

REPORT
about HISSEMA summer school in Hannover, Germany
Summer 2014

One month ago I officially started the HISSEMA program! I have been meeting all of the other students who were participating in the study abroad program, and they are all really cool.

Our group was very diverse, with students from Russia (me and 2 Lisas☺), USA, Canada, and India. The first day of the program, we had a German BBQ on campus with the dean of students, our professors, and many of the German students who are helping with the program. The BBQ was awesome, with German sausage and meat, rather than a typical burger or hot dog. The school also provided an open (free) bar to us for the entire night!

We also took a German Language Course on the first week, and it made me feel much more comfortable with simple German conversations! Next week we start our culture class...and then we prepared presentations with our own themes!

First week, we spent a lot of time hanging out and doing activities as a group. We went bowling together, did some homework. Last night, we went out to a rooftop beach club! It was amazing. The bar had a 360 view of Hannover, and you could see the Rathaus, old church, and many other familiar buildings from the top! The entire roof was covered in sand with lawn chairs and cozy places to sit.

We also visited one of the largest banks in Hannover/Germany, called the Nord LB. We listened to presentations at the bank regarding US, German, and Chinese economics and banking. It was interesting to compare all the different economies. The building is very modernistic with 17 floors. We took an elevator up to the top and checked out the incredible view of the city! It was pretty intense to see the city from that angle!

Also we visited Volkswagen in Wolfsburg. This is the home of the largest Volkswagen factory and Volkswagen Headquarters. The factory was literally jaw-dropping. This is a company of incredible logistics, marketing, engineers, and more! It really tied together some of the business stuff I've been learning the past 3 years. The entire time I was there, I was able to mentally apply concepts I've learned in class to the company. Also, the company paid for our lunch in their cafeteria, and we all ate SOOO much food. Did you know Volkswagen makes their own curry sausages? Crazy, eh?!

In the end of the week we had 3 free days and we decided to go to Amsterdam. We rent a car and after 4 hours we were in center city of this incredible city. I was impressed by architecture, bridges, museums, they were really beautiful. So we spent 2 days there and then returned back to Hannover.

As I mentioned before we were studying during the whole week from 10.30 till 4.30 and what was really amazing that I was not tired!! All lectures were very interactive, the atmosphere was friendly and all professors were very cute. We did some homework tasks in a group or individually after some classes and then discussed them in the class.

Frankly speaking, I can say that it was an amazing experience! I'm so happy that I got a money from Daad organization! It was a great support for students and gave us opportunity to spend this money for travelling and excursions. I've been never been abroad as student, only like a tourist, so it was a new experience for me. I was so excited when I received an invitation letter, but on the other hand I was a little bit afraid. But of course it was unjustified, because I met amazing people, we had very interesting lectures, seminars, excursions, meetings, etc.



me, Liza and our American friend



Excursion



last day☺



view of our university;)