

Can you introduce yourself please?

My name is Mert Hasan Uslu. I am studying to be a secondary school teacher specializing in English at the University of Mersin, Turkey. I am 21 years old.

Which subject do you study and why do you live in Germany?

According to my research, German universities ensure so many opportunities for students and I have wanted to be a part of these. I wanted to use these opportunities to improve my German and English skills and to take part in great activities at the University of Hildesheim.

In addition, I always wanted to become a German teacher. Unfortunately, in Turkey you are not allowed to study two subjects at the same time as a teacher training student. I had to choose either English or German as my subject at the time. I chose English because English is considered more important than German in Turkey.

Now I can realize my dream with my Erasmus studies. I can improve my German skills here and so I can work as an English and German teacher in Turkey.

How did the study preparation go?

To be able to study in Hildesheim University as an Erasmus exchange student, took my 5 months since I prepared so many documents for my home university, Hildesheim University, banks, health insurance, dorm, visa process and so on. It was stressful; however, it was worth it.

I have chosen very exciting courses and I am learning German history, literature and language in the courses. The preparation for courses and discussions in the courses are a lot of fun.

How do you find studying online?

I have both online lectures and lectures in presence. I wish all of my lectures would have been in presence as I'd have more friends from Germany, I'd improve my German skills faster and I'd see the German university life closely; however, it's okay because I can still do these actions even if it's a little bit restricted.

What hobbies do you have?

I love learning foreign languages and cultures. What I also like to do is put on my earphones and take a long walk. On such long walks, I like to listen to soft rock vibe music. I like to read books related to life and watch anime.

My favorite books are *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, *The Alchemist* of Paulo Coelho

Have you ever done voluntary work or participated in a project?

When I was in Antioch, I was doing volunteer work in an Antioch Protestant church. I attend English Speaking clubs every Saturday. There would be a different group of people every month who came from throughout the world and I would meet them exchange our cultural knowledge, talk about everything and show them around the city.

Have you ever participated in an extracurricular course at the university?

Of course. I have participated in German as a foreign language course (Deutsch als Fremdsprache: Grundstufe). I believe, even if the lecture is online, I will improve my German skills fast and well as my lecturers' teaching styles are awesome and they are really there to teach me German which makes me feel special.

What plans do you have for the future?

After I have finished my bachelor degree, I'd like to go to the United Kingdom, United States or Canada for my master degree as I really want to learn native speakers' culture closely and at the same time I want to improve my English knowledge and accent so I would feel myself ready for my future students.

Perfect, thank you very much and good luck for the future.