

臺北市立大學

學生出國研修心得報告

獲補助年度：114

研修領域： Business Management

系所、年級：行銷管理學系 四年級

學生姓名：何欣燁

研修國家：德國

研修學校(中英文)：奧德河畔法蘭克福歐洲大學 Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

研修時間：中華民國 114 年 9 月 23 日至 115 年 3 月 23 日

國外研修成績：學校尚未提供

短片時間及標題：在德國交換經驗分享

中華民國 115 年 1 月 31 日

*(非亞洲地區交換同學請以英文撰寫報告)

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I. Background

Having initially decided to select Germany as my exchange destination, I prepared for the IELTS examination during my second year to meet the application requirements. Subsequently, I submitted the necessary documentation according to the university's procedures. Following nomination, I awaited correspondence from the German institution.

The German institution requires applicants to submit various materials via a designated platform, alongside a concurrent application for accommodation. Upon completing all procedures, the registration fee for the German university must be paid. Once the institution confirms receipt of payment, the registration certificate is issued.

For the visa application, one must apply through the German Institute in Taiwan. Since last year, the process has shifted to an online submission first. Only after the Institute confirms all documents are in order will they provide a link for an in-person appointment booking. When attending the appointment, it is advisable to arrive well in advance. I printed all my documents as a precaution. It is recommended to submit the visa application as early as possible to avoid last-minute stress.

II. Host Institution Overview

This university is situated in Frankfurt (Oder), a small city near the Polish border in eastern Germany. Living costs here are comparatively lower than in larger German cities. The journey from the city centre to the campus takes only about 20 minutes on foot.

Accommodation is also very affordable. I resided in a triple room with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. The 25-square-metre room cost €255 per month, which is remarkably economical compared to other German cities. Crucially, this monthly fee includes all utilities: water, electricity, heating, and internet.

My exchange semester was the Winter Semester, meaning I experienced the entire winter here. Due to the high latitude, winters are genuinely cold, with temperatures above 0°C considered mild. However, this geographical advantage meant I was fortunate enough to witness the Northern Lights right from my dormitory! Furthermore, the university hosts many students from diverse countries, providing excellent practice for listening to various English accents. This semester, including myself, there were only four Taiwanese students who spoke Chinese; communication with everyone else required English. Moreover, this university hosts many exchange students from Japan and South Korea. If you speak either of these languages, you could make a great many friends.

Additionally, my favourite courses at this university are those offered by the Language Centre. They provide numerous language classes – French, German, Italian, Spanish, English, and so forth. However, apart from the English classes, all other language courses are taught in German.

III. Coursework for Overseas Study

I only enrolled in German language courses here, as I had already completed my required credits at my university in Taiwan. Additionally, I wanted to allocate more time for travelling, hence my decision to focus solely on German.

However, perhaps due to poor luck, my German tutor took a total of six days' leave, equating to nine hours of missed lessons. Here, tutors do not reschedule missed sessions, which feels somewhat regrettable. Furthermore, the tutor does not speak English, so when asked questions, he responds in German. In class, he tends to focus more on students with little to no prior foundation. Consequently, a significant portion of German learning relies on self-study, though it remains thoroughly enjoyable! The German exam comprises listening, speaking, reading, and writing components with no defined syllabus.

IV. Life and Learning Abroad

Every day during my European exchange presented numerous challenges: lost parcels, mobile signal failures, flight delays, and more. This was particularly frequent in Germany, renowned for its train cancellations and delays. Yet, experiencing these firsthand reveals that most issues can be resolved with patience, research, and adaptable thinking. These are experiences unattainable in Taiwan's exceptionally convenient environment. Moreover, interacting with numerous international students taught me how to express opinions and converse using a second language. I truly cherish and relish environments where speaking foreign languages is possible!

To save money, I've mastered cooking elaborate meals, even attempting bubble tea and candied hawthorn on a stick. Travelling has taught me planning and organisation, while museum visits have brought world-renowned masterpieces from history and art textbooks to life. These are all invaluable life lessons.

V. Specific Benefits of the Programme

1. Learning German

Progressed from zero foundation to basic communication and self-introduction. Can now recognise simple vocabulary and sentences while understanding fundamental sentence structures and grammar.

2. Improvement in English

English speaking has become more fluent, natural, and confident. Can now converse comfortably with groups of foreigners. Listening comprehension has also improved significantly. English has become an integral part of daily life, and my appreciation for the language has deepened since studying German.

3. Culinary Skills

My cooking repertoire has expanded from merely preparing instant noodles and fried eggs to encompassing dry noodles, pasta dishes, courgette with roast beef, beef noodle soup, and risotto.

4. Problem-Solving Mindset

I now approach challenges with greater patience and resolve, free from negative emotions. Living abroad has revealed that few problems are truly insurmountable.

VI. Reflections and Recommendations

An exchange truly allows one to experience so much. Though the period before departure involves a flurry of preparations, each task lays the groundwork for the journey ahead. Initial nerves are inevitable, but once you immerse yourself, you realise you were merely scaring yourself. Each challenge encountered becomes a life

lesson, and the sense of achievement after overcoming them makes you feel you've grown a little more. Though the exchange lasts only six short months, the life experience gained is truly rich. You can also take advantage of being in Europe to travel! Seeing places you'd only glimpsed in textbooks hours before brings immense joy with every new discovery.

Moreover, as opportunities to speak foreign languages are scarce in Taiwan, I've come to cherish this environment here. Now, I actually feel odd if I don't speak English all day. Moreover, each journey brings encounters with fascinating people and events – like the Singaporean pilot, the Italian family, the Taiwanese expat working in Germany, the German who once worked at the German Institute in Taiwan... Every conversation feels like experiencing a distinct story. I thoroughly relish this sensation, often finding inspiration in these tales. These too are invaluable experiences gained during my exchange.

Though the exchange period was brief, it deepened my self-understanding and revealed previously unknown facets of myself.

Video link:

https://youtu.be/jZTQY_VEL1Q?si=EqccuuMayKfDm_Ma

具代表性出國交換照片說明(4 張)



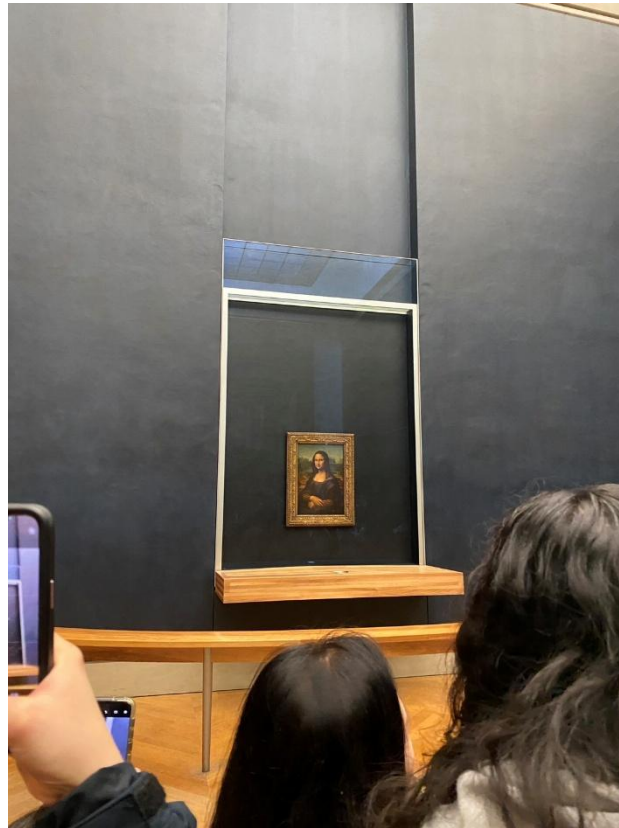
The flight to London was originally scheduled to depart at 2pm but was ultimately delayed until 6pm. Yet no one on board raised their voice; everyone politely enquired and waited.



The Northern Lights seen from the dormitory – I'd originally planned to go to Norway to chase them, but seeing them from the dorm saved me a pretty penny!



The school library, my favourite place! It's beautifully old-fashioned, though there are very few seats inside.



The Mona Lisa's smile at the Louvre. Two days after my visit, the museum announced an unannounced strike. How fortunate I was to have seen it!

*格式依需求可自行調整