

國立臺灣科技大學海外研習心得

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Semester : Winter



Host country & university : Germany,

Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg



Language : English



Exchange period :

2018/09/06~ 2019/02/14

The report shall contain the following sections
(at least 2000 words):

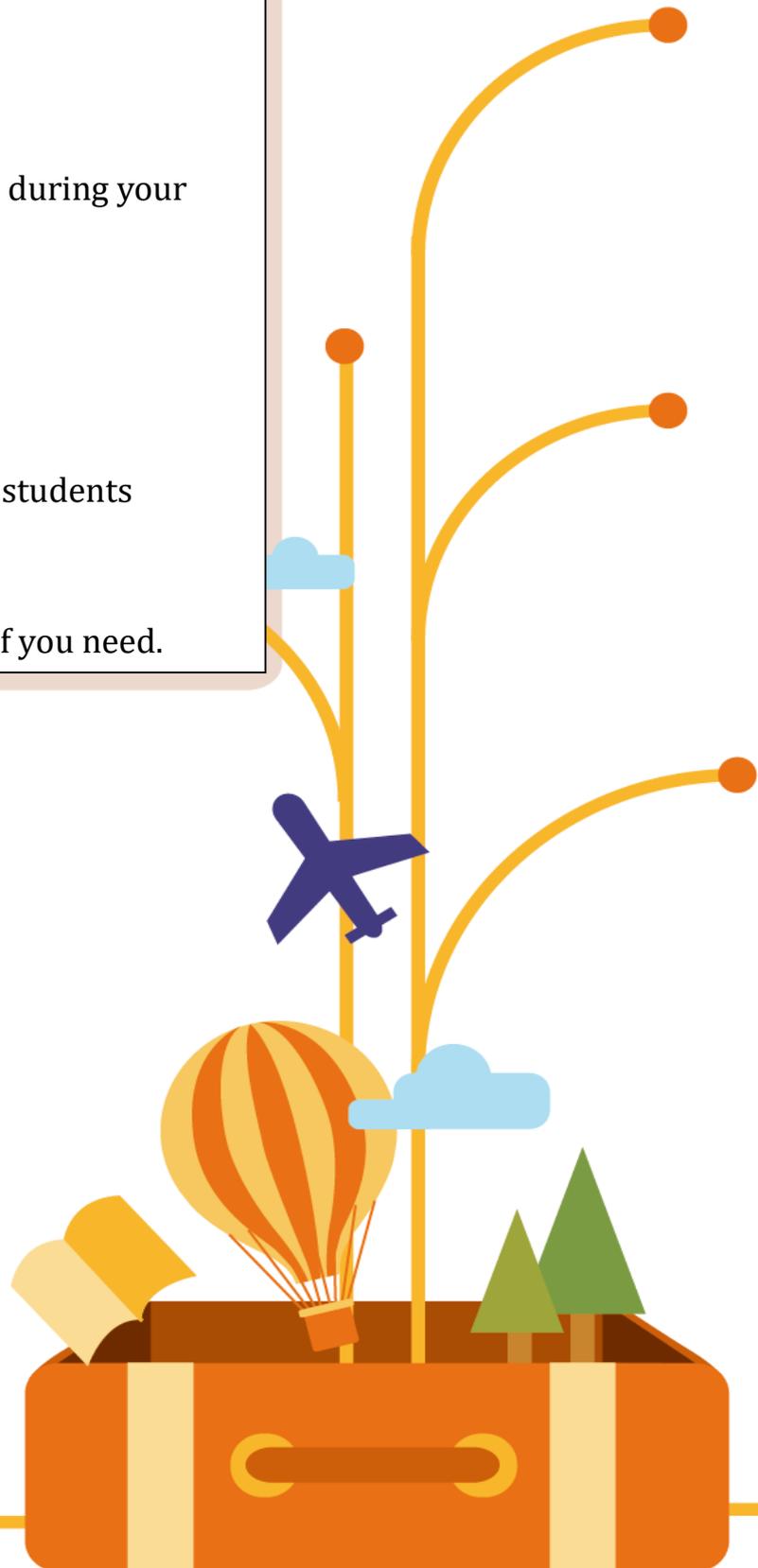
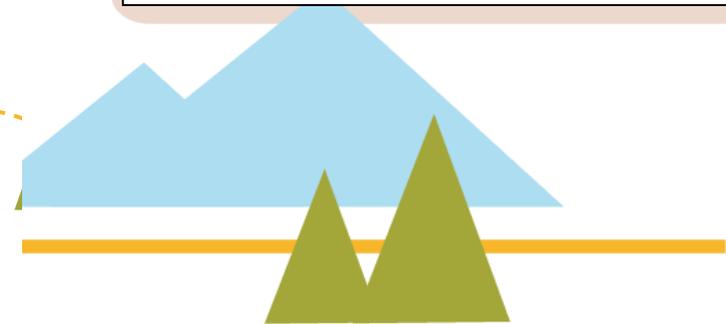
Part A (At least 1500 Words)

1. Preparation before departure
2. Courses take at host universities
3. Difficulties and solutions you have during your exchange stay

Part B (200~500 Words)

4. Experiences learned and sharing
5. Suggestions to potential exchange students
6. Picture * 12

✧ You are free to add more page if you need.





Part A (At least 1500 Words)

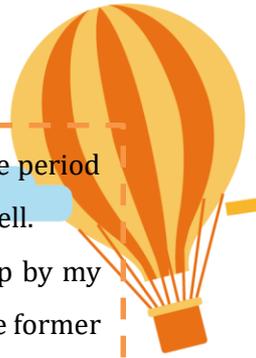
Preparation, Courses and Difficulties you faced

After the OIA announced my name as a nominated student to my host university, I started to prepare my documents since then. At the beginning, I was struggling with choosing courses as the fact that the courses provided by my host university could not be transferred as credits here. Therefore, I had discussed carefully with the professor I studied with, named Ms.Ho, to ensure that I would not have any problem later and could find the best solution for this situation. She suggested me to write down my thesis together while studying there, which literally sounded tough, but it was very helpful, so I followed her suggestion. Eventually, my courses selection went well that I chose four courses: two courses from undergraduate program which are easy to pass and facilitate me to make some progresses on my thesis, and another two courses from graduate program which have the potential of credit transferability.

Then, I started to prepare the documents required by my host university and spontaneously for the visa application as well. I felt really thankful for all OIA staffs that they were quite willing to answer my questions regarding to my curiosity and offered me an assist to be a middle man passing my documents to my host university. However, I found that it was pretty hard to get all facts in regard to visa application. For example, the information of a proof of financial statement which I took some time to get the right information that nowadays the embassy or German representative office would not accept the financial statement from any bank institutes anymore, but rather the block account, called "Sperrkonto" in German language. Actually, this topic is still a discussion on the internet and also among all potential exchange students to Germany. In the end, I decided to apply for the block account, so it is better to be safe than sorry. I applied for Fintiba, which is a German online bank institute. I chose this one because it took fewer days comparing to Deutsch Bank. And since I come from Thailand and during that time I was preparing, it was almost a school break. I needed to submit documents earlier than it should be, so I could spend some time with my family before flying to Germany also.

My visa process had taken for 5 weeks in total to deliver to me. During that time, I was waiting for my visa, I organized everything that I should do before leaving the country. For instance, I extended my ARC card for 1 more year. I contacted my advisor and discussed with him about my topic, contents, and the expectation regarding my thesis. I also contacted





an insurance agent who could provide me the health insurance for the entire exchange period in Germany, which later it was required for picking up my passport and visa back as well.

Then I would skip to the time in Germany. Once I arrived there, I got picked up by my friend at the airport in Frankfurt. He was the ex-exchange student of NTUST during the former semester. Fortunately, on that day I arrived, he was at his friend's place close to Frankfurt and was willing to pick me up to Cologne where I rented my place because he also lives there, and it was on the way home anyway. From Frankfurt to Cologne, it took around 2 hours by car and although we drove along highway, but I still could see the pleasing scenery all the way. It was a moment that opened my eyes and I started to realize that Germany was not only a big region but also has a lot of land left comparing to other countries that are full of buildings. The nature was so beautiful, you could see the empty land from both of the sideways and in front of you are mountains. I was so happy and excited at the same time to see what I could explore more in this country.

I met a lot of new friends both from outside and inside university. They all were so kind and very accommodating. Also, it was really lucky for me that in German class I met a Malaysian classmate who was so friendly. We had a little talk after class when we found out that we were studying in the same department. After that day, I met her again in Product and Sales courses which later we became to be groupmates. I also met other group members, and we got to know each other better from time to time. We got along together pretty well, especially when it came to work, we made an absolutely perfect presentation. Since I am good at decorating PowerPoint, I volunteered to do it for our group, and we got tons of compliments about how our presentation looked like, including how we created the atmosphere during presenting and the activities we made for our audiences.

More than that, I also took another class that gave me a chance to learn new cultures and to meet new friends. This course was called "Intercultural Communication" which discussed a lot about the differences between cultures that influence to our personalities, our believes, and our actions. I had learned a lot by this course, and I got the assignment to make the report of a tandem project with my partner who comes from different country. So, my partner is German, her name is Sarah. We made the interview and exchanged the perspectives regarding our cultures and we also introduced the societal activities from our countries. By these activities we did, we had known and understood each other more automatically by the cultural differences. At the end of this project, I did not get only a partner or a person I worked with, but I really got friend who I can ask her to meet for coffee and have a chit chat with for few hours non-stop.



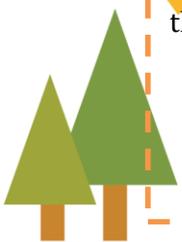


Another course named “Cases of International Business Studies” that I took. I also enjoyed it so much. Again, I had a lot of group works in this class, also the discussion according to how businesses are driven in different cultures or countries. This class was incrementally opened my eyes and my ears wider. So, I knew new types of business, including the knowledge about pensions, education system, and healthcare system of each country too.

As I perceived, most classes that offered by my host university are focusing on discussion and presentation. I was so afraid of participations before, mainly because in Thailand where I come from, if you have any opinions against your teachers, it could be considered as rudeness. But in Germany, it is the way more autonomous that teachers are willing to listen to any comments or questions and they generally encourage us to participate more and more. This actually practiced me to be more confident and eager to give my opinions and raise some questions in the class and in my real life. Moreover, they usually created in-class activities to do together with classmates, which makes us could see the clearer picture of what we are studying.

During this semester, although it was unfortunate that I was quite busy by my thesis and classes, but I always looked for some free time that I was not occupied to hang out with my friends who both are local students in Germany and exchanged students like me. We traveled to other cities next to Bonn where our host university located, like Cologne, Düsseldorf, Aachen, and Kall. Furthermore, we also participated the activities that Welcome Centre organized such as the International Food Fair and Short Tour in Rheinbach city. When Christmas was coming, there were Christmas markets located in every city in Germany. My friends and me visited two famous Christmas markets in Cologne: Cologne Cathedral Christmas Market and the Angel’s Market, and we also visited the beautiful one in Aachen city as well. We tried warm mulled wine which is a must-try when you go to Christmas market. This was the most special moment for me in Germany because it was my first real Christmas that I could really feel the atmosphere and see how people were so excited for this vacation.

I had experienced that Germans prefer to have direct conversations. They will tell you right away what they like or what they dislike and what they want you to do. Sometimes, they could give you a negative feedback relatively to your actions or work but there is nothing taken personally. In contrast, I found out that they are very friendly and ready to help if you ask them for. Even strangers who I met on the street and I asked them for directions. I never found anyone denied helping me though they could not speak English very well, but they used their body language together with some English words they knew to tell me which I could understand without any problem. Moreover, Cologners always say “Hello” to everyone they meet which I think it is so cute and give me the good vibe like I am not that lonely there.



Part B (200~500 Words)

Experiences, Suggestions and Picture * 12

Your feedback may be posted on OIA Facebook page in order to share your fruitful experience.



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Monday at 11:00 AM



你，在想些什麼？

Feedback : I had learned a lot of things during I was an exchange student in Germany. Firstly, I learned to adapt myself in different cultures and be aware of the potential conflicts that are likely to happen. The conflicts could be in term of conversations and manners. I also learned to be more confident, especially to raise my opinions and comments in the class. This changed my perception regarding to participation, since before I always was afraid that my answers might be wrong, and my comments possibly make other people down. But now I perceived that it is my right to say what I am thinking, although it might hurt other people but if it is true and it could help them to improve, therefore we should do that. And somehow, we still need to be careful of what we say, because we will never know what that person has been through. So maybe he or she could not accept too direct comments towards him or her. Another important thing I learned, being punctual is very crucial. Time is a thing that never returns, so only five minutes late might cause you troubles later.



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你，在想些什麼？

Feedback : For the suggestion to potential exchange students, the most important thing is you should be confident to speak English. There is no right or wrong to speak, only being eager to speak it out that should be enough. Plus, you should be good at communications that allows you to make new friends more easily, be able to communicate in the class, and be able to contact other people, particularly official servants. Another thing I would recommend is preparing yourself for being open because you will face a lot of different and difficult situations. Openness for new things is really important that enables you to be ready for any change and enjoy the life there.



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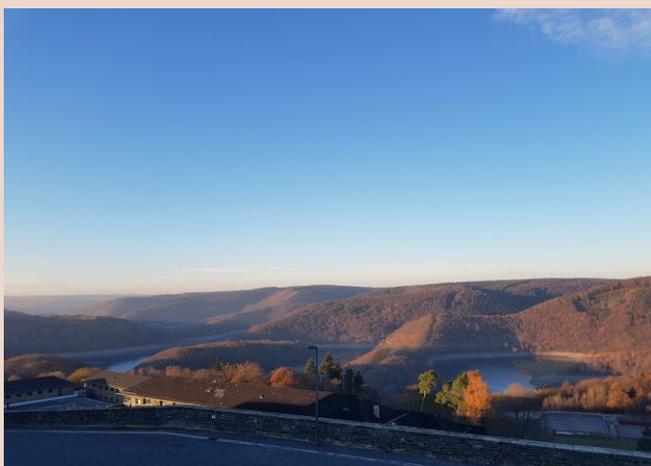
照片說明：

Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, Rheinbach campus



照片說明：

Hohenzollern Bridge where you can hang love locks



照片說明：

Vogelsang IP gemeinnützige GmbH, the historical place during WW2





照片說明：

Me and my friends were wearing Mario and Friends costumes in the birthday event



照片說明：

The Witch Tower in Rheinbach



照片說明：

Watching soccer with my tandem partner in Kall





照片說明：

Me at the street called Altstadt in
Düsseldorf



照片說明：

Me with the Cologne Cathedral
behind



照片說明：

The building that has ice cream
cone on top in Cologne



照片說明：

LED lights in Cologne Cathedral
Christmas Market