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## Exchange in Georg Simon Ohm University of Applied Sciences Nuremberg (OHM)

*YEUNG Ka Fai*

*BENGCE, Yr 3*

### My Pre-departure Checklist

There are some tips for you — Book your flight ticket as soon as possible. It will save lots of money. Prepare some small souvenirs for your buddies or other exchange students.

Moreover, as I am a Chiang Chen Exchange Scholarships recipient, let me share some tips for the selection interview. You should prepare yourself to get more information related to your exchange study and present them to the interviewers. Moreover, you should also set goals of your exchange and think about your follow-up plan after the exchange journey.

### Just Arrived...

Finally, I arrived in Munich after a long flight from Singapore and have waited for a few hours to get on my train to Nuremberg. This was my first time to take a train in Germany. I even did not know how to open the train door. When the train got to Nuremberg station, I thought it would stop for a longer time before departure. Unfortunately, it was not. I just managed to get off the train one second before the door was closed.

I walked in snowy weather with my buddy to my dorm. That was my first time to see and touch snow. It was amazing and beautiful. Also, I was totally a stranger to the place as I did not know anything about it.

### Orientation

My buddy introduced to me a Polish girl, who was also an exchange student in that semester, and guided me the way to the host university. After settling down I went to the orientation day organized by the university.

In that afternoon, I met all exchange students who came from all over the world. Also, I found some students who lived in my dorm. After the orientation, we went to supermarket and got some foods. I spent my first night in my dorm.

### My Place

My residence was in Dutzendteich which is located in the South of Nuremberg near the stadium of F.C Nuremberg. There are two buildings – one red and one green. I lived in the green building and it was quite an old building.

### My First Class

My first class started very early because I joined the German intensive course A1 which is of an entry level of the language. Most of my classmates were exchange students.

### People I Met

I made lots of friends who came all over the world. We met and chatted a lot. Some of them are very open-minded. Also, all of them are very nice. My host University organized lots of activities for us.

Besides people I met in University, I also made many friends during my traveling for example a couple from Manchester, a girl from Poly University of Hong Kong, and a pair of sisters from Beijing. If you are willing to step out of your comfort zone, you can make new friends every day.

### Goodbye

Unfortunately, it was the time to say goodbye to my exchange journey. I really enjoyed my life in Nuremberg. I gained a lot and met many friends in this city. I experienced many new things in this six-month exchange journey. I really miss Nuremberg.

In the last night before my departure, my friends who came from Korea invited me to their dorm and had a farewell party. They cooked me some traditional Korean dishes. It was a great time. We chatted a lot and this was my last dinner in Nuremberg.

### Home Sweet Home

This exchange life has changed me a lot. In Germany, it is very difficult to get a higher grade (for grade A you need to obtain at least 95%) and it is very easy to fail a subject. In one of the courses I enrolled, only half of the class passed the courses. Now I became a hardworking student after my exchange experience.

Moreover, I learnt to get myself relaxed in my living pace. I had once tried to manage many things at one time in the beginning of my exchange journey which was tiring and frustrating. Now, I

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learn to have better time plan and management leading to a more relaxing life.

### **Sharing**

Get well preparation before departure. It is very hard to adapt to a new environment especially in a non-English speaking country. It is difficult to communicate with people who do not know English very well. For example, when I went to supermarket in Germany, everything is labeled in German. I even could not distinguish between shampoo and bath oil. Also, only German menu is provided in most restaurants.

### **Overall Rating**

5



## **Exchange in University of Wisconsin-Madison, U.S. Giving Insights of Other Countries' Cultures**

*YUAN Yuan*

*BENG3-INFE, Yr 3*

### **Just Arrived...**

The weather is freezing! And it's getting colder every day! So if you are coming here, be sure to pack warm clothes with you!

The people are nice and helpful. If you need help, do not hesitate to ask for it!

After the plane had landed at Chicago, we had to take 4 more hours of bus to get to the city Madison. The girl with whom I shared the

apartment with drove to the bus station to pick me up, which was very nice of her.

### **Orientation**

The university's international student service center organized a whole-day orientation, at where some important messages about health insurance, course enrollment, tuition fees, etc. were delivered.

There were some ice-breaking activities (e.g. Ice skating) to let us exchange students get to know each other and also a campus tour. It was definitely helpful. We made friends with other exchange students and got to know the campus better. Handouts like campus map, bus route map and schedule and so on were very useful later on in my exchange life.

### **My Place**

I lived off-campus, but it is still the university-owned apartment. So the environment is pretty tidy and nice. It has free university shuttle bus going between where I lived and the campus every few minutes. The apartments are mainly for graduate students or research staff with families.

As it is university-owned, all the utilities except electricity are free. Free water supply, hundreds of cable channels, laundry machine and tumble dryer and so on. The price is also very reasonable. My roommate and I each enjoyed an individual bedroom and the rent per month for each of us was no more than US\$400 (electricity bill included). I really felt like it was my home at the US.

### **My First Class**

The class atmosphere was more relaxing but interactive. Students always raised questions whenever there were something they did not understand or did not agree with the professor. There were more in-class discussions compared with here in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, especially at engineering and science related classes, the teaching style is usually more laid-back and students tend to be passive in answering questions.

This is something I really benefited from. I have become more confident to raise questions in class and less afraid of asking so-called "stupid" questions, because no question is stupid as long as you can learn something from it.