

University of Mannheim

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Preparation of the application

The University of Mannheim has been one of the top tier business schools for years in Germany. Incoming local students of the Mannheim Master in Management program come from the best candidates with a bachelor's degree relevant to business according to the Germany education system. Hence, the composition of students is quite different from that of an MBA program, which often emphasizes on a diversity of background and experience. What does it mean to you? It means that the academic requirement at Mannheim Master in Management program is higher. Keep in mind what is your studying objective before deciding on which university you would like to study. Do some research to see if the program is the right fit for you. Crystal clear goals for your overseas study and an adequate understanding of the program can pave the way for your achievement.

After you are accepted as a dual degree student, their International Student Office will share with you a website dedicated to international students before your departure. It contains necessary information and schedule, including but not limited to online accommodation applications and frequently asked questions. It can almost solve your problems when you follow their instructions. Regarding the visa application, people always say the sooner you apply, the better it is. My personal experience is to apply for a certificate of deposit in a block account once receiving the admission letter from the University of Mannheim. Then I completed the visa application with two classmates in May before the application peak time in June. The regulations relevant to visa application might revise over time, so it is always better for you to find the updated information on the website of the German Institute Taipei. Recent experiences shared by bloggers are quite informative as well, so keep an eye on them.

Study at the University of Mannheim

The Mannheim Master in Management program offers a series of elective courses with a variety of areas. These areas include accounting, finance, management, marketing, information, and operations. Each field can be further divided into several sub-areas. Take management area, for instance. Its sub-area consists of human resources, public and non-profit management, strategic & international management, organization and innovation, small & medium-sized enterprises & entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility. Each sub-area has only one dedicated professor called the chair to design and teach most of the various elective courses related to the sub-area. Students are usually free to choose any elective courses in any area and sub-areas according to their preferences. However, special attention should be paid to the prerequisites of the research seminar and master thesis. Suppose you plan to write a thesis on strategic & international management. It is mandatory to take at least one or two elective courses related to the sub-area and its research seminar, depending on the respective chair's requirement.

Many courses are taught weekly, and a few are intensive courses which complete within one week at the earliest. Due to a large number of students in the program, more than 200 people attend together in popular classes, and some popular courses require a prior application to limit the number of participants. Here, the majority of the teaching methods belong to lectures. Still, students can raise their hands to ask questions and interact with professors at any time. At the same time, some courses will have additional exercise classes. Teaching assistants will lead students to solve problem sets or arrange a group project presentation. The exam and grading are quite different from NCCU, typically requiring you to jot down answers within one hour. In general, your grades will entirely depend on the final exam in many courses except for those with case studies and presentations.

There are two chances to take a final exam. One is at the end of the semester, and the other is at the end of winter vacation or summer vacation. Students have the autonomy to choose which one to take. If you have too many final exams within a semester, you might postpone one or two

tests to the end of the vacation. Although you have more time to prepare them during the holidays, a risk of re-examination after a half year or one year could happen if you fail to pass it. If you do not succeed in passing one specific elective course twice, which is equivalent to one failure at the end of the semester/the end of vacation and another one at the end of the vacation/the end of the next semester, you are not allowed to take this specific elective course anymore. As for mandatory subjects, you will get one "Joker" if not passing final exams twice for one compulsory course during the same semester. While obtaining another Joker, you will be dropped out of the program.

Campus life

The university provides plenty of community activities, such as learning, social, and sports ones. For example, students who are interested in entrepreneurship can join the entrepreneurial club. It holds an entrepreneurial experience sharing session to interact with all audiences in a relaxed place every two or three weeks. For someone who likes learning different languages or interacting with other international students from various countries and departments, you might have an interest in activities held for foreign exchange students in café L3 every Monday evening. In terms of sports courses, the ticket fee is reasonable for a student gym in D2, a swimming pool, and a ball court. There are also free aerobics, yoga, boxing classes available on weekdays, even on weekends.

The school has a student union organization called VISUM, which will design activities for international students, such as the buddy program. When you first arrive at the school, the buddy can give you the necessary advice and assistance. In addition, they will also organize various cultural and entertainment events, such as parties with different themes, running dinner, and so on. Every week you will receive their email about upcoming events so that you can have fun from the beginning of a semester to the half a month before the final exam. For students who want to learn German, the school provides a free course held once a week with a limited number of seats. If you are going to make significant progress, it is recommended to participate in intensive language courses outside the school at your own expense.

Everyday life

The school is located in the center of Mannheim city, and its main palace, the Baroque architecture, is one of the sightseeing spots. Neckar river and Rhine river are situated in the north and south of the city respectively, where you can picnic and exercise. A new benefit for all students started from 2019 fall. As long as your student status is valid, you can take a tram, bus, and train for free like the scope of semester tickets but within a restricted time from 7 pm to 6 am on weekdays as well as all day of the weekends and holidays. Heidelberg is around 20-mins distance by train from Mannheim. It is a lovely place to take a walk and hike, enjoying nature.

Many supermarkets, drugstores, and department stores are available within the quadrat of Mannheim city. Thus, the top priority for accommodation is to live in the quadrat area, such as B7, G7, N6, and R7, where the school has a collaborative third party providing housing. You can reach the school by walking for up to 15 minutes from each point of the quadrat. If you prefer living in a bigger space, you may choose a house outside of the quadrat. The school can be reached quickly about 15 minutes by a tram or a bus provided you schedule well in advance when living in other accommodation in cooperation with the school. However, if you have to go home late due to any events, the number of night trips will decrease with time, making you inconvenient. More than that, although the suburban supermarket is also near the accommodation, the type of store has few options.

There are plenty of small restaurants in the urban area. On average, a simple meal costs at least 5 to 15 euros. Food below 5 euros per meal is also available but few, such as 3 euros of Chinese style fried noodles and fried rice in M3 CHANG, and 2.5 to 3.5 euros of Döner Kebap (a kind of Turkish style burgers/sandwich) in many Turkish restaurants. The price of the buffet provided by the school cafeteria is 3 to 4.5 euros per meal. Its taste varies from person to person, and you will be amazed at it from time to time. If you are in a budget, cooking on your own is an alternative. By selecting ingredients carefully, the cost of food is possible to be comparable to that in Taiwan.

Conclusion

Regardless of your purpose of studying the program, concentrate on it thoroughly and execute it at your best. Through this international study experience, it can deeply expand your horizons and enhance global competitiveness.

