International Experience & Communication Skills
module
TUM-BWL Bachelor

Section: International Experience (3 ECTS credits)

Report guidelines

Formal requirements:
- 15,000-20,000 characters (excl. spaces; approx. 6-8 pages)
- In German or English
- Must be submitted as a text file (e.g. in Word) electronically

Structure (mandatory):
1. Description of the international experience
2. Similarities and differences between your own culture and the culture(s) of the people in your social environment
3. Example of an intercultural conflict, difficulty, etc.
4. Concluding thoughts

Guidelines for each part of the report:
1. Description of the international experience (max. 1/3 of total number of characters, excl. spaces)
   - How did I organize my international experience (e.g. period abroad, project)?
   - Where was I, for how long, and what did I do?
   - What were the conditions like (e.g. accommodation, standard of living)?
   - Who did I have contact with, and what form did this contact take?
   - Etc.
2. Similarities and differences between your own culture and the culture(s) of the people in your social environment
   - How did the people around me behave and what struck me the most?
   - In what ways was their behavior different or similar to mine?
   - In what ways were my own culture and the culture(s) of the people around me similar?
   - In what ways were my own culture and the culture(s) of the people around me different?
   - What do those similarities and differences say about me and my culture?
   - Everybody is always first and foremost an individual. What does that say about my perceptions?
   - Please note: We are interested here in differences and similarities on an interpersonal level, not geographical differences, differences in the climate, etc.
3. Example of an intercultural conflict, difficulty, etc.
   - Structure: Description – How I interpreted the situation – How the other people involved interpreted the situation (change of perspective) – Reflection
   - Think about a specific situation in which you felt strange or uncomfortable, where differences became evident, where difficulties or conflicts arose, or where you were simply surprised (the situation can also be a funny one).
   - What was the situation?
     - When?
     - Where?
     - Who was involved?
   - What was the problem, the cause of the conflict or the reason I felt uncomfortable, etc?
   - How did I interpret the situation at the time?
   - What did the other person or people involved probably think? Why may they have acted as they did?
   - How did I react at the time? How did I attempt to solve the problem?
   - How would I interpret the situation now? What other interpretations are possible?
   - Looking back, what alternative reactions or attempts to solve the problem on my part would have been possible – or maybe even better?

4. Concluding thoughts
   - How did I benefit from my time abroad (project, etc.) in terms of intercultural or international experience?
   - What did I learn about myself?
   - What did I discover about my own culture?
   - What did I discover about other people and their culture(s)?
   - What did I learn about interculturalism/intercultural communication?

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