

THE HHL EXPERIENCE

A. Ways of getting scholarships either in India or abroad and getting other funding there (Rooms, grants)

Students going to HHL Germany get scholarship from DAAD, Germany which also has an office in Delhi. IIML students gets 2 scholarships of Euro 2860 each (Euro 715 * 4 months). After getting selected by the exchange committee, the students need to collect the scholarship forms from the exchange coordinator and need to submit these sometime by end June. However, they should remember to collect two merit certificates from Profs. in IIML before leaving the campus. Other documents required would be attested copies of some marksheets, a medical certificate from their authorized doctors (the one in Lucknow is dead for long) etc. The scholarship is sufficient to cover all the expenses and therefore we didn't explore for any more scholarships.

B. Visa Requirements

The visa formalities needs to be taken care of only after we get a confirmation about the DAAD scholarship which would be around first week of August. The DAAD scholarships also take care of the Visa fees and its much faster to get visa when we have the DAAD letter with us. It took us just one day.

C. Lodging Details.

This was the best part for us. We coordinated with students of IIMA, B and C during our summers and we all agreed to stay together. The person to contact would be Ms. Katrin Dietzold (katrin@dietzold.com). She helped us to find a flat of 4 rooms which we 7 shared and the per head cost came to Euro 90 per month which was very cheap compared to around 250 which other people were paying for single accommodation rooms.

D. Supermarkets and shopping

Liepzig is a very cheap place. Check out for ALDI stores (its a European chain) - one is right there in the main station and LIDL. You can also try searching for ASIA BISTRO stores in Augustusplatz.

E. Transport

We got a discounted student ticket for the trams. It's the most convenient mode of travel in Leipzig. It costed us Euro 50 but was worth it as the single tickets are very costly. Regarding the travel to other parts of Europe, we hired a car and it was great fun. Check out for Europcar in main station.

F. What to take from India

Travel light while going to Germany. You will get very cheap clothes and other stuff during Christmas sale and you have to carry all your luggage by yourself. Take spices from here. But otherwise, you will get all other stuff (Rice, salt, sugar, oil,) there itself. Definitely, one should take a cooker with him/her. Take small gift items for students there.

G. Cheapest way to get currency

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H. Professors to contact there

The contact persons there are Mr. Frank Hoffmann and Ms. Marcela Parodi, who are in the International Relations committee.

I. Possibility of Research Assistantships

The work permit rules allow students with DAAD scholarship to work for a maximum of Euro 300 per month. There are many research projects available there, for which you have to bid. However, since they require complete dedication for throughout the term, none of us took one.

J. Name of the Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Frank Hoffmann and Ms. Marcela Parodi

K. Good courses

There are two types of courses available there-

1. International MBA courses
2. Diploma courses.

While Diploma courses were exceptionally good and the diploma students are also very informed, we found the international MBA courses to be mediocre. However, they were planning to merge the two streams.

Courses taken by us:

1. International Finance - very good Prof. and course content, a definite for a finance student.
2. Risk Management - Again, very good content and teaching methodology.
3. Managerial Leadership - It has lots of talks from various distinct personalities from the business world. Only one paper submission.
4. SCM - Good course.
5. International Economics - Very tough. I studied it the most and still fear failing it. Be sure before taking it that you can manage it.
6. Entrepreneurial Finance - Don't take it.

Other courses, which you should take includes International Management. They had a skit and it was fun.

L. Dates for arrival and departure

The semester at HHL started for us on 25th September. They have 2 week long induction module and the regular classes start only after that. Since our 4th term ended on 7th September, we were able to reach there only on 9th September and missed 4 days of regular classes.

M Comparative experiences of students of other IIMs (If different from IIML students)

Not much different. We were staying together and had almost similar experiences.