



**CAL POLY**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

**EXCHANGE PROGRAM**  
**Cal Poly – Munich**



# CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO



UNIVERSITY  
OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
**MUNICH**

**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

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# Introduction

The Munich University of Applied Sciences is a metropolitan university with over 15,000 students.

The university is located in the heart of Munich, Germany, a city of about 1.5 million people. The university has programs in Engineering, Computer Science, Tourism Industry Management, Architecture, Graphic Communication, Liberal Arts and more. Like Cal Poly, Munich University of Applied Sciences is a hands-on teaching environment where students take courses that involve both lecture and laboratory experience.

Munich is the capital of Bavaria, Germany's largest state. It is located in the south of the country near the Austrian border. A historic center for

commerce and culture, Munich hosts international businesses and is a hub of cultural and tourist activities. Surrounded by the German Alps on its south, it has a rich history and verdant surroundings.

Students who attend the university live in the city and commute to campus. The large campus is centrally located and easy to reach by public transportation or by bicycle. Munich has a great network of trains, subways, trams and buses that move its diverse population around with tremendous efficiency.

Despite its size, Munich is a quiet city with very little vehicular traffic congestion. Most people



# Munich University of Applied Sciences



all by high speed train, and all within hours of Munich. It's an amazing hub in a vital city of the richest economic power in the European Union. As you walk through Munich's streets you'll hear many languages and see many faces – it's an international melting pot of diversity. Education is at its very heart, and Hochschule München is at the center of it all.

walk, bicycle, or ride public transportation to get around. There are bicycles everywhere!

In the heart of the city are the remains of an ancient walled city along the Isar river. Church bells ring out the hours while busy shoppers walk along the pedestrian center of town. History surrounds and envelopes Munich's inhabitants. World famous museums populate the downtown area, world-class musical events take place all year, and Munich's Football Club Bayern is always in the running for the world championships.

The region is dotted with lakes, each surrounded by hiking and biking trails. People ski, snowboard and hike in the Bavarian Alps. It's a short trip to some of the world's most picturesque mountain locations. What did you do yesterday? I snowboarded in the Bavarian Alps! What will you do tomorrow? I'll attend my engineering class at Hochschule München.

Travel to Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Denmark, Belgium –





## JESSICA BILFINGER & KRISTINA JUND

Hochschule München  
studying Graphic Communication at Cal Poly

### INTERVIEW

#### Why did you choose to come to Cal Poly for the exchange program?

**Jessica:** I knew that I could take Graphic Communication classes at Cal Poly that I can't take in Germany. Then of course there's the beautiful weather in California. I was a tutor for Cal Poly students in Munich last year, so I had heard about the campus life at Cal Poly and I wanted to see the students again.

**Kristina:** When I heard that we could go to California, I thought maybe I could apply. At first I thought that everybody wants to go to California and I wouldn't get in. But I was successful and I'm really glad that I applied.

#### How did you find out about the program?

**Jessica:** Our teachers told us about it in our first semester and when I heard that there is an exchange program in California, I thought it was very interesting. Later I read more about the program when one of our teachers was looking for tutors for the Cal Poly students coming to Munich. That made me more interested in the program.

#### What is the most important thing you have learned while at Cal Poly?

**Jessica:** I've learned to work with the Adobe Creative Suite, because at Cal Poly we work more with those applications than we do in Germany. The classes are very different from the German classes because we have homework every week and have to study continuously.

**Kristina:** I have improved my language skills a lot. When I came here, I was overwhelmed with everybody speaking English, and I didn't understand all the technical terms. But now

I have gotten a lot better. The second thing I had to learn was living without my family and doing things on my own.

#### Did you feel welcome at Cal Poly and the GrC program?

**Jessica:** Yes, of course. Professor Malcolm Keif helped us a lot and I felt very welcomed. People showed us around and all the teachers told everyone in the class about us. That way we got to know lots of students. Everyone has been very friendly.

**Kristina:** Yes, I did. On my first day I was met by a Poly Pal who helped me to get all the things I needed for my first day at Cal Poly. He showed me around and gave me some information so that I was prepared for my studies.

#### What have you learned that you will take back to Munich with you?

**Jessica:** We are learning so many new things. I will take back new language skills, technical knowledge about printing and designing products and the experience of working in teams and on class projects.

**Kristina:** The experience I've had by doing all the practical things here at Cal Poly and my improved language skills.



# MAX BOEHLE

Hochschule München  
studying Mechanical Engineering at Cal Poly



## INTERVIEW

### **Why did you choose to come to Cal Poly for your exchange program?**

I liked the idea of coming to California which has nice weather and the ocean. Also, Cal Poly's engineering department has a really good reputation. I'm studying Mechanical Engineering, so I thought it would be helpful to have that on my résumé.

### **How did you find out about the program?**

I read about it on my university's website and I got to know two people on my racing team in Munich who did an exchange the semester before. So I thought I should apply for the program.

### **What is the most important thing you have learned while at Cal Poly?**

What is really different is the university systems. In Germany it's more relaxed and you have much more free time. Here it's only week five and we have already had midterm exams! In Germany we don't have homework during the semester; at Cal Poly you constantly get assignments. It's more stressful here. I haven't decided yet which system I like better.



### **What have you learned that you will take back to Munich?**

I learned I should talk to strangers more often, because that's basically what I did in my first week here. It felt awkward to me, but I started liking it, because that way I get to know new people and they are awesome.

### **What do you do in your spare time? Where have you been in California?**

I've made a few trips. I visited Yosemite National Park and camped there for the weekend. In San Luis Obispo I've been rock climbing on Bishop Peak, which was awesome because I never climbed a rock wall before. I was at the Carrizo Plain National Monument, which was nice, because there were fields of beautiful flowers this year – it's called a super bloom.

I did a few smaller hikes at the coast and the hills in the area. But what I do most of the time is hang out in the sun with friends or ride a motorcycle on scenic roads.

### **What are your plans for the future and how will you use what you have learned here?**

I want to get a Ph.D. after I'm finished with my Master's degree, which will be around February. Maybe I'll even do that outside of Europe. I will use my experience here to be more open to people. The way I approach people definitely has already changed.

### **Is there anything else you want to tell us about your experience at Cal Poly?**

Do the exchange! It's awesome!



# JESSICA DIMULIAS

Cal Poly – studying Print Media  
at Hochschule München

## INTERVIEW

Jessica Dimulias is a student from Cal Poly. She is one of five Cal Poly Graphic Communication students in Munich this year.

### **Which year are you at Cal Poly?**

I am in my third year at Cal Poly.

### **Do you study printing at Cal Poly?**

Oh yes! We do printing; we learn design; we study the graphic arts industry – everything!

### **Why did you come to Germany?**

A Cal Poly friend had been talking about this program since we were freshmen. She said, “We have to do this program – it sounds really great.” – and here I am in Munich!

### **How did you find out about the exchange program?**

I went to an information meeting. At these meetings they have Munich alumni talk about the program including what to expect and how to get involved.

### **Where do you live while in Munich?**

I am living at Studentenstadt. Hochschule München provides the housing where we live. I commute by U-Bahn (subway) and bus to the university; it’s very efficient.

### **What are some differences between studying in U.S. and in Germany?**

We don’t have classes as often here. I’m enrolled in the special course in printed electronics. That class is taught only four times during the semester for a whole day. It’s nice because I have more free time. My other classes are more like those at Cal Poly.

### **What do you like best about studying in Munich?**

The fact that there is a program like the one

we have at Cal Poly. I also like Munich’s central location in Europe. It is great that I can travel so easily in Europe. Everything is close. The reputation of the school is excellent, and the people of Germany have been great hosts.

### **What’s to dislike about being here?**

There is nothing to dislike. Everything is perfect. It’s becoming like my second home. I know the U-Bahn; I know the buses. I know where everything is. I have transitioned very quickly.

### **Are you traveling a lot?**

The Cal Poly students have traveled to Budapest and to Prague. We visited Copenhagen and Brussels and we are planning to go to the UK and Italy.

### **Which is more expensive – Munich or Cal Poly?**

It’s much less expensive in Munich. For example the rent in Munich is half of what I pay in San Luis Obispo. We also pay tuition at Cal Poly.

### **Would you do it again?**

Definitely. I am enjoying my time here and can’t wait to return to Cal Poly and tell all the other students that they should do this. It has been the experience of a lifetime.



# JARRETT CORR

Cal Poly – studying Computer Engineering  
at Hochschule München



## INTERVIEW

### **Why did you choose to come to Munich?**

I met professors from Munich last year at Cal Poly and I have family friends who live here. I had never thought about studying abroad, but the Munich program was so attractive I felt I had to take the opportunity.

### **How did you find out about the exchange program?**

I read a newsletter at our university, and people were always talking about it. One of my instructors said, “We have this great exchange program with Hochschule München, and it’s easy to get involved.

### **What do you like about the program you’re studying?**

I like that they encourage me to do many little projects. With all the free time I have, I have learned to be more responsible. I have also had an opportunity to get around and see a lot of things in Germany.

Cal Poly’s quarter system goes very fast, and you have a lot to do. I think the Munich semester system allows me to do my own thing and find out what I like – to take a little more time.

### **How did you like your reception in Munich?**

The international club is a good place to make new friends. There is always someone from somewhere who wants to do something. We meet up and plan adventures.

In my classes it is a bit different because there’s a language barrier. People come into class as small groups and speak German. It has been hard for me to get people to open up. I have to learn how to walk up to strangers and say, “Hey,

what’s up? What are you guys doing?”

It’s nice when I can break the ice and talk with people because I can talk about the many little differences between Germany and the U.S.

### **What have you learned that you will take back with you to Cal Poly?**

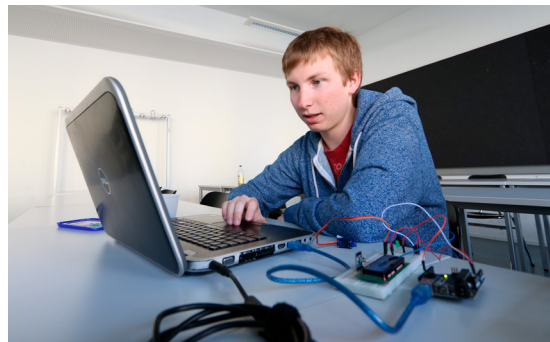
I’ve learned there’s a certain leadership I have to take for myself. For example, I need to start studying for my exams, because I see my professor here only once a week for three hours. I have to take charge of my own learning.

### **What would you tell a student at Cal Poly about this program? Would you encourage them?**

Yes, of course. It’s a good thing to meet and study with other students.

It’s so easy to visit all these European cultures because many are within a radius of 4 or 5 hours. It’s much easier and cheaper to travel and see the world from here.

And the classes here are relevant to my major, so learning both in class and in my travels. It all matters.





# HOW TO APPLY

for Cal Poly students in Engineering, Liberal Arts,  
Architecture, Experience Industry Management,  
and Business Administration

To participate in the Munich exchange program, Cal Poly students should do the following:

Attend a mandatory **Study Abroad 101 Workshop** to learn about the variety of programs available and create a login and register. Workshops are offered every day.

Research the program that best fits with their study abroad goals. **Talk to the International Center** at Cal Poly, and to advisors in your college to determine the best course of action and to determine if this program is a good academic fit.

Review the study abroad website which includes eligibility requirements, budgets, alumni contact, program overview, dates/deadlines and it links to the Munich University website for additional information. Here is the link to our exchange program: [abroad.calpoly.edu](http://abroad.calpoly.edu)

After the student's application is submitted, the Study Abroad Office will review the application, checking that the student is in good academic and disciplinary standing, then notify the student's department of who has applied.

The Study Office will then conduct a group interview. Then, together with the department, the Study Abroad Office at Cal Poly will nominate students for the exchange program. The Study Abroad Office will correspond with the Munich University program coordinator to assist our nominated students in the Munich application process.

Students will meet with departmental and college advisors to ensure that the courses they plan to take in Munich will apply toward their degree.

Students make independent travel arrangements.



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