

INTERCULTURAL MENTORING

Interview with a mentor

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Where did you find out about the program?

I took part in the mentoring program last year as a mentee, and for this year, I decided to become a mentor. I've heard about the program at the Welcome Day for the first time, which was organized for the international students to gain knowledge and information about different societies at the University of Freiburg.

Why did you apply for the Intercultural Mentoring Program? What were your expectations?

The reason why I applied for the program was that I wanted to help other students with studying and living abroad. I got lots of advice and benefited from my former mentor, who helped me along my way. I wanted others to experience the same.

I saw it also as an opportunity to meet new people from other countries and to get to know about their cultures and life.

Did you have former experiences in mentoring someone?

No, I have never been a mentor before, but I've had an excellent mentor last year who set me an example for the mentor role.

Does your mentoring partner study the same subject as you do?

I have two mentees, both studying economics. I also study economics, but I'm doing my bachelor's, whereas they are doing their masters, so I couldn't help them with specific questions regarding their subjects. However, I gave them tips on how to plan their studies and which strategies to use when it comes to exams.

Is there something you would do differently in your partnership?

I think we both had a lot of things going on during the semester and couldn't meet that often as intended. But we talked quite a lot on WhatsApp, and I always helped them when and where I could.

How many times did you meet your mentoring partner?

One of my mentees, I have only met a few times. But I met up with the other one more frequently.

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What were the activities that you have done together?

We drank coffee, ate dinner and had conversations about many things.

What were your tasks as a mentor?

I reached out to my mentees, gave them tips and advice. I listened to them and helped wherever and whenever I could. As a mentor, I felt responsible for them to have a good time in Freiburg and to adjust their life in here. I wanted to help the start of their life here, and I hope that I could. Being a mentor is not a task at all; it's more of like having fun. You can become friends with your mentee and talk about anything you want. Although it's an organized friendship, it doesn't mean that you can't enjoy it.

Do you feel like that you could help your mentee?

As far as I'm concerned, I could help them by telling my experiences that I have earned here in Freiburg. I also gave them loads of tips regarding studying and the educational system.

Would you recommend the program to others? Why?

I would definitely recommend the program to others because it has changed my whole life in Freiburg. The Intercultural Mentoring Program makes it easier to connect and to make friends with people who are in the same situation as you are and have the same struggles as you have. It helped me a lot in my first year as well, and now that I am a mentor, I feel that I could engage even more in the program.

What is your overall experience with the Intercultural Mentoring Program?

I've made great experiences with this program so far and genuinely think that it makes a start easier for international students. I'm happy that there is such a program at the University, and it should continue.

What did you gain from the program?

I have met new international people and made really good friends. I have also learned a lot about my patience, understanding, and other social skills. I've learned that your vibe attracts your tribe, so if you're opened to others, they're going to be opened towards you as well. I've also gained knowledge about other people's culture and life, which I always find interesting.

In what areas could the program improve?

To be honest, the program has already improved a lot since last year, as more socializing events were organized.

Would you like to apply for the program as a mentor next year?

Yes, I would love to apply and mentor someone next year as well.