

# Incoming – von der Ukraine zum Auslandssemester nach Tübingen

Viktoriia Kocherzhuk ist 19 Jahre alt und studiert im 5. Semester den Bachelorstudiengang *International Business*. Anfang Oktober kam sie von der *Ivan Franko National University of L'viv* in der Ukraine zum Auslandsstudium an den Fachbereich Wirtschaftswissenschaft. WiWi NEWS hat die ukrainische Studentin gefragt, wie sie ihr Auslandssemester an der Universität Tübingen erlebt.



*Ivan Franko National University of L'viv /Ukraine. Gegründet 1661 von Johann II. Kasimir, König von Polen, Titularkönig von Schweden, Großfürst von Litauen.*

*Gibt ein bisschen Ähnlichkeit mit der Neuen Aula der Universität Tübingen?*

*(Photo of a monument in Ukraine, number: 46-101-1748)*

**WiWi News: Viktoriia, when and why did you decide to study abroad in Germany and Tübingen?**

I am a third-year student and I came to Tübingen at the beginning of October. This cute, beautiful, cozy and at the same time lively town immediately stole my heart.

**What expectations did you have when you came to Tübingen?**

I was dreaming of participating in the Erasmus+ program since school. I wanted to study in Germany because it's a well-developed country with nice people and good quality of education. 8 months ago, I noticed some exchange program offers. I visited websites and watched videos about different universities and I liked Tübingen the most. Old, mysterious building and modern, bright classes, together with professional teachers and happy students looks like a perfect university. I would like to draw special attention to the library. It is a large building, which has a huge amount of various literature, and comfortable places for studying and working in a team.

**How do you like the University of Tübingen especially school of Business and Economics?**

I enjoy studying here. The school of Business and Economics has a huge variety of subjects. The only problem is that most of the subjects are taught in German language (especially for Bachelor's). However, I still had an opportunity to choose some interesting subjects in English. I am visiting Financial & Tax Accounting for Exchange students, Global Strategy, International Institutions and Global Governance, Introduction to Business English and International Marketing classes. What I like about these subjects is that all the teachers are modern, all the course material is presented in an interesting way, the lectures are like Ted talk shows, and the curriculum is well organized.

**What are the main differences between the University L'viv and Tübingen? Where are there similarities? Are there special forms of teaching or learning here or there you didn't know before?**

There are some differences between my home University in L'viv and Tübingen University. The biggest difference is that I had twice more subjects in Ukraine. At L'viv University we usually have 3 credits for 1 subject, while here the usual number of credits for a Bachelor's degree course is 6. As for me, it's better to have a smaller number of subjects and spend more time studying them properly. Another big difference is that in Ukraine we don't have just lecture courses. We usually have seminars together with lectures. During the seminars, we are getting a better understanding of the topic. It is much easier to remember the material and to pass the exam when you have first listened to one topic in the lecture and then discussed it during the seminar. The similarity I have noticed is that students are very socially active, ambitious, talented and easygoing in both universities.

**Please tell us about your contact with other students**

I liked the students here on the very first day. They are friendly, tolerant, intelligent, always ready to help and support. I met a lot of nice people, who I am always happy to talk to. It's an incredible experience when you can discover so many cultures, different backgrounds and mindsets in one place.

**Do you like to tell us about the situation in Ukraine for your family, the people and your fellow students you know there?**

Talking about the war in Ukraine, I can say, that it is something that always hurts. My independent, sovereign and democratic country is suffering. Thousands of people are dying. They could have lived an amazing life with their families in their home country, but Russia has broken their plans. I couldn't imagine such a big war in the 21st century in Europe. I believe that all people should understand the scale of the problem and support Ukraine in such difficult times. Only together we can overcome evil.

I live in the western part of Ukraine and my hometown is not occupied. However, the military airfield in my hometown was bombed on the first day of the war, and it was one of the scariest mornings of my life. I don't wish anyone to know what it's like to wake up to the sound of the siren alarm, to go to a bomb shelter several times a day during threats of missile attacks, and to be frightened to sleep at night. But what I experienced is nothing compared to what people in the east of Ukraine experienced. A lot of them don't have family, work, pets, or houses anymore. We are grateful to all the countries, which support Ukraine. We appreciate the help of all of the people, who have provided a home and support to Ukrainian refugees. You are amazing!

**What does the war mean to your further plans?**

It is extremely hard to build long-lasting plans in Ukraine now. This exchange program with Tübingen University gave me an opportunity to get more knowledge, meet some incredible and nice people and distract from the war for a little bit. Of course, I can't forget about it even for one day, but I can live a bit more fulfilling life. Thank you for that!

What I know for sure is that my friends and I have to study hard, because my country will need smart and well-skilled people. We are those people who will build a new and even better Ukraine in the future.

I wish every person on the planet to live in safety and freedom! I wish peace to the whole world!

**Thanks a lot for joining this interview!**

*Das Interview führte Ramona Gresch*