

Study Abroad Return Report

International Winter University (IWU) at Philipps-Universität Marburg

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1. Introduction

I participated in the winter seasonal semester short-term exchange program at the University of Marburg, Germany, from January 10 to January 23, 2026. The program structure consisted of German language classes during the first week and Life Science classes during the second week.



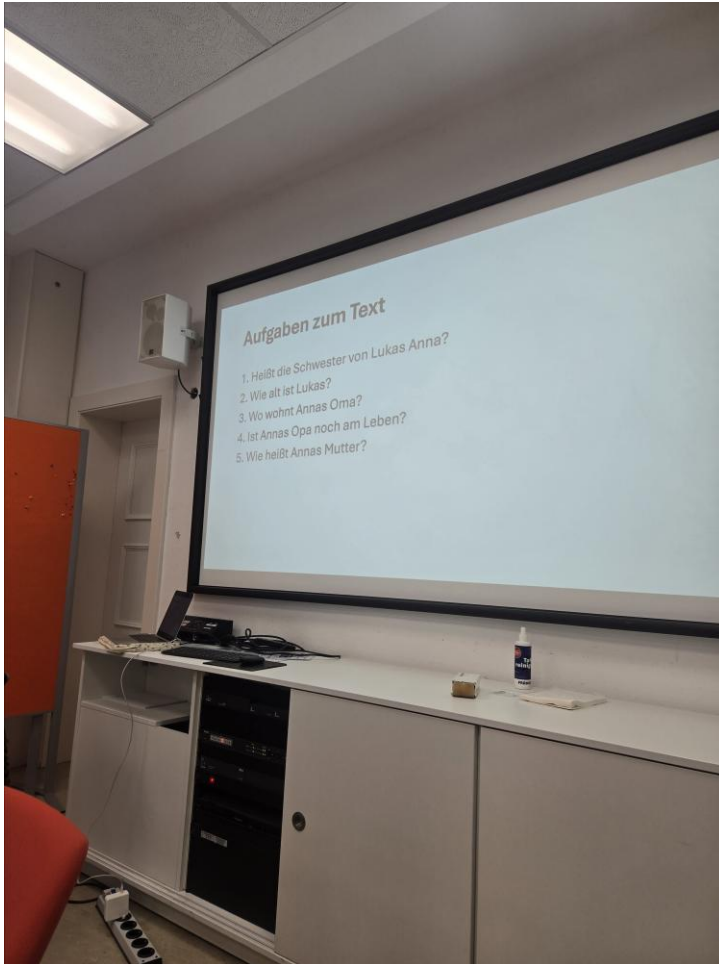
2. Lectures

German Language Lectures

The course was tailored to the participants' proficiency levels. As most participants had no prior knowledge of German, the instruction began with the fundamentals.

Two instructors conducted the classes using PowerPoint. However, the difficulty level was not low; the lack of distributed worksheets or textbooks made it challenging to retain previously learned material.

Despite the challenges, the instructors were extremely approachable and provided kind, detailed answers whenever students expressed confusion.



Life Science Lectures

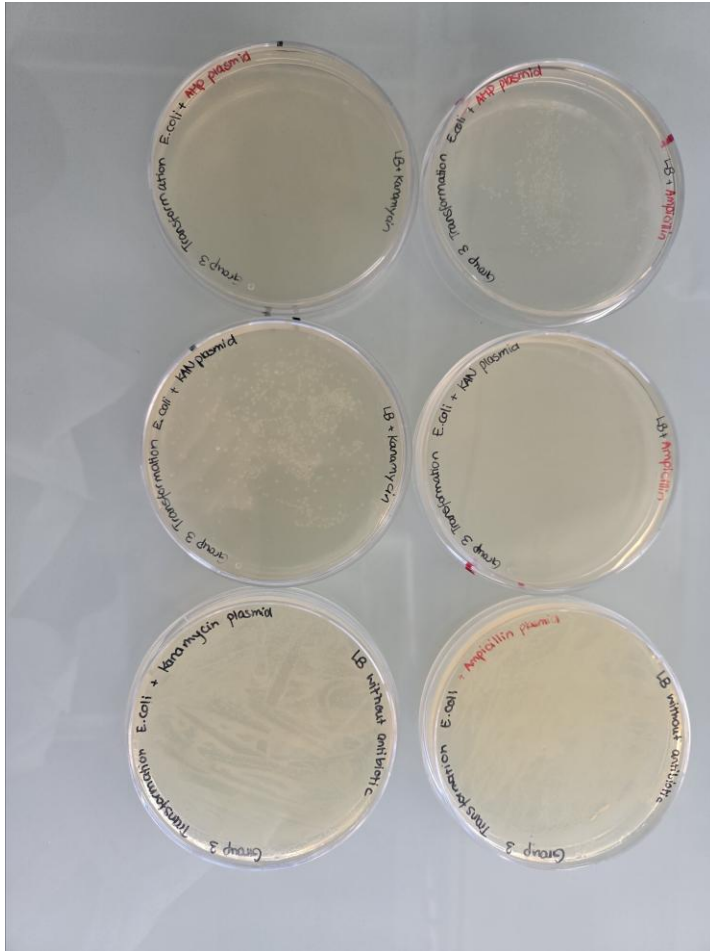
The Life Science curriculum was divided into two main fields: Microbiology and Ecology.

About microbiology, we observed how bacteria grow using antibiotics and agar plates.

About ecology, we observed algae occurring in rivers.

Although the lectures were adjusted for non-majors, the difficulty remained significant. It was challenging to immediately comprehend lectures conducted using technical English terminology in the biological sciences, making it difficult to grasp the precise significance of the ongoing experiments.

Conversely, the design of the experiments themselves was simple. I was able to participate by following the instructions on how to handle equipment such as droppers and beakers.



3. Dormitory

Students are assigned single-occupancy rooms. There are several dormitory buildings located close to one another.

The dormitory is not particularly close to the city center or the academic buildings. It takes approximately 30 minutes on foot or 15 minutes by bus to commute.

The dormitory was generally clean; however, as the buildings are old, the facilities are not modern. I was also surprised to discover a cockroach in my room.

4. Daily Life

Marburg is a small university city deeply connected to the history of the University of Marburg's founding. It is quiet and has a diverse yet safe atmosphere due to the influx of students from various nationalities. The city features many historic, beautiful, and charming buildings.

The nearest major city is Frankfurt. You will invariably pass through Frankfurt when entering the country or traveling to other German cities.

The program includes weekend city tours of Marburg and Heidelberg, allowing students to enjoy sightseeing alongside their academic participation.

