

Exchange Semester Report – TU Dresden

(April–Sep 2025)

Yarin Azzam

1. My Exchange Experience

Spending my semester abroad at TU Dresden was a highly enriching experience both academically and personally. The courses I took allowed me to broaden my perspective, particularly in urban design and architecture-related seminars, and to engage with teaching methods that were quite different from those at my home university. Working with international peers in design studios fostered collaboration across cultures and gave me the opportunity to reflect on my own approach to architecture.

In addition to the regular coursework, I had the opportunity to join two excursions: one to Switzerland and another to Copenhagen. Both trips were an amazing experience, combining academic learning with direct exposure to important architectural and urban projects. These excursions were highlights of the semester and gave me insights that I could not have gained in the classroom alone.

Beyond academics, living in Dresden offered me a unique cultural immersion. The city combines a rich historical heritage with a vibrant student life. At the same time, Dresden is a relatively small city, which means it is not always full of activities compared to larger European cities. This is something future students should consider when choosing their exchange destination. However, its size also makes it easy to get around, and it is well connected for weekend trips to other German cities and neighboring countries.

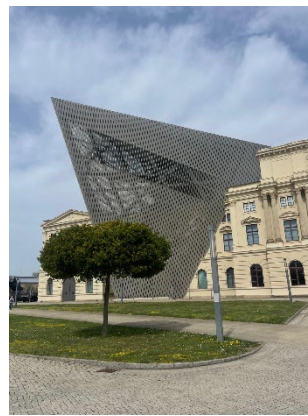
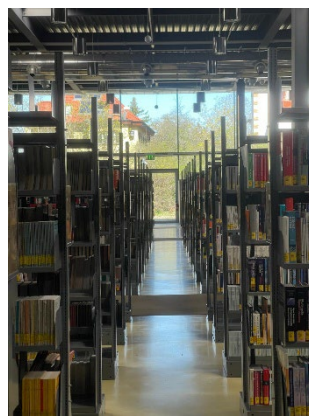


2. Helpful Insights for Future Students

- **Housing:** Start the search as early as possible. Dresden has student dormitories and private options, but both can fill up quickly.
- **Courses & Administration:** Finding suitable courses in English can be a challenge, as the general course offering in English is limited. However, professors were very supportive—when I asked, many agreed to adapt the course language more toward English for the benefit of exchange students.
- **Language:** While many day-to-day interactions require some German, having at least a basic knowledge makes integration smoother.
- **Student Life:** Dresden has an active international community, with ESN and university-organized trips helping students connect quickly. Joining these activities is highly recommended.
- **Practicalities:** Public transport in Dresden is excellent and affordable. Getting the semester ticket is essential for mobility inside the city and the wider region.



Uni Library



Views from Dresden

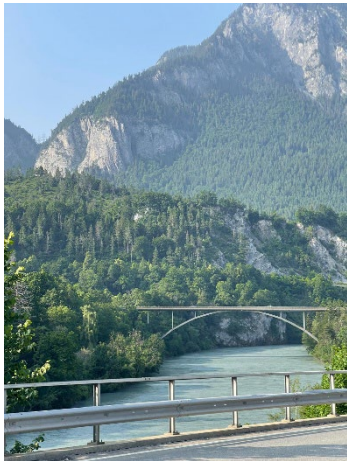


3. Overall Impression of the Host University

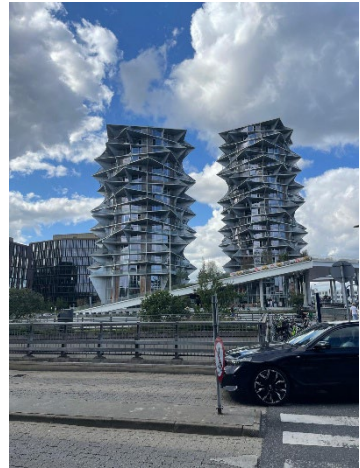
TU Dresden provided a high level of academic quality and excellent facilities, especially in architecture and design-related courses. The professors and teaching assistants were approachable and willing to support exchange students, and the administrative staff guided me through the necessary processes with patience.

Overall, my semester at TU Dresden was extremely positive. It not only expanded my academic and cultural horizons but also gave me valuable friendships and networks. The excursions to Switzerland and Copenhagen, the studio collaborations, and the cultural immersion made the exchange truly memorable. I am very grateful for the scholarship support that made this experience possible, and I would warmly recommend it to future students.

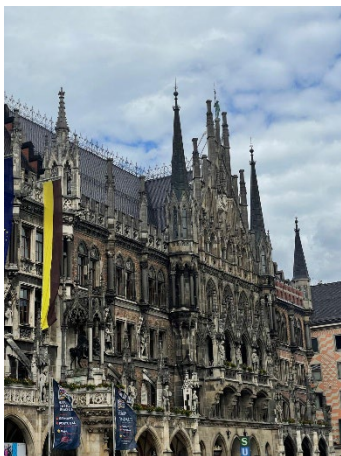
views from Switzerland



Views from Copenhagen



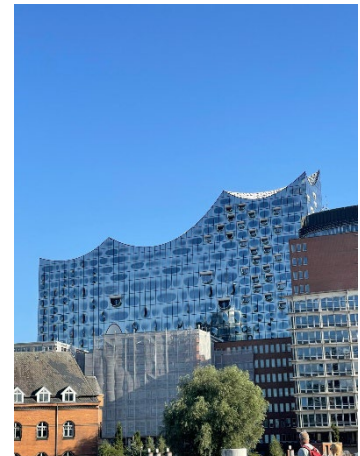
Views from german cities trips



Munich



Berlin



Hamburg