EXCHANGE REPORT	Name	Year and term for exchange
	SANSKAR GUPTA	WINTER SEMESTER 2021

Exchange university
Technische Universität München

Degree programme
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING OF DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS

My exchange experience at Technische Universität München

Before departure

I always wanted to experience the German education system.Technical University of Munich being the best technical university in Germany made me to select as my first choice while applying for exchange.The informatics

department at TUM is highly praised and ranked across the world , hence I wanted a taste of it along with large learning expectations.
There were no language preparations required as such before departure but knowing a bit of German makes life
easier in Munich.

Upon arrival

The semester at TUM starts in October which is quite different from most of the European universities. I arrived in Munich 1 month late from the starting date of semester due to some visa issues.Even Though I arrived late there were still lots of events for exchange students. Every exchange student is assigned a mentor who is responsible to transfer knowledge about the dynamics of university and also to inform about any ongoing events for exchange students. There were events like pub crawls , museum visits and hiking trips.

The student union in Munich is known as Studentenwerk .They are always open for any queries and even conduct regular events to get along with regular course students at various universities in Munich.

Financials

I received the erasmus grant for my semester abroad at TUM.As far as country is concerned Germany is cheaper than Sweden for sure but Munich can be super expensive in terms of accommodation .Accomodation in Munich is far more expensive than Stockholm especially for students. but one cannot deny the fact that alcohol is pretty cheap along with some groceries.

Accommodation

Finding a student budget friendly accommodation in Munich is more like finding a needle in a haystack that too in dark. TUM was kind enough to provide accommodation through Studentenwerk for the whole semester in one of their dorms.This made my life much easier as I could divert my energy on studies instead of changing houses every month which is not so uncommon among students in Munich.

The dorm was located in the suburban part of the city but there was a direct bus to the Garching campus where the informatics department is located. If for some reasons the university is not providing accommodation , start searching for apartments at least 2 months before your arrival.Some of the most popular websites to search for accomodation are facebook groups and https://www.wg-gesucht.de/

Some tips to save money on food and travel include buying the semester ticket costing around 200 euros for the whole semester.Try to buy groceries from discount stores like Lidl, Aldi, Penny etc.Just like Sweden one can recycle plastic bottles and cans ,so make sure not to throw them away.

University and studies

TUM is a magnificent campus as far as Garching is concerned .One can easily get lost trying to figure out the correct buildings. The campus also has Max Plank institute of Astrophysics , a nuclear reactor .Leibniz supercomputing

centre etc.One of the major differences TUM hold is there is not period system.Exams of all subjects are conducted at the end of semester ,so it can be become hectic at times to manage all the subjects together.Also the course content as significantly larger as compared to courses at KTH.
There are lots of options available to choose for language courses .One good thing about TUM is ,one can register for as many courses as they want themselves from their TUM online account .I have seen many students registering for courses 1 week before exams , studying for them in a week and clearing them.

Courses

While choosing the courses at your host university one has to make sure that all the conditionally elective courses are completed at KTH. If not, it's the responsibility of students to find similar courses at the host university .In my case I had to find 2 conditionally elective courses at TUM which can be mapped to courses at KTH.

It is to be noted that course credits can differ at both the universities, so it is advised to see the course contents and talk with your programme coordinator at KTH about them.
Other than these 2 conditionally elective courses I took 2 elective courses at TUM out of which 2 were project based and one was seminar.

The project based courses were a great learning experience. For instance, one of the courses expected us to develop a distributed key value store from scratch .The benefit of these types of courses are the self learnings and some great project additions to your Github profile.

City and country

Being a non EU national coming to Sweden was already a cultural shock for me which got even stronger when I moved to Germany. In my opinion life is slightly more difficult as compared to Sweden owing to language problems and starting your life from scratch again in a new country.

Leisure and social activities

There were lots of events organised by the MINGA community and studentenwerk which helped me to meet with my fellow peers and make some friends.
In my spare time I used to roam around the city to discover new places and lots of solo museum trips.

Munich being located in heart of central Europe makes it easier to travel to neighbouring countries like
Italy , Austria, Switzerland, France. For instance, the Austrian border is just 2 hours away from Munich by bus.
Munich has one of the largest bus stations where you can direct buses to cities like Rome , Paris , Venice, Zurich etc.