



Baden-Württemberg
STIPENDIUM

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG-STIPENDIUM

FOR STUDENTS

PERSONAL REPORT

Please upload your personal report to BWS-World, the online portal of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM*, at the latest four weeks after your scholarship stay has ended. Note that the International Office of your university may request the report already earlier.

Please use the box labelled "personal report" in the documents section of your personal profile. You can upload the report in Word or PDF format. The file size should not exceed 4 MB.

If you have any questions, please contact the International Office of your university or write to studierende@bw-stipendium.de.

Name:	Jin Yun Ng
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Home university:	Universiti Malaysia Pahang
Host university:	Hochschule Karlsruhe - Technik und Wirtschaft
Period of the exchange from - until:	March 2020 – July 2020
Creation date:	07.07.2020

- I hereby agree to my report being published on the websites of the *Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM* (www.bw-stipendium.de) and of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung (www.bwstiftung.de) as well as on BWS-World, the portal of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM.

Notes on Writing the Personal Report

Feel free to be as creative as you like. We look especially forward to innovative and original forms of presentation (e.g. video, blog etc.).

Of course, you may also share your experiences with the scholarship by answering the key questions below.

As a general rule, your personal report should not exceed the length of 5 pages incl. cover sheet.

If you have an exceptional idea for your report, please coordinate with your international office or with the staff of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM (studierende@bw-stipendium.de).

PREPARATIONS FOR THE STAY ABROAD

How did you find out about the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

The seniors from the same university course got the BWS for their stay abroad in previous semesters. They shared the details on what it is and how to apply for it.

Did you have contact with other scholarship holders of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before you left or abroad? Did you participate in an event (e.g. summer festival or annual meeting) of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM before or during your stay?

When I was still in my home country, I contacted some previous scholarship holders which were also from my hometown to seek some information about the scholarship on how it works, what benefits it provides to us, etc. The events were mostly taken place online and unfortunately, I could not attend the events due to my personal issues and my timetable was packed. I would gladly attend some of the interesting events if I am given the chance again for the scholarship next semester.

STUDYING AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

At which host university did you spend your semester abroad? Why did you choose this university in this country?

The course in the home country is a partnership program with Hochschule Karlsruhe (HsKA). Students will be given the chances every year to do student exchange program here. I chose to come here as it was my first time going to Europe. Besides, HsKA is an applied sciences university where I can gain technical knowledge with the advanced facilities here.

Were there any major differences compared to your home university? What were they?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I can only speak in terms of the teaching styles by the professors and the working attitudes of the German students while working together on a project. Even though everything is conducted online, we still had the chances to experience the professional lectures conducted by the professors and the detailed information from them when the students asked them questions. Apart from that, we had to do an international project with the German students here. They were really committed and the way they conducted the project was well-planned and constructed.



Figure 1 & 2: Doing international project together in the hostel

How did you prepare for your stay abroad?

I consulted my seniors who came here last year regarding the daily life, things that we have to take care of, what we should bring, etc. so that there are no problems faced during the stay here.

Would you recommend the host university to other students? Why or why not?

I strongly recommend HsKA to other students as you can not only learn a lot from the professors and the students here, you can also socialize with students from other countries with different backgrounds because everyone is staying together in the student hostels. Many activities can be organized together. Such opportunity is rare and should be experienced by everyone at least once in his/her life.

LIFE IN YOUR HOST COUNTRY

Was it difficult to find your way in the host country? What surprised you the most?

Everything seems to be fine now as I have adapted to the environment here. What surprised me the most when I first came here is how the people here communicate to each other. They talk in a pretty high voice volume and they are really straightforward which I could not get used to that at first. People are also distant and refuse to make eye contacts with each other. Nevertheless, once they break down the barriers, they can be really helpful and friendly which I find them respectable and cool. Other than that, people here are environmental-friendly as they use their own recycle bags instead of the plastic bags when buying grocery in the market. I was overwhelmed because I had to keep the items into the bag fast and the staff scanned the items really quick. Sometimes people queuing at the back looked impatient if we do it slow. Luckily, after few days of training everything went well after that.

Which experience do you remember particularly well?

When I first reached here with my other Malaysian friends, we had to buy some daily stuff from the market. It was at the epidemic peak of COVID-19 and some people looked avoiding and despised on us. We even got

called 'Corona' once by a random person in the street. I believe that only a small amount of people behave like that because of the people here are friendly and helpful. Furthermore, we had some good moments with the international and local students here by going to the Schlossgarten, having dinner together, singing songs together, etc. These experiences will not be forgotten as they are really valuable.



Figure 3: Picnic in Schlossgarten



Figure 4: Dinner with the project teammates



Figure 5: Friends from Peru, South Korea and Malaysia in student hostel

What advice would you give other scholarship holders coming to this host country?

Even though studies is important, try to enjoy yourself as much as possible by getting to know to new friends from other countries, join activities together, discover the places in Germany. Make use of your quality time here and create some valuable memories.

PERSONAL CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

What did you expect from studying abroad? Were these expectations met?

I've always wanted to experience having lessons in the class with some international students together. Due to the COVID-19 this was impossible to take place. Nevertheless, we were still able to do the project together by doing it in the room and from time to time we met for the meetings. We were also lucky enough to go for a trip to other parts in Germany for example Titisee and Frankfurt. I also had some great moments with the students in the student hostels and we did some awesome activities together. After the semester ends, I'd hope that I could travel to neighbouring countries which is one of my dreams.

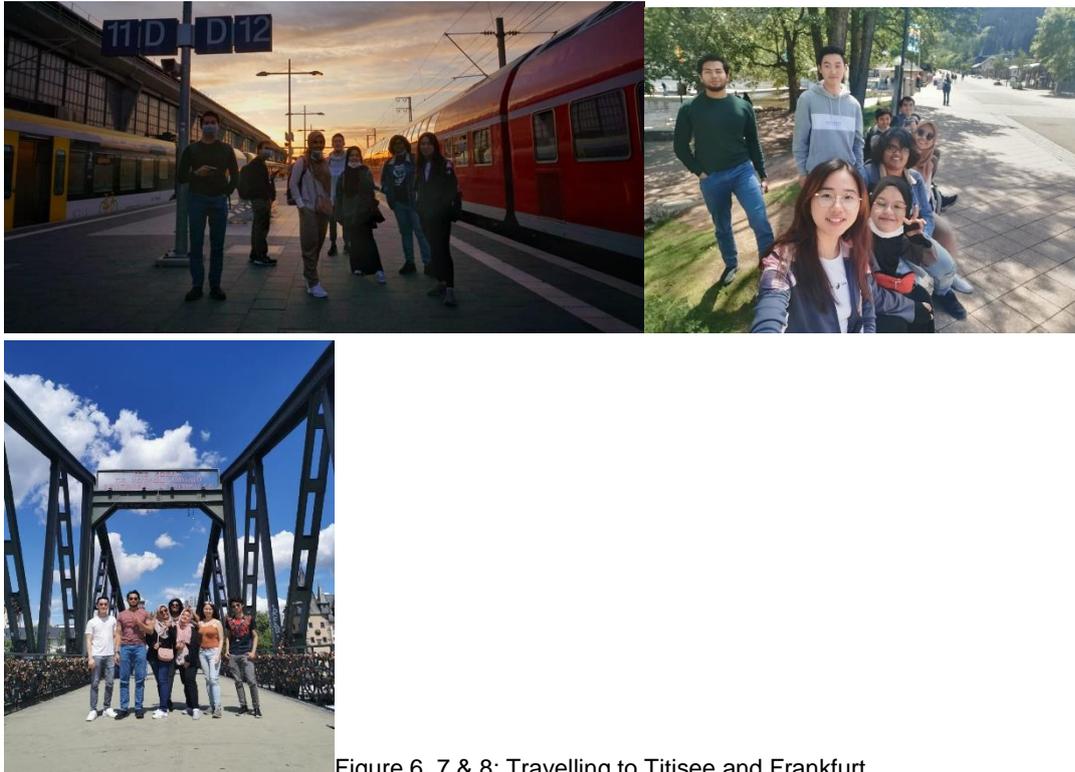


Figure 6, 7 & 8: Travelling to Titisee and Frankfurt

In hindsight, what were the most important lessons learned for life during your stay abroad?

This is my first time living abroad and it is not as scary as expected. We can always make friends wherever we go so we are not alone because everyone is the same. People who live with us are generally good and sometimes we can trust them. Living in the student hostel with other international students means sharing the responsibilities together like throwing out the rubbish, cleaning the place after eating/cooking, etc. Change our attitude so that we can do better and people can trust and rely on us.

Would you recommend the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM?

I strongly recommend the students who wish to undergo student exchange programmes or study in Baden-Württemberg to apply for this scholarship. It will surely guarantee us a nice stay here and help us overcome the problems that we face when staying here. It also offers some great events for us to socialize and get to know new friends with other BWS scholarship holders.

Thank you very much for your openness and your time.

We wish you all the best for your future and hope that you will stay a part of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM network, e.g. in one of the national and international Regional Chapters.

Are you interested?

Then have a look at <https://www.bws-world.de/portal/spa#orgstr/my-groups/index> and <https://www.bw-stipendium.de/netzwerk/regional-chapter/>.