

From Paris/France to Koblenz

Millions of memories and much gratitude

Hi everyone !

I'm Jade and I'm an exchange student from Université Paris XII, from Fontainebleau in France. I was born in France and had never really traveled, so as soon as I heard about international mobility, I jumped at the chance. As France is not so far from Germany, many people with stereotypes criticized my choice. However, My experience from my Erasmus in Germany was an incredible and the best experience of my life. As soon as I arrived here, an exceptional six-month adventure unfolded, which enriched and transformed my vision of things.

This was my first time abroad so I was a bit scared but the fear and initial apprehension quickly dissipated in front of the cultural wealth and the diversity of people I met. I was lucky to rub shoulder with persons from all over the world, for example Taiwan, Greece, Italy, Japan, Egypt or Tunisia. My social circle has expanded far beyond borders, as inspiring individuals from the four corners of the globe have crossed my path.

In particular, the friendships I've made with fellow students of different nationalities have been a source of happiness and constant enrichment. Until six months ago, these people were not part of my life. Today, they are an integral part of it forever. Exchanges with people from different backgrounds opened up new and enriching perspectives, giving me a deeper understanding of different cultures, values and life experiences. These encounters transcended linguistic and cultural barriers. Each of these individual stories has left a lasting imprint on my future and my perception of the world.

One thing that scared me a lot was my English. I could read, understand and even write it, but it was still difficult for me to speak it properly. I was very afraid of not being able to communicate with others, of being left out and of failing my exams because of the language barrier. All these fears quickly dissipated. Everyone I've met here has been kind. I was never judged, everyone was understanding and even though it was difficult for me to express myself at first, people didn't make any difference. Thanks to all these people, my English has improved considerably.

During this semester, I also decided to take up German, which I'd never done before. It was a bit tricky to get started, but thanks to the patience and kindness of my teacher, I managed to reach an A1 level (which still needs some work). Learning this language was a bit special because I did it in English, which is not my mother tongue, but it went very well. As I don't speak German, I had to manage to make myself understood in a language other than the one spoken in the country, which made the experience more difficult but above all more rewarding. I now have 4 languages in my pocket!

Those six months in Koblenz went by so quickly. They were much more than just an academic experience, they were an unforgettable life lesson, a period during which I broadened my horizons, developed a deeper understanding of the world and forged bonds that will last well beyond this unique experience. I'm so grateful to have been able to do this exchange. Germany made me grow, taught me a lot but not only that, it also gave me a new vision, new skills. I talked, I laughed, I traveled with my new friends and we made incredible memories that I'll never forget. I'm going back to France with tears in my eyes, sad to leave this country, but happy with the experience and the memories. I'd like to finish this little summary by thanking all the teachers, staff and friends who helped make these six months magical.

Vielen Dank und bis bald!



From Paris/France to Koblenz

A wonderful adventure

Chloé from France, Winter Semester 2023/2024

Hello everyone,

My name is Chloé and I am French. I had the opportunity to participate in an exchange program at Hochschule Koblenz as part of the Erasmus program. I would like to share my experience with you through these few lines.

Upon my arrival in Germany, I was captivated by the beauty of the city of Koblenz. Although it was initially a challenge to adapt to the language and culture, with time and experience, these obstacles quickly dissipated. I was warmly welcomed by the staff of the international department of the university, who made us feel at ease from the start and offered us an unforgettable semester. This approach contrasted with the more strict and formal French university system.

As for the courses, this semester allowed me to discover new teaching and working methods, enriching my approach to my studies, especially in marketing. I was able to successfully complete projects such as reports or analyses, which offered me a new and in-depth perspective in my field. The diversity among my classmates also expanded my horizons and enriched my skills.

Outside of classes, I had the opportunity to discover the magnificent landscapes of Rhineland-Palatinate, as well as emblematic cities such as Cologne and Frankfurt. Thanks to ESN Koblenz, I also had the opportunity to visit Berlin during a weekend rich in cultural and human discoveries.

This stay also allowed me to meet wonderful people and discover new cultures. Surrounded by other Erasmus students as well as my German classmates, I forged strong bonds and lived unique, enriching experiences both personally and professionally. By stepping out of my comfort zone and immersing myself in a new environment, I was able to grow and mature. I am deeply grateful to all the people who contributed to making this experience memorable: my university for its trust and financial support, the Buddy program for its invaluable assistance and for giving me a friend who is very dear to me, and finally the warm welcome of the international department.

This semester at Hochschule Koblenz will remain engraved in my memory as a period of personal growth and enrichment, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to live such an experience. I hope that future Erasmus students will be as fortunate as I was for their exchange at this great university!



From Cassino/Italy to Koblenz

This is Akylai Kulzhanova. I'm writing this report to tell you about my Erasmus experience in Germany.

I arrived in Koblenz on 15th of September and the first two weeks was an orientation week. I really appreciated how it was organised and kindly welcomed. During this two weeks we have done with so many activities such as trip to Bonn, learned the German history in the museum, bowling day and branch at cafe with all Erasmus students. Moreover, we were welcomed separately by our departments and got such a nice and useful presents for student's life. In addition, there was a German intensive course where we learned basic words and it was really helpful to adapt to the new country! After those two weeks our courses has started. I had a three courses such as Marketing, Business English and Intercultural communication. Honestly, there are no enough words how I appreciate professors for all of my courses. They were really kind, respectful, supportive and did everything to ensure that students were involved in the lesson. Thanks a lot to the Prof. Andreas Hesse, Prof. Thomas Frost and Prof. Aida Matri !



During my semester I certainly traveled a lot and the funny thing is that I've visit more cities in Germany than I visited in Italy in 3 years of my life there. I've been in Frankfurt, Bonn, Koln, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Munich and my most favourite place is Neuschwanstein castle. I was in love with this castle, so beautiful and especially in autumn colours! Also, I've travelled to the neighbours countries such a Belgium, Netherlands and France. There is one more thing that I really liked about Germany and that is the Weihnachtsmarkt!

Travelling is cool, but for me what makes this story more meaningful and memorable is the people. I'm so happy that I met new friends here from all over the world. And also It was pleasure to met my old friends from my country who also study or work in Germany.

I told all of them that I'm waiting for them in Rome and can't wait to show them my favourite places in Italy!<3

To sum up it I want say that these five months were full of joy, meeting and travel. I definitely enjoyed my semester in abroad and lived my best student life. Memories for life...

I want to say thanks a lot to the Hochschule university, especially to our coordinator Jessica, to erasmus body Santo and to nicest person in economic department Sophia.<3

Vielen Dank!

Sincerely,
Akylai Kulzhanova

From Cassino/Italy to Koblenz

My experience as an Erasmus exchange student in Hochschule Koblenz was surprising. When I applied for the program as a Master student in Global Economics and Business, I prepared myself to be independent in both aspects: academic and social. I thought my days in Koblenz would be quite tedious and lonely. I am very happy that I was wrong. Koblenz was described to me as a small city, of which you could get easily bored. However for me, who is from a small town in Kazakhstan, it was perfect: safe and nice. Koblenz is full of beautiful places to take a stroll, cultural places to visit and cute cafes to drink coffee in. And thanks to student ID perks, you take a bus to reach any part of the city for free. I lived in Katholisches Studentenwohnheim, which was a 20 minute walk from Hochschule Koblenz or a 10 minute ride by bus. Hochschule itself is an amazing place to be in. It has many places to take a break after your classes, a cafeteria with reasonable prices and a cafe to have a little treat. It may not be a critical aspect for others, but I was surprised how easy Hochschule makes it to be an environmentally responsible person, with Pfandautomats right near the cafeteria and vending machines. And of course, a library is the perfect place for study sessions.



Due to some circumstances, I could take only two courses: German language A1 and Brand Management in the Digital world. Both were very pleasant experiences. The German course was interactive and easy to follow. The study plan included everything you need for everyday life. I am definitely not fluent in German in any capacity, but it has lighted the spark for learning it.

Unfortunately, I could not enjoy the Brand Management in the Digital world course to its fullest extent, I applied to it quite late and it was in German at the time I did. I am very grateful to Professor Schmidt that he still gave me an opportunity to be part of the course. He also gave me all the resources I needed and full support for my individual study. The course itself was crafted for both gaining theoretical knowledge and applying it in practice. I really enjoyed the materials and assignments, as they don't only have value for final grade, but have quite creative and entertaining sides.

Talking about creativity and entertainment, I want to thank ESN Koblenz for all the events they organised. It gave me opportunities to learn more about German culture by having fun among peers. Trips to Berlin and to Amsterdam to meet all the people from ESN of other cities and even countries were highlights of my semester. All the support from my buddy to make my adaptation to Germany easier is very appreciated as well.

Overall, my exchange semester in Koblenz was one of the most exciting journeys I had in my life. I am grateful for all the new experiences, friendships and knowledge it gave me. I would like everyone to have such an opportunity in their life.

(Photo from city tour of Berlin, Berlin Trip with ESN Koblenz)

From Cassino/Italy to Koblenz

I have attended my Erasmus+ mobility at the Hochschule university in Koblenz from September until January.

I am very glad to have done my mobility here because I had the possibility to experience a different approach to follow the lectures, which were more interactive to the ones that I was used to attend.

I never faced problems because I always felt surrounded by many helpful figures like the international coordinator, the head of the department and, of course, by my buddy.

I also have the opportunity to meet a lot of people from abroad, just like me, and this was because of the several activities that the Erasmus group weekly have made; we went for example bowling, hiking, and sightseeing new cities in Germany.

If I have to say something about this experience I would say: "just do it because otherwise you will regret it for all your life"

Giulia, incoming student from Italy.



From Taipeh/Taiwan to Koblenz

For those who are also exchange students in Koblenz Hochschule

Transportation:

Deutsche Bahn: You can buy Bahncard if you often take train.

Regional Bus: download the App VRM to buy a monthly ticket with your student identity

Courses: Three courses that I attained during the semester

1. German Course: A2

Students are able to complete different German Courses based on their language ability

A2 German course is an online course for every week on Tuesday

2. Business English 3

It is a course that you can challenge yourself to know more knowledge about writing cover letter, soft skills, hard skills and so on. The lessons are helping you to know more details about what you can do when applying a job or having an interview

You need to prepare presentation for the courses and make a video introduce yourself. It is better that you attain every courses to catch up the final exams.

Since all the works you do in every course, most of them should be in the E-portfolio, which you should upload to the teacher at the end of semester.

3. Intercultural Communication:

This is a course that you can learn non-verbal and verbal communication based on different culture background.

And the professor also invited an instructor who had been working in different countries to share his experience.

Things you can do to meet more friends:

Join the ESN activities where you can make more friends and also visit other countries nearby. For example: Holland and Berlin.



From Taipeh/Taiwan to Koblenz

I am an exchange student from Taiwan. I flew halfway around the world to Europe. This place is completely different from Taiwan. I'm so glad I chose Koblenz. The people here are very friendly, and I am very lucky to have a great professor, roommates, and study companions. Everyone helped me a lot. And also, the international office, the teacher and the assistant help us a lot. Although it is not a big town, there are many things. The Christmas market is also great, it is my favorite part here. There is also super delicious ice cream in town. My favorite is the Deutsches Eck. When the weather is nice, a walk along the Rhine River to the Deutsches Eck is the most pleasant thing to do. I have a great time here. Although the school is not big at all, and there isn't a gym, court, and so on. The things that I hope there are. But I will still recommend people to come. The other things can make up for it. I have a great time here. Thanks to all the teachers and students help for all the international students.



From Tours/France to Koblenz

This opportunity was really great : An awesome feeling during the whole stay. I just met new people and got contacts that would be necessary for the future. The summary of all the lived experiences here in Germany (Koblenz and the other cities I also visited) is very positively considered in my opinion. I would like to explain that the German language is not a necessary condition to have a better time : that would not be fair to say that being comfortable in the German language is not an undeniable advantage. However, the most spoken language is English, so I could confirm that everyone is the same and that is better for a faster integration within German culture.

I have just improved my English very intensively, which is a big advantage in this country: you can improve German and English and that is not the case everywhere.

In my opinion, these courses that I chose were very interesting, a bit different from the courses you take in France, however, it is always more interesting to be exposed to new skills or areas. About my German, it was also a great opportunity to take appropriate courses. I could really improve my German, either orally or in writing, and that was originally my main goal during my stay in Germany.



From Porto/Portugal to Koblenz

Thumbs Up for Koblenz

Hello, my name is Duarte and I'm from Porto, Portugal. The title alone reveals how I evaluate my experience as an Erasmus student in Koblenz.

The famous thumb located in the Ludwig Museum in the Altstadt by the river, represents a gesture that I used many times during my experience, as a form of appreciation or to order a beer. Apart from beer, German culture has many things to offer, such as its food especially bratwurst and currywurst, not to mention the quantity and variety of kebabs I have eaten over the past months, a food that symbolizes the multiculturalism of the city and that always fills our stomach with comfort, except if it is too spicy as I once made the mistake of ordering. The buildings and monuments of the old town are also worth seeing, I was lucky enough to live right in the centre of town in a nineteenth century building. Every time I left the house I was grateful to have those wonderful views so close, not to mention the river fifty meters away by which I had great walks with my friends.

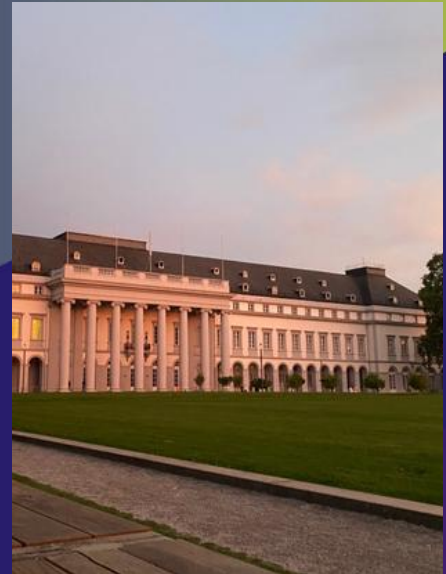


Beyond the hustle and bustle of the touristy old town, Koblenz gave me great experiences and memories in nature, being a city lad, living in contact with nature during these months made me reconnect with it. My social life during these months was very intense, and undoubtedly the best thing I take away from here were the friendships I made and the people from all over the world I met. This intercultural exchange has enriched me a lot and opened my mind about other cultures. From the feedback I got from several people, I think Koblenz is an underrated city, although not so popular it has a unique richness and offers quality of life. The Hochschule Koblenz RheinMosel Campus also made a positive impression on me because of its modern infrastructure, good teachers, delicious and cheap food, and the university parties.

I will carry the people who have marked me and the memories from the amazing moments I've had here forever in my heart.

From Madrid/Spain to Koblenz

These months I have spent in Koblenz have been wonderful. It is a very beautiful city and so are its people. Its location is close to several cities where you can go every day to visit and meet new people. The teachers at the university have been very good because they are very available to answer your questions and help you in everything you need. In summary, I am very happy to have lived my experience in Koblenz, I recommend this city to everyone.



From Taipeh/Taiwan to Koblenz

I am Yunchi comes from Soochow University in Taiwan. In my last semester in collage, I decided to complete one goal of my bucket list, being exchange student abroad!

Since I want to practice my German, university in Germany became to my first choice. I would like to say choosing Koblenz is way better than what I imaged. It's a city which is not that bustling, but still convenient. Exhibitors here I have met were nice and passion. Also, Koblenz has wonderful location in Germany, people can plan a one-day trip to Köln, Düsseldorf, even Luxemburg.

Life in Hochschule Koblenz

The International Office and Faculty of Business and Management are always helpful. Each time I had any kind of problem (e.g. registration, bank account opening or even, the licence Fee in Germany) there are always people glad to help. Based on other students who also exchange in other university in Germany have told us, HS Koblenz really gives international students huge support. Furthermore, ESN group here also managed many activities let international participate in. This helps students getting chance to get closer to each other.

Study in Hochschule Koblenz

There are total three classes I took: Finance & Investment, Business English, and German language course. I am actually not business student back in Taiwan, but the teachers here in HS Koblenz was patient and would try their best to help me to catch on the class. The classmates I met were also very friendly, with them I really had wonderful school time here!

I would definitely not gonna forget everyone and every little thing I met and have experienced here.



From Bangkok/Thailand to Koblenz

For the last semester for my bachelor's degree, I have an opportunity to choose an exchange program for one whole semester. In my department, it was recommended to come to Germany since it is known for engineering and technology, and all past seniors also came here. To be honest, I have absolutely no clue about this country, but I still decided to do an exchange semester at Hochschule Koblenz.

Before getting to know about my life, I wanted to mention this, I came to Germany since the beginning of March. It's supposed to be "Summer Semester" during the time I stay here, but it was only 4 degrees Celsius when I arrived! Being in a country where the average temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius for my whole life, this is insane, yet I managed to get through it.

The reason I decided to come to Germany, of course it's a cliché, is to gain new experiences and explore the world. One of the things I'm little scared is about making friends because I'm an introvert and not good at starting a conversation. However, Hochschule Koblenz have a buddy program where an international student will have a German buddy, so they can help you if you have any problems. Not only that, we also get to meet other international students and did many activities together. For studying, though I only studied one course and a German language course, it was not that easy.

There are different learning contents and the strategies they use, so I must adapt to the knowledge I've learned before. Also, German language course, can't go on without talking about this. When you come to Deutschland, you must speak Deutsch! It is considered as one of the "very hard" language to learn for me. It was hard to remember the vocabularies and understand the sentence structure. However, the professor and classmate were nice to me.

Apart of student life in Hochschule, I also applied for a part time job at restaurants called "Tamrap Thai" and "Deutschie". It does not only give me a new experience, but also help me with my German language skill. I was assigned to only serve the food and drinks, and at first, when customers said something to me in German, I was startled and need help immediately. As time passed, I slowly learned frequently used words in the restaurant and be able to understand customers sometimes. For those we get to read until here, I hope you visit Tamrap Thai and Deutschie restaurant once!

Last but not least, one of my favorite parts of this exchange semester is travelling. Since Germany is quite in the center of Europe, I had an opportunity to visit other countries. I got to explore many countries that I wanted to go and also those that never crossed my mind.

After all, the decision to come here for exchange semester was unforgettable and worth it. The opportunity to explore another side of the world, gain new experiences, made new friends, and learn new things was totally beyond my expectation. I am grateful to be given this opportunity and would like to recommend it to the juniors.



From Madrid/Spain to Koblenz

My Erasmus experience here in Koblenz have been one of the greatest of my life. I have met incredible people not only inside university but in the ESN group and some of them I consider them now as part of my family. Koblenz is a beautiful city, maybe not the biggest of the country but the ESN team managed to create group activities constantly so you have always something to do. Moreover, this city is in a great location that enables international students to travel to different countries in a short period of time such as Luxembourg, The Netherlands; Belgium or France. However, I personally recommend to try and explore the area, specially during Christmas, visiting Aachen or Cologne to visit the famous Christmas markets. Even though it was really cold during winter I really enjoyed this time of the year too.

Teachers at university were always really kind and have tried to make us feel at home everyday since we arrived and their lectures were fun, dynamic and entertaining. I could notice that they really enjoy their job as teachers.



From Ensenada/Mexico to Koblenz

As an exchange student from Mexico in Koblenz, Germany, the experience has been nothing short of incredible. Immersing myself in a new culture, I've embraced the vibrant atmosphere of Koblenz, from its bustling markets to its serene riverbanks. Engaging with fellow students and locals alike, I've formed meaningful connections that transcend borders. The Erasmus group has been instrumental in facilitating this transition, offering support, guidance, and organizing enriching cultural events.

Exploring Germany's rich history and diverse landscapes has been a journey of discovery, from visiting medieval castles to hiking through picturesque valleys. Through it all, I've grown personally and academically, gaining a deeper appreciation for the world and its endless possibilities.



From Tokyo/Japan to Koblenz

At a first day in Koblenz, everything was new for me, filled with a lot of anxiety along with excitement, and started a life for the first time going out from my country and living alone. Not being with Japanese people, which means I can't use my mother language at all that was a big challenge for me. As soon as I reached Germany, there was a orientation week including office procedure. It helped me a lot and gave me a opportunity to make friends with people from different countries. Sharing our own culture and difference among us, that gave me a sense of what it meant to come to study abroad.

Studying there was of course important, but this time I would like to share a little about what I have experienced except that.

My experience at a tennis tournament as a helper between the semester was valuable in terms of working in a different environment where people mainly speak in German, but they taught us in English. There, I assisted with basic operations in a multicultural workplace. It was interesting to see the differences in attitudes and behaviors toward work. This whole experience improved my communication skills, perception of work and time management.

Furthermore, throughout my time living in Europe, I travelled across the European countries.

For me Japanese person, it's a good chance to tour the countries of Europe. Visiting places of historical and cultural importance brought me good inspirations. Each country has its own characteristics and the comparison between them was very impressive.

In conclusion, my living experience as an exchange student in Koblenz has become significant in my life. Also, I was able to have such a experience that I could not have had when I was in Japan, that broaden my values. I'm grateful for the many international friends I met during my study abroad program, the friends who helped me, and the people at the international office to provided me with wonderful experiences.



From Ensenada/Mexico to Koblenz

My time at Hochschule University in Germany was truly enriching and unforgettable. The academic environment provided me with an excellent opportunity to delve deep into my chosen field of study, and the high-quality education I received significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

One of the highlights of my experience was the diverse and inclusive nature of the university. Interacting with fellow students from various countries opened up a whole new world of perspectives and ideas. The multicultural atmosphere not only enhanced my understanding of different cultures but also allowed me to forge meaningful connections with people from all walks of life.

Engaging in discussions and collaborative projects with international peers was a unique aspect of my time at Hochschule. It was fascinating to share insights and learn from each other's experiences, creating a rich tapestry of cultural exchange within the academic setting. These interactions not only broadened my global outlook but also equipped me with invaluable interpersonal skills that are crucial in today's interconnected world.

Beyond the academic sphere, the university facilitated numerous cultural exchange programs and events. Participating in these activities provided me with the chance to showcase my own culture while also immersing myself in the rich diversity of others. From international food festivals to cultural nights, Hochschule University actively fostered an environment where students could celebrate and appreciate the uniqueness of each other's backgrounds.

Moreover, the exposure to different teaching methodologies and learning styles at Hochschule enhanced my adaptability and critical thinking skills. The emphasis on practical application of knowledge through projects and real-world scenarios prepared me for the challenges of the professional world.

