

18/01/2017

STUDENT EXCHANGE REPORT

GERMANY
01.12.2016 – 15.01.2017



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Despite the holidays that separate December and January, the tension at university is the same. Courses are accumulating and our lecturers are fast as they can in order to finish the courses' contents since exams period is near. I succeed with my fellows to submit our group work about Organizational Culture. I've even taken the exam for that course already, before Christmas. The test was about one single hour. I didn't answer all the questions and was a bit confused at the end. At my home university, I would have had three hours for that same test. I was explained that the idea is if you perfectly master your courses, then you can give the answers very quickly. According to my master course Supply Chain Management, we also submit our first group work and presented it to the class, and now are working on the second one. But, it was not easy to work with that group mainly composed by German students, without enough warmth, rather cold and sometimes like imbued with a kind of arrogance or whatever. I don't really understand why! All my whole life I've never met people like that. Two times I tried to engage conversation out of the academic work but they just skipped that and begin speaking German between themselves. I felt sometimes ignored, as during the process they even planned some important tasks about our work, without informing me. The lecturers demanded students to inform them if they were not comfortable in their group but for me it's also an experience. That's not my style to run after people who don't care enough about me, but last week I proposed to go in for lunch and, at least, one of them know which country I come from now...Nevertheless, It's important to notice that I've met other Germans who were even more than kind to me, but out of school. But still, I can also remember sometimes when people ignore you and walk away when you ask for an information.

Moreover, attending the Supply Chain Management course allow me to make two company trips, first to IKEA Distribution Services in Dortmund and BENTELER Automobiltechnik in Paderborn, in order to have an idea about how they design their supply chain processes and plan their operations.

I also had my first test for the English Proficiency course.



IKEA Distributions Services Dortmund



Benteler Automobiltechnik, Paderborn

Apart from UNI

The weather is not my best friend here☺ but I'm trying to cope with that. Anyway, I've got to see snow for the first time in my life and I would say it's very beautiful! But not only snow was beautiful. Christmas time in Germany means something to people. Lights everywhere; Christmas markets with all kind of attractions and expositions, where people can meet and drink some hot wine-commonly called *Glühwein*- or beer, while talking about anything. The first Christmas market I really visited was the one in Dortmund and which is renowned as the biggest in Germany.



I've visited many other Christmas market in Hamburg, where I went in for Christmas holidays. The family of one of my roommates, a wonderful family, living in Hamburg, hosted me. Having breakfast together at the table every morning was a pleasure. But, as Christmas doesn't only happens at home, we were out every day...Christmas markets, fish-menu dinner at the sea, and even a boat tour in the harbor... Yet, at home we decorated our Christmas tree and on the *holy night* we had a special *fondue* dinner at which the whole family was invited. I had many presents☺! On the Christmas day we also had a special dinner at Mum's sister's apartment. It was great experience for Christmas, which is considered in my country more as for kids only. I also had the chance to visit *Miniatur Wunderland* the world biggest world miniature attraction.

I ended my visit by a Bus City Tour by witch I have discovered all the famous and important places in Hamburg and their history.



With my family in Hamburg

Back in Münster, I'm preparing for the last exams now, I feel a bit tired but I'm fine.

To sum up, I'll say that, by living in Germany for 5 months now, I know already more or less "how life is here" and can from now on appreciate more life in my country, and think more globally. Additionally, I'm was really shaped by the way students at *Weitblick* works together for the same vision. That's the main thing, the only one thing, I've personally learnt from them. Besides, I made some inquiries at the Münster's University Career Development Center to have a view about how they coach students for their career development and how the build relations with companies. I believe that can give me new ideas about my project to help students in Benin have good professional career, both by specific trainings, coaching and social entrepreneurship initiatives.