

Why Mannheim (Germany)?

曼漢所在地點交通便利，離開曼漢去旅遊時可以到市中心搭火車到德國各地或是搭客運到鄰近的機場(杜賽朵夫、司徒加特)搭廉價航空。除此之外，在曼漢裡面也有公車、輕軌可以搭，想要機動性更強的還有隨租隨用滑板車可以騎，所以在曼漢可以說是不太需要煩惱交通問題，去歐洲各國也算方便。

在日常生活方面，曼漢的物價比起法國、荷蘭來說算是很平易近人，生鮮蔬果跟台灣的價格不會差很多，有些東西像乳製品、肉類甚至會比台灣便宜，印象最深刻的就是可樂 1 公升大約才 1 歐元，所以我到超市常常會帶一大瓶可樂回家。住的方面學校宿舍 B7(浴廁廚房與室友共用)的價格大約 350 歐元，也不會太難以接受。

總結來說，在中山的交換學校中，如果想要體驗歐洲的生活，我非常推薦來曼漢大學，既不會太偏僻，生活費也不會花太多，是個 CP 值很高的選擇。

關於物價可參考 <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>

Why University of Mannheim?

曼漢大學是德國最好的商學院，因此也有很多國家的學生會來念書，來交換時有機會與來自各國的學生交流，而且大部分的老師、行政人員也都會說英語，所以不會講德語的同學也不必擔心，溝通上不太會遇到問題。英語授課的課程也很多元，像商學院裡面英語授課課程就有財務、行銷、管理等相關課程，除了商學院也有社會科學、心理、資訊等相關英語授課的課程。像我就是去德國之前完全沒學德語的人，但在曼漢大學上課完全不會德語，也不會遇到困難，而對於想加強德語的同學，也可以依程度選修德文課。

學校對於國際學生也提供了很多資源、活動。像是可以申請當地的學伴、一系列的新生導覽活動，參訪等等，所以到了曼漢會幫助你快速融入當地生活，了解曼漢的歷史文化，而且也不用怕沒有事情做，有各式各樣的活動派對如國際美食週可以參加。此外還有 VISUM 社團，是當地學生組成，專門舉辦活動讓國際生與當地學生交流的活動，像我就有參加 VISUM 辦的幾次派對，以及跟去海德堡、新天鵝堡的團。



國際美食週



新天鵝堡

Courses Introduction

對我來說出國交換的目的除了到處旅遊，體驗國外上課教學也是不可或缺的。而曼漢大學的選課規定我覺得比起中山來說十分自由，學生可以在學期開始時登記課程，只有比較熱門的課程有可能會選不到，但不像中山還需要點數，大部分的課程只要登記即可。到了學期中有一段時間會讓學生登記要不要考期末考，如果不考期末考就拿不到學分，而超過期間還想要登記就會被罰錢。

這樣的選課機制對學生來說比較沒壓力，因為不登記考試，課程就不會出現在成績單上。以我為例，我在學期初就登記了大約十堂課程，課程剛開始時都去試聽，如果不喜歡的課程之後就不去上。到最後登記考試時我只登記三堂，其他的課程有些我一開始試聽後，覺得不是很有興趣我就沒再去上，而有些課程就可以純旁聽，沒有考試的壓力。

The courses that I gained credit from are MAN 450 Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Business Model Design, MKT 351 Marketing Management Decisions, and Guest Lecture (Germany – Europe's economic powerhouse – seen from a cultural perspective in comparison to Asian markets and cultures).

MAN 450 Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Business Model Design

This course is a course for students who want to have deeper connection with other foreign students, because you have to team up with others, and design a business plan together. It's kind of challenging for me because I'm not used to talk to foreign students in English at first. Nonetheless, I am proud of myself that I stepped out of my comfort zone to take part in this course. I not only finished this course with my 6 teammates from 5 different countries (I was the only Asian!), I also got a nice grade (1.7) with the online final presentation. If you want to challenge yourself in your exchange, try this, and you won't regret it!

MKT 351 Marketing Management Decisions

Due to the COVID-19, this course became an online course. Professor recorded the videos and students had to take the courses via ILIAS. I was a procrastinator, so I took all the courses just few days before the final exams. However, I still could tell that the professor put a great deal of efforts in the course. The structure of the courses is really clear and well-organized, so I could easily get the whole picture of the main ideas. As for the final exam, students could check all the materials of the course during the exam, so students didn't have to cram up all the knowledge taught in the courses. Overall, I would say that if you want to learn some marketing knowledge without feeling stressful, this course is your first choice.

Guest Lecture (Germany – Europe's economic powerhouse – seen from a cultural perspective in comparison to Asian markets and cultures)

This course also turned into an online course because of the COVID-19. However, this course is still the most interesting course that I have ever taken! One of the lecturers is Ryan Hayashi. If you google his name, you will find that he is a Canadian magician as well as a Karate expert, and he also has his official website and a Youtube channel. In the videos, he introduced the culture of three Asian countries: Japan, Korea, and China to students from all over the world. Due to his Western and Oriental culture background, he compared these three countries with other Western countries in a unique viewpoint. Although I am a Taiwanese student, I still could learn many new things from his lecture. Besides, he showed us some clips of his performance on TV, his interaction with people from different countries, and his Karate school, which made the course much more interesting.

To sum up, I would recommend these three courses to students who come to University of Mannheim in spring semester. These courses are all interesting and insightful, and you would definitely learn from these courses.