

How have you perceived student life here?

by Ankur Joshi

For me, it's the first time I got the chance to go abroad. Whenever I thought about Germany, philosophers, technologists and most important punctuality, as told by my grandfather, crossed my mind. In my life it's an awesome experience to be a student here. When starting, I faced lots of difficulties to communicate with people. But the friendly nature of German people made me fall in love with Germany. To be well-disciplined and punctual are the two most important characteristics I have noticed in German people. They are also very concerned with health rather than wealth while it is the opposite in India.

I'm doing my Master's degree in Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University, Germany; a country which is known as cradle of trade. It's a great experience to be a student in Chemnitz. I obtained my Bachelor's degree and part of my Master in India. But, in my opinion, the education system is different in Germany: I can enhance my skills and knowledge, whereas the Indian education system provides more theoretical and in Germany the focus is more practical-oriented.

As student of an exchange programme, I had no problems to start because all arrangements have been prepared by the university and the Institute for Print and Media Technology. The most pressing issue I had to face was related to food because I'm purely vegetarian. It's extremely difficult to live as vegetarian in Germany but self-cooking solved this problem. Life is very easy due to the German system.

It's well-known that Europe is among the best on the globe for higher education. The study and education systems are more high-tech than in India. I'm sure this education system develops our thinking ability. The practical knowledge given in German universities is really helpful. But if you want to get a job or only a part time job you must require German language skills.

Students are really cool in Germany. I believe, they are almost under no pressure because of the



education system. They enjoy their own life a lot. They study hard but they also party hard. One of the venues I have been most, is the Club of Cultures (CDK) on campus. I have enjoyed it a lot but I've also been to one of the city's best clubs: Braclub. I have noticed that German students easily mix up with other students. They enjoy and love to go out. German students not only like their

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culture but some of them are also interested in Indian culture. They celebrate Indian festivals like "Holi". It's a totally different experience to go to the open air Holi in Chemnitz.

Before coming to Germany, I heard that German people are reserved, never get mixed with others and many other things. But I was glad it proved wrong. My personal experience has shown me that they can be very helpful and polite. Of course, I faced some difficulties because of language problems but you can learn it easily if you communicate. Just keep in mind, no matter how bad or frustrated you feel about your language skills, they ARE getting better. Just relax, and have fun with the whole confusion.

In short, I like Germany a lot. More than doing my degree, Germany taught me a new work culture. But nevertheless, I still don't have the right time management so I'm not able to be punctual.

At last I want to share some of my unforgettable memories with you...

