

Could you please introduce yourself?

With pleasure, my name is Tiago Morato. I am from Brazil. In 2018, I flew to Germany to learn German and study here. I actually started with the Intercultural communication and translation subject first, but then I changed my degree. I have been studying International Information Management since the winter semester 20/21.

What do you particularly like about Germany and why did you choose Hildesheim?

What I particularly like about Germany is the security, the good standard of living and numerous opportunities in Germany. These reasons brought me to Germany. You can get a qualified and recognized education here without tuition fees and the job market offers many opportunities after studying.

After obtaining my visa, I was able to start my studies in the summer semester. Therefore, I only had two universities to choose from that offer translation studies in the summer semester. Namely, the University of Hildesheim and University of Heidelberg. The University of Heidelberg had very high tuition fees for international students. I did not know either city. Therefore, I chose Hildesheim University.

I am happy with my decision. However, I am used to living in a small town. At that time, I lived in Berlin and Halle, both of which are bigger than Hildesheim. I miss the U-Bahn and S-Bahn. Still, they are not a big problem for me. Hanover is very near here. You can often drive there and experience the many possibilities of a big city.

Do you think the study system in Germany and Brazil is different?

A bachelor's degree lasts five years in Brazil. This is very long. You can get a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Germany at the same time. What I find nicer here is that studies are financed more through state and private scholarships. You can only pay back half of the BAföG or, during the Corona pandemic, the state offers student loan bridging aid. We do not have that.

How do you find studying online?

I did not expect to study online at all. While attending the preparatory college, I was always happy to meet German-speaking friends and practice the German language with them.

However, unfortunately, it did not work out with the online course. Unfortunately, I do not have a tandem partner here either.

What I think is a shame is that the libraries are no longer available for learning. The libraries here are charming. They are very big, have fast internet, and are very comfortable. There are rooms where you can work alone or as a group. I used to study in the library so often. Learning there was just very effective. Now I have to study in a shared apartment. Sometimes it is too loud, so I cannot concentrate very well.

However, of course there are also advantages to studying online. I can watch the recorded courses at my own pace. That is a big advantage for me because I am not a native speaker.

Do you have other obligations besides your studies and have you ever done voluntary work or participated in a project?

I worked part-time in a fast food restaurant last semester, but then I quit because I realized I needed more time for my studies. Now I only work as a WiN tutor in the International Office. As a WiN tutor, I help new international students to settle into Hildesheim and university life without any problems. I particularly like this job because I know how difficult it is to settle in a new country or state.

I worked as a buddy at the university. At that time, I took part in the project for *a day without shoes* in high school. We collected shoes and donated them to people in urgent need and attended school without shoes for one day. It was a fun voluntary action with the aim of highlighting the fact that something we wear every day, many people may not have. Some people have so many unused shoes that could otherwise be donated. This makes us a bit more aware of societal realities in the world we live in.

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

Yes, I took an English pronunciation course at university. It has helped me a lot. I would recommend it to any student who wants to improve their English pronunciation. I also took part

in an International Office seminar called *culture shock*. I found it very interesting how one described and categorized the culture shock. I have experienced all the levels myself, but never thought about them.

What are you interested in and what plans do you have for the future?

I am interested in Brazilian dance Forró, photography and playing Cajón.

I would like to spend a semester abroad in East Asia or in Spain and maybe study for a master's degree. But I still have a bit of time and that's why it's still a little early for me to decide now. I look forward to my further study.