

## **Experiences on being an exchange student in Cologne, Germany**

I am a Chinese student coming from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. I went to Germany last year and stayed for 10 month in Germany. Now, I want to share my feelings with the coming international students.

### **1. Language**

- 1) English is totally enough for living, German people can speak English very well except for some old ones. It no problem that you could not speak German. But it is better that you learn of some basic words and sentences before you come.
- 2) University of Cologne offer free German courses for exchange students, so you can join the language course and meet a lot of international students.

### **2. Living**

- 1) I guess that the costs in Germany are lower than in many other countries in Europe. 600 Euro is enough for living if you don't go travelling.
- 2) You can get nearly everything in Cologne, even Chinese food. There are several Asian supermarkets in Cologne where you can buy many Chinese stuffs.
- 3) You may live in dormitory offered by Studentenwerk. It is cheaper than private ones, but it may be a little far from the university. You will have roommates from other countries, so it is important for you to obey some rules and keep the room clean.

### **3. Courses**

- 1) If you are not good at German, you can choose courses in English. Teachers are really nice and can help you deal with your paper and presentation.
- 2) The atmosphere is lively and nearly everyone could join in and learn some knowledge. Try to be brave and make some statements in class, you can learn more if you discuss more actively with other students.

### **4. Travel**

- 1) Travel is an important topic for exchange students. You can make some traveling plan during the Christmas holiday and the semester break. Seeing more cities can help you know more about the world and keep a good mood all the time. So, don't be afraid, just go out!
- 2) Travelling by bus could be the cheapest way, but there are also some special offers by the DB and the air company. You can check on their website.

In a word, I think Cologne is really a nice city and Germany is a great country! I love Germany and German people. They are quite kind, polite and helpful. I hope you can have a nice time Germany, too.

Chenxi LI  
17.09.2014