

**University of St. Gallen, Switzerland** → By: Suneet Gulati, 4902640376

Exchange experience? Those two words itself brings back a whole lot of memories. Memories that are hard to put to words because words itself will not justify how wonderful the experience was. The University of St. Gallen is a home away from home. In all regards, it was indeed the right university to go to.



Located about an hour away from Zurich, St. Gallen is a small university town.



Loaded with college students, you can expect to make great friends that don't give you a chance to miss home. At worst, you might feel a teeny bit homesick on the first day since it's all a very new experience, but the Buddy System along with the International Exchange Office do an amazing job at shooting all your troubles away (that literally includes all doubts that you might have – housing related? Meeting and greeting new people? Course Registration? All arrangements have been made. You are

well taken care of.) It takes the form of an Orientation Week for all International students, during which lots of activities are planned to help us gain more knowledge on how to live in the area, university campus tours, city tours, sight-seeing around the area, pub-crawls for the best party spots in town, bowling and fondue nights, International dinner (we each cook our native dish and jointly enjoy what each person has prepared), visit to the legendary chocolate and cheese factories, ski trips for when the winters kick in, im sure you get the idea). NOT to be missed ☺



The University itself is indeed very reputed. A small example to prove that point is if you happen to come across anyone and they hear that you are a HSG student, you almost automatically gain the heightened respect. They know it as the best university in the German-speaking region (that includes Switzerland, Germany and Austria). Not only is it known for its excellent academic system, but its vast

number of student clubs do a great job in their own fields of interest (for those interested, there are the regular as well as the bizarre activities that you might not expect. Belly dancing, MTV dance, Yoga, Debate clubs etc are some examples.)

A major advantage of going to the European region is the convenience in travelling around to different countries. You should make the most of your time there, visit other BBA friends or explore the place with your new exchange friends. Either way the point is you will have an amazing time! Fair warning: take a look at your schedule and plan accordingly since some professors are pretty strict with regard to attendance and class policy (that should not have scared you since guest students do get a certain level of ‘special’ treatment☺).

Overall, this experience, which was so wonderful in so many different ways, taught me a few lessons which might seem so unrelated but you can’t do without them! Some include cooking (trust me you get the hang of it as you tired of eating out), how to adapt to new people and see things the way they see it (a common problem all exchange students face), sense of responsibility, cleaaaaaaaning (sigh), grocery shopping (not as easy as I had imagined), managing work and play time so that you can make the most of your time there etc. All this would not have been possible had an Exchange Term not been part of our BBA program. So thank you, BBA, for giving us the opportunity (and hence the best semester, sort of, that we could ever ask for). We loved and cherished it ☺

