

Erfahrungsbericht / *Report of experience*

Name:	Shalmali Sankpal
Heimatuniversität / <i>Home university:</i>	Mumbai University
Land / <i>Country:</i>	India
Aufenthalt im / <i>Stay in Sommer / Summer Semester / <i>semester</i> 20</i>	
Studienfach an der HHU / <i>Subject at HHU:</i>	English and American Studies

Bitte teilen Sie Ihre Erfahrungen mit zukünftigen Studierenden. *Please share your experience with future students: (Mindestens 1500 Zeichen mit Leerzeichen. At least 1500 characters with spaces.)*

Exchange programmes are beautiful in their very conception. They provide you a chance to remove yourself from your own space, your comfort zone and live life differently. The experience I gained through the international programme at HHU not only shifted my academics but also my personal life and perspective on things to a better place. If you are a student, wondering how this opportunity will work out for you, trust me and take this leap of faith.

I was extremely lucky for being provided with a stipend for the entirety of the semester. This enabled me to have a sense of security. I could sail through the new setting and studies smoothly. The email correspondences prior to the programme with Ms. Lent-Öztürk and Ms. Pirker further helped to have all the documents and accomodation in place before I arrived.

As a student of literature I took up 4 papers namely- Cultural memory, Detective Fiction, Literature of Melancholy and Screaming Queens as a part of the summer semester for M.A English at HHU. The seminars, reading and presentations kept me on my feet with new ideas. The professors I had were very welcoming, patient and encouraging.

Apart from the joy of learning, being a student at HHU rewarded me with alternate experiences. I was able to learn a little German from my language partner - Annalena. My friends and I joined fun treks and outings organised by the student body and made more friends from different cultures. I traveled and explored places in the NRW region; beautiful places and museums I had never heard of with the semester ticket access.

Though it felt a little intimidating and foreign at first, Dusseldorf and the life it offered slowly grew on me. I left teary eyed with a longing to come back to Germany, to see more of Europe as a student. Living by myself taught me a lot. I grew closer to my own self, beliefs and family. The distance helped me mature, come into my own being and nurtured my learnings.

I look back upon this period in my life as monumental. A shift that I hold close to my heart and one that will always stay with me for life. I thank everyone at Mumbai University and Heinrich Heine University for creating this programme. I am glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it.

Ich stimme der Veröffentlichung meines Erfahrungsberichtes ohne Nennung meines Namens auf den Internetseiten der Heinrich-Heine-Universität zu. <i>I agree to the anonymously publication of my field report on the website of Heinrich Heine University.</i>	Ja/Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nein/No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Shalmali Sankpal

Unterschrift / *Signature*