

**Host University  
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### Personal Information

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**Management (BA) Degree Program at TAU:**

**Host University:** University of Cologne

**Exchange term (including the duration):** spring (2024/2025) half term (3 month)

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### Exchange Experience

#### **Exchange Experience Report – University of Cologne**

##### **About the Country and City**

My exchange experience in Cologne, Germany, was very positive. Cologne is a vibrant and youthful city with a large student population. The locals are warm and welcoming, making it easy to adapt to the new environment. The city offers a diverse selection of restaurants, cafes, and cultural spots. Additionally, its central location allows for convenient travel to many nearby cities via a short train ride.

##### **About the Host University**

The University of Cologne provided a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Throughout the exchange period, the university maintained close communication and provided assistance in all matters. They have a buddy program where a local student helps incoming exchange students, which was highly beneficial. The university was well-organized and always ready to offer guidance on housing, academics, and even local dining options.

Moreover, the university organized exchange student activities at least three times a week, which significantly contributed to social integration and helped form new friendships.

##### **Courses and Professors**

The courses offered were interesting and highly relevant, incorporating many practical business aspects. All course materials were accessible in English, and the professors were very approachable and supportive. They were well aware of the presence of exchange students and ensured that the content was clear and engaging for international participants.

##### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

The university actively organized various social events, including orientation programs, student meetups, and excursions. These activities were instrumental in helping students settle in and network with both local and international students.

### **Career Center (if applicable)**

Although I did not personally use the career center, the university offers career counseling, networking events, and job placement support for students looking for internships or work opportunities.

### **Business and Network Development**

The exchange experience provided excellent networking opportunities, both academically and socially. The university hosted guest lectures, industry events, and networking sessions where students could connect with professionals and peers from various fields.

### **Accommodation**

Finding housing in Cologne is challenging due to high demand. Rent prices in the city are higher compared to other regions in Germany, and securing a place requires early planning. The university provided guidance on housing solutions, but availability was still limited.

### **Visa**

Since I stayed in Cologne for less than three months, I did not need to arrange a visa.

### **Transportation**

Cologne has an efficient public transportation system, including buses, trams, and trains. The student semester ticket allowed for free travel within the region, making it convenient and cost-effective to explore the city and nearby destinations.

### **Insurance and Health Services**

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany, and the university provided guidance on available options. Medical services were accessible, and there were English-speaking doctors available for international students.

### **Living Expenses**

Living costs in Germany are relatively affordable. However, rent in Cologne is higher than in other cities due to housing shortages. Other expenses, such as food and transportation, were reasonable, and student discounts were available for many services.

### **Food**

Cologne offers a wide range of dining options, from traditional German cuisine to international dishes. There are numerous restaurants, cafes, and street food markets catering to different tastes and budgets.

## **Nightlife**

The city has a lively nightlife, with a variety of bars, clubs, and student-friendly events. There are many options for socializing, from casual pubs to larger club venues hosting themed nights and live music.

## **Tips**

- Start searching for accommodation as early as possible due to the high demand.
- Take advantage of the university's social events to meet new people and integrate quickly.
- Use the student semester ticket for free regional travel.
- Try local foods and explore the city's cultural landmarks.

## **How Did This Exchange Experience Add Value to Your Studies at Coller?**

This exchange experience was invaluable for my academic and personal growth. The exposure to a different educational system and practical business-oriented courses expanded my knowledge and perspective. Networking opportunities and cultural immersion enriched my overall learning experience, making it a highly beneficial addition to my studies at Coller.