

## EU Campus German Online Spring Program 2021 Report

### EU Campus Office

Doshisha EU Campus at Tübingen University (hereinafter referred to as the EU Campus) had been offering a study abroad program, however since the Spring semester 2020, students have not been able to travel to the EU Campus due to the effects of the Novel Coronavirus infection. Despite such a difficult situation due to the COVID-19 related crisis, Doshisha University wanted to provide students with an opportunity for international communication by taking advantage of our overseas campus, EU Campus German Online Spring Program 2021 was conducted in real time using Zoom from March 1 to March 26, with 10 students participating.

In addition to the German classes, the students had the opportunity to hear from Tübingen citizens about their experiences with the COVID-19 related crisis and to interact with international students and students from Japanese department enrolled at Tübingen University. At the end of the program, the students were able to improve their German language skills to the point where they could give a presentation in German. The program was also very fruitful as the students improved not only their language skills but also their positive attitude and cross-cultural understanding.

Here is a summary of the program and the participating students' impressions.

### A weekly schedule

|   | Mon    | Tue                                       | Wed                 | Thu           | Fri    |
|---|--------|---|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| 8:00-9:30<br>(German time)<br>16:00-17:30<br>(JPN time)   | German | German                                    | Presentation Skills | German        | German |
| 10:00-10:45<br>(German time)<br>18:00-18:45<br>(JPN time) | German | Communication with international students |                     | Guest Speaker | German |

**German:** Learned topics including the geography of Tübingen, the characteristics of the city, and university life, as well as a review of grammar items. All the explanations were given in German. At first, some of the participants were stunned as they could not

understand the instructor's German, but as the program progressed, they naturally began to understand.

**Presentation Skills:** In the final week, the students introduced Japanese culture in German. At first, the students thought they cannot give a presentation in German, but thanks to the four-week intensive German study, all the students managed to give excellent presentations.

**Guest Speaker:** During the program, the students interacted with various people.

1 The students learned about the experience of the COVID-19 related crisis from a citizen of Tübingen (an oboe player, a Japanese medical personnel, and three junior high school students) and learned about the differences between the countermeasures against the Novel Coronavirus in Japan and Germany.

2 The students learned about a student life from seven international students came from European countries and one from Japan. All of them spoke German fluently, which was very stimulating.

3 The students and students from Japanese department of Tübingen University introduced each other's favorite places and promised to meet again in Kyoto or Tübingen.

#### Student Comments

This online program has made me more confident in German, greatly increased my motivation, and most importantly, made me love Germany and the German language more. In the future, I would like to take German classes at the university based on the experience of this program and study hard to achieve my goal of studying in Germany.

I used to think that studying abroad was meaningless if I didn't learn it on site. However, I realized that it is possible to practice the language online, and there are enough great opportunities online to experience a lot of German culture. Of course, I would like to go back to Germany again once the effects of the Novel Coronavirus are over. However, I learned through this program that learning online now is also an irreplaceable asset so that I can learn more the next time I go to Germany.

#### ~After finishing the Program

In addition to improving their German language skills, the students were able to broaden their horizons by coming into contact with people with different experiences and values through the program.

We found that potential of online study abroad as we see that the students were able to have this kind of impression similar to that of traveling to study abroad.

Since it has become more difficult to travel abroad, universities all over the world have started to offer online study abroad programs, and they are no longer rare. However, we believe that it is because of the EU Campus that we were able to offer such a unique and highly satisfying program to the students.

With the continued support of the University of Tübingen and based on our relationship, we were able to include both "the similar content as when held on site" and "content that can only be learned through the COVID-19 related crisis". We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to conduct the EU Campus program there, and until then, we will continue the EU Campus project by using the online format.