

EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE MITTELHESSEN

Year Abroad Report

Computer Science, University of Essex

I am a British student from England studying a BSc in Computer Science (with a year abroad) at the University of Essex. For my year abroad I decided to study in Germany and opted for a special EIEM/Studium Plus program which allowed me to complete a work placement for 6 months and enrol in 1 study semester at THM, within the city of Giessen. I think this program was fantastic because I had the opportunity to gain professional work experience and gain the experience of studying in a foreign university, both of which were very valuable.

Before I began my internship, I was required to complete a month-long German language intensive summer course. The summer course was great way to start my year abroad, because I had the chance to meet with other international students from Europe and other countries. It was really easy to make friends and I found the course itself very enjoyable. Learning German was one of the main reasons I decided to study in Germany, and the intensive course was very comprehensive, in addition to language learning we were also offered the chance to take part in extra activities, such as sports, a tour of Giessen and other trips to landmarks/cities nearby Giessen. The summer course staff also helped all the international students move into our accommodation and helped with any problems.

After I finished my language course, I worked in Frankfurt with a machine learning medical company as part of my internship program. During the internship, I developed a lot of new skills and worked with different technologies, it really helped me to decide what kind of career path I would like to take within the Computer Science industry. It was exciting to work in the city of Frankfurt, I had never worked in a large city before, so it was a new experience for me, but I learned to appreciate the busy nature of Frankfurt and the feeling of working in a huge city.



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During my semester studying at THM, fortunately I was able to experience 1 module in a face-to-face classroom setting, before classes switched to remote only. I really enjoyed the classes at THM, and I felt very welcome as an international student. Even during remote classes I learned a lot and I enjoyed the subtle differences between university in the UK and in Germany. The THM international office were super helpful with any problems or questions I had during my time in Germany, and I even had the chance to take extra German classes in the evening through THM.

Overall, studying in Germany was one of the best decisions I've made, I was initially quite hesitant about studying abroad, but now I've finished it, I can say it was worth every second. I've experienced a whole new culture and improved my German language skills significantly (and will continue learning German!). I met lots of amazing people and developed myself more as a person,

becoming much more independent, and exposed myself to different cultures – not just German. I 100% recommend anyone to take a year abroad, and if you plan to visit Germany, Giessen has a great student atmosphere and is a beautiful city. In fact, I enjoyed my experience so much that I plan to return to Germany in 2022 to complete a master's degree!