

Xin chào! I'm Trinh Nguyen. I am one of Vietnamese Exchange student. I study in University of Labour - Social Affairs II, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (ULSA2) and I came for exchange during the winter semester 2020/2021, here in Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Freiburg im Breisgau (KH).

As a student majoring in Human Resource Management this exchange in Social Work, it is an extremely interesting and encouraging thing for me. I am passionate about everything related to people and that's what I'm looking forward to working with, so social work is a better choice for me to learn how. Besides excitement for new experiences, there still are some indispensable difficulties surrounding language, because I'm used to speaking and studying only in my native language, we also had to learn a few subjects in German. The German language really needs a lot of investment, before we can use it for communication, we need to learn it. But if we could speak German, that would be a pretty big advantage for us to expand our relationship and better understand their culture.

Returning to the subject a bit, we are quite fortunate to be able to study interesting subjects during this semester, because in Vietnam we have never heard of them before, we don't study Refugees, or other cultures like in the International seminars. It provides a completely new and special knowledge to us. Not only about the subject, but we study with professors who are extremely dedicated and quite interested in their two international students. It is important to mention Ms. Naomi. She is a teacher, although she doesn't teach us any subject, she offers her help, she supports us with everything. She knew it would be difficult if we had to do it by ourselves and she still cares about us with the smallest things.

I love to help people that need it. That's why I loved to study about refugees and how Germany wants to help them and I also learned what I want to do. Subjects like social work and education with refugees showed us the reality of the refugee issue and shows the humanity of the refugee accepting countries, especially Germany. With this subject, I am fortunate to be in a group of friends who are quite interested in it, so I also have the opportunity to study and learn more about things related to the subject through discussion topics and group presentations.

Besides things related to university, I can't help but mention the students residence of the KH at Margarete Ruckmich Haus (MRH). A place marked me

with many memories of KH students and international students that live here, like us. Being at the MRH makes me very happy. I met a lot of new friends and they are extremely amazing who always support and help us as much as possible. They created many encounters to eat together and chat all night, etc. Most of them are Germans, living on our floor, we are the only international students. Everyone knows how to behave and always create a pleasant atmosphere for everyone. Smiles and greeting "Hallo!" when we see each other in the hallways, everybody is indispensable for everyone here. The warmth of those small but big significant things made me feel more fond of this place, especially my big group of friends. The closeness of everyone is a part that makes me much less homesick.

And finally, it is indispensable for me to mention Freiburg, the place to embellish the story of an international student girl like me. Freiburg is an old city so all the architecture here is very wonderful. Plus, the sun cannot leave this place, so it always makes us feel warm in the cold winter wind. This city of sunlight is really easy to please, for people like me, adds special meaning for me with all the rows of green trees, surrounding mountains and even a huge lake next to their dormitory with a few hundred steps coming. The Freiburg space is just as excellent.

Now I've been here for almost a semester and will continue my studies here throughout the summer term. Over that time, I have changed a lot in all aspects. I really thank the teachers and friends who have taught me, provided me with a lot of knowledge, willing to talk, to correct a kid who is improving her English and teach her German until her throat is hoarse, and tolerating the scent of fish sauce in the floor, because it is a very popular smell in Vietnam that Germans find a little bit awkward.

Actually, I had a memorable experience despite the limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It's good to study online and stay at home.

Once again, I would like to show my gratitude towards ULSA2, KH, my teachers and all my beloved friends.

Danke für alles!

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