

Employability (made) in Germany

Studying at a university of applied sciences adds a practical element to a study abroad experience. As the name suggests, teaching and research focus on the application of knowledge. Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg) students have internships as part of their studies, and engineering and business students in particular complete their Bachelor and/or Master's thesis in industry.

The professors have worked in industry before joining the university, so students are offered an insight into real life problem-solving in engineering and business management. Many professors maintain close links to industry, facilitating internships and research projects for Bachelor and Master students.

Lab work and projects are also important elements of the curriculum and enable students to apply the theory they learn in class and develop their teamwork, project management and communication skills. Study abroad students can experience and benefit from all these aspects during their study semester in Hamburg.

58%

In an AIFS Alumni Outcomes survey 58% of respondents said study abroad contributed to "developing skills and intercultural competencies which contributed to obtaining my first job after graduation."³

70%

In an IIE survey 70% of respondents said study abroad helped to significantly develop or improve their intercultural skills, flexibility and adaptability, self-awareness, curiosity and confidence.⁴

⁴ IIE Report: Gaining an Employment Edge: The Impact of Study Abroad on 21st Century Skills & Career Prospects – 2017

³ Adapted from IIE Report: Gaining an Employment Edge: The Impact of Study Abroad on 21st Century Skills & Career Prospects – 2017 © IIE 2017

STUDY ABROAD IN ENGLISH



For students who would like to put Germany on their resumé, but don't speak (enough of) the language, the HAW Hamburg offers classes in a wide range of subjects in English:

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Automotive Engineering
- Biotech & Environment
- Computer Science
- Design & Art
- Digital Information
- Information Engineering
- International Business
- Mechanical Engineering
- Media & Film
- Nursing & Healthcare
- Nutrition & Health
- Social Work

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EMPLOYABILITY (MADE) IN GERMANY

A career formula



Skills for the 21st century workplace

Today's graduates face new challenges as they start out in an increasingly global and digital world. Employers are looking not just for academic knowledge, but for interpersonal skills such as the ability to communicate across cultures in global markets and to work well in international teams and across international borders. Prospective employees should also be confident, flexible and able to adapt easily to new situations.

Career skills learned abroad

Many students talk of the skills they acquired outside of the classroom during a study semester or year abroad. The challenges of integrating into a new culture and a new education system, often living on their own for the first time, builds their confidence and makes them more well-rounded students. As part of an international community they are confronted with viewpoints different to their own and being immersed in a foreign language makes them more self-aware, curious and open to new cultures.

11%

A Gallup-Lumina study reported that only 11% of [US] business leaders strongly agree that US higher education institutions are producing graduates with the skills and competencies their business needs.¹

¹ Gallup: What America needs to know about higher education redesign: A Gallup and Lumina study on post-secondary education – 2014

² McKinsey: Education to employment. Designing a system that works – 2013

³ AIFS Alumni Outcomes report Phase II – 2018

60%

A McKinsey & Company survey of young people and companies in nine countries stated that 60% of employers felt new graduates were not adequately prepared for the world of work, with gaps in technical skills and soft skills such as communication and teamwork.²

A career formula

Studying abroad cultivates many of the intra-personal, cognitive and inter-personal skills that companies are looking for in new employees. Five US alumni tell how their study abroad experience at the HAW Hamburg prepared them for their careers.

**21ST CENTURY
WORKFORCE
SKILLS ⁵**

INTRA-PERSONAL



COGNITIVE



INTER-PERSONAL



“My semester abroad placed me in a professional atmosphere in an international setting which absolutely accelerated my own personal growth and maturity that was needed for my job out of college.”



Bard King

“As the world becomes even more globalized, international experiences are invaluable to engineers. Going abroad exposes you to different perspectives and approaches to engineering challenges, which in turn leads to better solutions.”



Nicole Pelliccia

“My study abroad was crucial for my current career path. I work in the field of global supply chain planning and speak more German (and now Spanish) on a daily basis than English. The study experience at the HAW Hamburg made this all possible.”



Dan Belbey

“Study abroad forced me to be more independent and work towards my goals. It taught me how to make connections with people who are different than me and it helped me be more competitive in the job market.”



Claudia Krah

BARD KING



Bard King, Senior Business Analyst Infrastructure Deutsche Bahn; international business graduate, University of Rhode Island: “My study abroad at the HAW Hamburg played an essential role in starting my career with Deutsche Bahn: Firstly, it introduced me to the German culture and ‘way of life’. I would never have been able to make the decision to move across the world and make such a strong commitment without having had first-hand experience of the country and culture. Secondly, it provided me enough time to learn and understand the language. Finally, I experienced different teaching methods and was able to work on my networking skills in an international environment. In summary, my semester abroad placed me in a professional atmosphere in an international setting which absolutely accelerated my own personal growth and maturity that was needed for my job out of college.

My semester in Hamburg also really opened my eyes to the rest of the world. For the first time, I experienced a different culture that allowed me to interact and live my daily life in a completely different way. This excitement in being fully integrated in an international surrounding was the reason for me coming back to Germany after graduation and triggered my passion for traveling and learning new cultures.”

NICOLE PELLICCIA



Nicole Pelliccia, Engineering Leadership Development Program, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company; aerospace engineering graduate, Virginia Tech: “The classes offered at the HAW Hamburg are taught by professors with industry experience. As part of our

courses we toured the Airbus facility, attended the Paris Air Show and received practical experience that perfectly complemented the theoretical concepts I studied in the US. My first summer after studying abroad in Hamburg, I interned for Bombardier Learjet in Wichita Kansas. After finishing my studies at Virginia Tech, I joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in their Engineering Leadership Development Program. I’ve rotated in design, manufacturing, and sustainment and continually apply the engineering principles I learned at the HAW Hamburg.

As the world becomes even more globalized, international experiences are invaluable to engineers. Going abroad exposes you to different perspectives and approaches to engineering challenges, which in turn leads to better solutions. Working collaboratively with engineers in other countries also helps improve your communication skills. Studying abroad opened my eyes to new cultures,

challenged me in unique ways and helped build my confidence. All of these skills played a positive role in my job search, and I can definitely say that the education I received abroad, both in and out of the classroom, continues to play a positive role in my career.”

JEREMY SCHOFIELD



Jeremy Schofield, Brand Manager, Ford-Works Cologne; business graduate, California State University, Long Beach: “I moved back to Germany just one year after participating in a year-long study abroad program at the HAW Hamburg, where I took classes in international business. Studying in Hamburg really helped me to understand the German business mentality and of course helped me to learn business German. My

DAN BELBEY



Dan Belbey, Supply Chain Planning, BMW South Carolina; international business (IBP) graduate, University of Rhode Island: “My study abroad was incredibly important and crucial for my current career path. I studied for a semester at the HAW Hamburg and then did a five-month internship with BMW in Munich. Having enjoyed this experience so much I returned to Germany with a Fulbright grant to complete the HAW Hamburg’s Master’s degree in International Business & Logistics. As part of this program I had the opportunity to work on an international research project within supply chain and logistics at Beiersdorf AG and write my Master’s thesis on the subject.

Fast-forward three years and I now work for a German company with production plants on almost every continent around the world. I started in BMW’s Global

Leader Development Program (GLDP) and during those one and a half years worked at company sites in the US, South Africa and Germany. After completing the program, I was offered a position to help launch the new BMW plant in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. I work in the field of global supply chain planning and speak more German (and now Spanish) on a daily basis than English. The study experience at the HAW Hamburg made this all possible.”

CLAUDIA KRAH



Claudia Krah, Facility Purchasing Manager, Georgia-Pacific, New Hampshire; supply chain management graduate, University of Rhode Island: “I spent a year in Germany, studying at the HAW

Hamburg and interning with Deutsche Bahn. I definitely think that this time in a foreign country helped me get started in my career for several reasons. Study abroad forced me to be more independent and work towards my goals. It taught me how to make connections with people who are different than me and it helped me be more competitive in the job market. I had job offers before I had even finished college.

After my German and Business / Supply chain management degrees from URI, I started working for Georgia-Pacific. Initially I was a buyer in Texas and then responsible for inventory in Mississippi and Washington State. I now live in New Hampshire working as a facility purchasing manager, responsible for the procurement of services, parts, and raw materials for three small manufacturing sites.”