

國立東華大學國際交換學生心得

National Dong Hwa University International Outbound Exchange Student Report

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原系所 Home Department	英美系		
前往國家 Nationality	德國		
前往學校 Host University	University of Oldenburg		
交換系所 Host Department	Anglistik / English Studies		
交換交流期間 Exchange Period	自 From <u>2019</u> 年 year / 9 月 month 至 To 2020 年 year / 2 月 month		
電子信箱(供未來有興趣的 同學與你們聯繫，非必要) Contact Email (Optional)	410702016@gms.ndhu.edu.tw		
住宿費用(新台幣) Accommodation Cost(NTD)	950.52 Euro = 32,108.18 TWD		
機票費用(新台幣) Airplane Cost(NTD)	34,492 TWD		
生活費用(新台幣) Living Cost(NTD)	177,216.24 TWD		
其他費用(新台幣)請註明 Other Cost(NTD)			

Six months studying and traveling in Europe made me learn so much. I've learned new things both about German and European culture and how English is taught differently in Germany. The students are much more polite and rather curious about foreigners since they don't really see a lot Asian students around. Oldenburg is a small town and one of the safest towns in Germany, so if you walk around in the evening it would be really quiet and safe. What also struck me as interesting was how the shops are all closed on Sunday; I learned that at my first week in Oldenburg, people told me to go buy groceries before Sunday otherwise I wouldn't have any food to buy when the weekends start. I also learned a lot of the German language, up north in Oldenburg and other northern cities people greet you with "moin" and not "hello." The German language is very different from Chinese and has a lot of grammatical rules, some words are rather similar to English yet some words just don't look anything like English. I took a German language course for the semester and I learned a lot more German in that class, after the class I had no problem reading some very basic words when I walked around town. And I am thankful that I did learn a new language while I was there, it helped it me get around Germany a lot faster and conveniently, and I even made friends by speaking a bit of German.

Students in Germany and all Germans really like beer, to the point where beer is even cheaper than water, it's also a big discussion among Germans whether alcohol should be banned, some are on the fence on this topic, they like drinking beer from time to time but they also think that it's not a great idea for beer to be cheaper than water, that could lead to alcoholism. They also like to hug friends

when they met and when they leave, which was really strange for an Asian student like me, getting hugged by people I don't know that well, but after a few months I got used to it and really enjoy hugging my friends, and I think I will continue to hug my friends when I see them in Taiwan.

German students are rather shy when it comes to strangers, they are polite and sometimes curious but not exactly friendly, they only warm up to people after knowing them a bit more or sharing a few beers together. The classes in university are much shorter, an hour and a half per class, yet they also have revision classes in case you don't understand something taught in the first class, yet these revision courses do not have credit points. I joined some freshman classes and from the very first class they taught me how to write papers that are longer than ten pages, the whole semester I learned bit by bit how to cite sources, find other scholarly papers, how to use academic sites for research and even more. So much more advanced than the freshman classes in my own department, I think it was a great learning experience overall for me and I'm glad I went to German early.

Contrast from the abundance things I've learned in Germany, the weather is really cold and dry in winter and lacks variety; I can understand why now people say Europe winters are depressing. Every day was gray and unpleasant, the sun was dim and rarely did it ever show itself, and sometimes it rained or hailed, and once or twice it snowed, but the snow wasn't white or fluffy, more like clumps of watery ice dropping down fast onto the ground, and like the sky the snow was also gray. What was interesting to me was how dry the environment was, when I open a bag of chips for three days it would stay as crunchy as the first day I opened it, unlike humid Taiwan, where the chips would definitely soften by the hour. Apart from the weather, the country itself is so huge, going from place to place would take up five to eight hours, and if you're going to another country that could take up a day. I went and traveled a bit when I don't have classes and going from country to country would take a lot of time, at first it was agonizing for me, I wouldn't know what to do while on the bus. Yet after six months of traveling I got used to long hours of traveling, and my flight back to Taiwan felt like nothing even if it was 11 hours. I learned how to cope with long hours of traveling all thanks to this exchange.

I remember my first day in Germany, I was tired from traveling and I was scared of all the people that were all taller and paler than I was. I didn't know the language and had only my Taiwanese friends with me. I also remember my last day in Germany, I was in good spirits, I know the language around me and I've made many friends, I had a bittersweet feeling saying goodbye to all my friends around the world, yet I was ready to go home. Six months is long enough for a foreigner like me to understand what it is to be a student in Europe and see the culture, but six months is also too short for a foreigner to see everything in Europe and it goes by like a flash. Oldenburg is my home from afar, and it will always have a place in my heart. I'm really thankful that I made that choice to go exchange for a semester and see the world, and I don't I'll ever regret making that choice, I went there with nothing, and I came back with everything I've ever wanted.