester with a city tour, a funny activity like tree climbing/escape game as well as a German introductory course to make you familiar with the language of your host country. And later, you will have a break in the middle of the semester (end of April till mid May) in which most students travel around or come back to their home places. Now concerning the quantity of work, it was pretty similar to France, you basically have to study the content of each class for the finals, plus submit some assignments and prepare oral presentations during the semester so nothing that was unachievable. And I also liked the friendliness of the teachers, which I did not expect from Germany, they were really helpful and never hesitated to explain the concepts or any other information that you might not understand.

3. List of courses and recommendation

[Help : list your different courses and let us know what do you think : level (easier, same or harder than the 1st semester course at MOMA, what you liked about the content, how is the class organization, who is the professor). Finally, for each class, tell us if you recommend the course.]

So I had to choose 6 classes of 5 ECTS each to meet the semester requirements and I would say they were for the most part easier than the first semester realized at MOMA, which did not make them less interesting though:

- **Cross-Cultural Business Management:** probably my favorite class of the semester that really digs deep into the intercultural relations in the workplace and how to overcome stereotypes and barriers working with people from different backgrounds. This course has really stimulated my critical thinking and widened my perspective. I also have to mention M. Gulev who is an excellent teacher, and that plays a role in how much you like a subject. For the exam, the grading breakdown was 10% oral presentation, 10% essay competition and 80% final written exam. Fairly easy to validate according to me if you study the concepts well.
- **Strategic Management & Marketing:** with the same teacher, and honestly the most complete class of the semester, I feel like I got to see all of the management and marketing subjects I've been taught for the five previous semesters in just one. There are many useful concepts and you actually learn about how to formulate, implement and evaluate a strategy, which is very interesting when it comes to the professional side. For the exam, it was 5% short project assignment, 10% oral presentation, 15% midterm assignment and 70% final written exam. Maybe that course is a bit more technical as it is demanding in terms of studying and understanding but don't be afraid it is still fairly easy to validate.
- **Managing Sustainability in Modern Businesses:** that class was focusing on how companies can make efforts about the sustainability issue and explored the fact that rather than saying "companies have to do that to be more sustainable", there were some mechanisms behind that hide the global picture of why we don't do more as individuals, companies, or governments. That was a good topical issue that was not too theoretical and that's what I liked the most about it. Same teacher as the two previous subjects so a very interactive and dynamic class where you are encouraged to ask questions and discuss, and the exam distribution went like this: 10% oral presentation, 15% workshop and 75% final written assignment. Not hard to validate according to me.

- **Principles of Marketing:** this course basically retook the concepts learned during the previous semesters at MOMA in marketing so nothing new, it felt more like a revision session and the online exams were really easy. For that class, the grading breakdown was 40% oral presentation, 30% online midterm exam (with multiple choice questions) and 30% online final exam (also with multiple choice questions). I don't necessarily recommend it because it was not exceptionally enriching but I chose it more as a security subject so if you want to have a good grade, go for it.
- **Intercultural Competence France-Germany:** this class was very appealing to me as the teacher comes from France and taught the class in French with all the other French students of the Business department so I felt like home during these moments. Plus we really dived into interesting topics dealing with the relationships between the two countries and I learned more about the French-German friendship, by discussing plenty of topics during the semester such as immigration, gastronomy, agriculture, corporate culture or politics. Definitely recommend this one.
- **German Business Communication C1:** that class was very formative but the hardest to me because I chose it knowing well I did not have such a level in German (more close to B2) but I was cocky enough to see this as an opportunity to enhance my skills being surrounded by classmates having a way better level/being bilingual. So naturally I was having a hard time following the class at the beginning but in the end it really paid because I think I got somewhat close to the C1 level, with the teacher being very consistent on the exercises to do each week, and the very complete focus on hearing, understanding, writing AND speaking the language, especially that one. For the exam, it was 60% spontaneous oral expression exam on a management topic, and the other 40% were divided into oral comprehension, written comprehension and written expression. I recommend the class only to fluent and/or brave students.

4. Exam

[Help : How was the exam? Format? Duration? Grade]

As I said above, the exams were not that difficult and the formats are written assignments for the finals. All of the finals lasted 2h and every grade was calculated in percentage all along the semester, so consider that everything above 50% is a pass. But as an Erasmus student, you can really have more than that.

When I live there

E. Safety

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

I have no doubt saying that Kiel is globally safer than Montpellier, the vast majority of the city is safe (night included). Of course, there are still some areas that have a slightly higher crime rate (Gaarden, Mettenhof, and mainly around the train station) but I never heard about something bad happening to anyone during the entire semester.

F. Phone and Internet

[Help : How to be able to call and have internet]

Initially having a national phone package with no so many data, I was a bit afraid of the phone and internet issue before moving, so I spent quite some time finding an optimal offer and I found out about an application called Source Mobile which is developed by Bouygues Telecom that proposed a package of unlimited messages and calls + 80 GB of data including 10 GB usable in Europe so that was enough for me, but I heard some reviews saying that

the internet and calls stopped after 4 months abroad. Since I stayed in Germany for 4 months straight which is the duration of the summer semester, I didn't and you probably won't have to experience that.

G. Events

[Help : How to know about the events?]

There is a Whatsapp group called ESN Kiel, which I feel is THE group to follow if you want to be informed of every event that is happening in the city. There are all kinds of events very frequently, it can be karaoke night, international dinner, games night, trips in cities around the region and sometimes further for example Berlin or Copenhagen (for relatively cheap prices). Also, the International Office of the Fachhochschule Kiel has developed its own Whatsapp group entitled International Club which mainly offers trips for cheap prices. For example, you can spend a week-end in Berlin for 30 euros all included except food.

H. Sports

[Help : What sport can I do ? and how?]

There's a multitude of sports you can do in Kiel, not so much with the Fachhochschule which is a relatively small university, but the other one of the city (CAU) which is much bigger, offers a wide palette of physical activities, like football, tennis, badminton, dance judo, fitness and a lot of water sports like sailing which is Kiel's trademark. For that, you have to pay a fee between 15 and 75€ for the entire semester depending on the sports.

I. Eating

[Help : Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g. an international house buffet)]

There are many options when it comes to eating out, I feel like Germany doesn't really have a national gastronomy properly speaking, but rather has a very developed international cuisine, so if you wanna eat Spanish, Mexican, Italian, Greek, Turkish or Japanese, well you definitely can in Kiel! There are some German restaurants with regional specialities such as the "Fischbrötchen" (very good fish sandwiches) and local beer, but you have to do a bit more research to find them. For the basic convenience buyings, you can go to the typical grocery chains that we know in France like Lidl and Aldi, also Rewe and Penny are really cheap. I take this occasion to say that the general cost of living is quite similar to France, for any kind of goods. Except maybe the uni canteen (5€/meal). Also, a surprising fact is that Germany has literally bakeries/pastries in every corner and a lot of them are French-inspired so it's worth giving it a try + a lot of cafés/bars/clubs are present in town.

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

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

To get to the university from my residence, you have several options. You can take the bus for 45 minutes (after about 20 min, you have to change buses and take another one that brings you to uni). Or you can like I do, take a 15-min bus ride to the ferry terminal and from then on take the ferry for 20 min that goes from the western to the eastern side of the city where the uni is located. Of course, there are also bikes (through DonkeyRepublic app), e-scooter (through Bolt app) and car renting options. But if you live in the Dietrichsdorf residence located right on campus, no transport is needed.

K. Travels

[Help : What do you recommend and what do you not recommend]

Given the fact that you receive a transport pass at the beginning of the semester once the registration period is completed (that you pay in the semester fee of 271€), you can actually travel in the entire state of Schleswig-Holstein (the region where Kiel is) and Hamburg. So I truly recommend exploring this area where you can find nice coastal cities like Lübeck or Flensburg and enjoy the beaches, or go to more inland towns like

Neumünster. Of course visiting Hamburg is a must as the city is huge and offers so many possibilities of things to do and see. Another must see is Berlin, which is at a 4 hour bus ride distance from Kiel, but definitely worth it for its history and range of opportunities of discovery. And if you wanna cross borders, I recommend exploring Scandinavia as I did, especially Denmark as Kiel is only 100 km away from the Danish border, but also Sweden and Norway. I had the chance to visit Copenhagen, Malmö and Oslo during the 2-week vacation period, as well as Ireland thanks to very interesting flight prices and the fact that one of my friends from the L3 IM was doing her Erasmus in Limerick. And of course, don't sleep on the city of Kiel, which has many districts of several kinds, some of them with wonderful sandy beaches of the Baltic sea like Laboe, others with lots of forests, another one with the commercial area and the port, others in the outskirts so lots of landscape diversity. And there's honestly nothing I don't recommend when traveling.

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

[Help : What would I liked to know if I could have gone back in time]

Well it's hard to answer this question because I feel like I really had the time to prepare and think about everything I should not forget from July when I was nominated for the mobility until my departure in March (also watching the previous reports of the L3 IM helped). Maybe just don't forget to register/deregister at the town hall when you arrive and go back, and also there's a thing called "broadcasting fee" that every person in Germany has to pay (about 18€) so that was a bit annoying since I didn't know that beforehand. Apart from that, make a good use of Internet and MOMA + Fachhochschule websites as well as their derived platforms to be informed of anything you think is relevant to know!

V. After your semester abroad

M. What are you planning to do?

[Help : What do you want to do next year]

For next year, I want to pursue my studies so I applied to different management-related Master's degrees in France but my first choice is the one in International Management of SMEs (newly named International Business Management and Development) offered by Montpellier Management. And being amazed by this first experience of living abroad as an exchange student, I also applied for a mobility in Trondheim, Norway, during the second semester of the Master 1. And If I look a bit further, I wouldn't be against doing a V.I.E. (French International Internship Program) at the end of the Master 2 to start off my career, who knows!

N. Did you apply for a master?

[Help : in which master where you accepted]

So I was accepted by my first Master's degree choice in MOMA in International Business Management and Development, and I'm going to continue diving into the international management world which is my favorite topic. I'm really looking forward to starting the classes in September. Also I made an informative video about the details of my exchange semester that the university will probably release later so don't hesitate to look at it if you want to know more about Kiel, Germany or the Erasmus program in general!

VI. Photos















FACHHOCHSCHULE KIEL

SOKRATESPLATZ 3 24149 KIEL

● **STUDENTISCHE ANGELEGENHEITEN**

STUDIENINFORMATION - ZULASSUNGSSTELLE -
STUDIERENDENSEKRETARIAT

● **ZENTRALE STUDIENBERATUNG**

● **AUDITORIUM**

● **STUDENTENWERK**

● **KLETTERHALLE**

● **SEMINARRÄUME**

