

# My experience here in Germany for three months

Chun Chang

Being an engineering student from the United States, I found Germany has a lot to offer. The first thing you notice is the convenience of public transportation here. You can take trams to travel everywhere in Hannover within a reasonable amount of time. Moreover, with the student card from Leibniz University, going anywhere in Lower Saxony is free of charge. This makes traveling to anywhere in Germany very easy. Even you have to pay, a well, pre-planned trip to anywhere in Europe is also cheap as well. For example, you can travel to France or Budapest for as low as 30 euros round-trip by plane!

You won't expect the food to have too much different than US. They are as delicious as you expected and also cheap! You can have a big lunch at the main cafeteria which is also called Hauptmensa in German. They offer super cheap but well-made German cuisines and a wide variety of choice to choose from. Lunch is the biggest meal for German people, so the main cafeteria is often packed during lunchtime. You can also see professors going to grab lunch with students here, which is a very common thing here.

Being a research assistant here is vastly different than in the United States. People often have high expectations and want you to learn. Whenever you run into a problem during research or development, they expect you first to figure it out by yourself then ask. There is a steep learning curve when I first came here to Germany to do research, but this is an extremely high rewarding job to do. By no means, they don't want you to ask, but they want you to learn from the problem and develop a systematic way to solve problems. This is an exchange program that is suited for those who are looking for challenges and learn new innovative ideas along the way. You will definitely have a totally different experience here in Germany, and it will be a fun and challenging one!