

## Interview questions for international students at TH Köln

*Student's name: Luca*

*Home university: University of Padova*

*Degree program: Master in Management Engineering*

1. Please shortly describe the reason for your stay at TH Köln (e.g. topic of final thesis/project work, name of laboratory, name of supervisor etc.).

The goal of my stay in Cologne was to use statistical Methods to optimize the laser welding process of Nitinol (a memory shaped alloy) foils

2. Why did you choose to spend some time abroad in Germany/Cologne/at TH Köln?

I considered TH Köln a good destination for my thesis project because for my future plans having an experience in Germany could be useful and also having the opportunity to learn German was a plus. Cologne seemed like a nice city to live in but sadly the pandemic did not help.

3. What is the name of your exchange program/scholarship?

Erasmus+ for Traineeship

4. What were the most significant challenges during your stay abroad?

The first big challenge was finding a suitable accommodation for my stay and the second one was the complexity of the project.

5. Did you have any difficulties regarding your language skills?

No, I already had a good language level before coming to Germany.

6. Were the courses/exams/projects/working methods different from those in your home country?

Not by much. My university in Italy has more faculties (it is not technical) so it is not as highly focused in science subjects as TH.

7. What did you like most about Germany?

The culture and the atmosphere. Also the weather was surprisingly good compared to my expectations

8. What did you particularly like about TH Köln?

The people were very polite and friendly and the infrastructure of the laboratories were very equipped.

9. What did you miss most while being in Germany?

The food and the company of my friends and family.

10. How does student life at your home university differ from the one in Germany?

In Italy I was doing courses and taking exams meanwhile in Germany I had a master thesis project so I spent most of my time in the laboratory.

11. Would you recommend a stay abroad in Germany/at TH Köln?

Yes.

12. How could we have made your stay better?

Given the current situation with COVID, there was not much that the University could have done to improve my stay.

13. Would you have liked more support from TH Köln?

No it was sufficient. Maybe a little more support, willingness to help and transparency from Studierendenwerk.

14. Why should German students spend a semester abroad at your home university and in your home country?

We are a very multi-disciplinary university with a lot of influences from different backgrounds and cultures. The quality of the courses is good and there are a lot of student organizations where you can discover your interests. As for why to come to Italy I don't need to say much 😊.