

Freddy, what is your present occupation in Flensburg?

I am currently an international student in Business Informatics at the FH Flensburg. I am here for one year abroad within my studies back home in Cameroon.

What did you feel like at the beginning? Was it very difficult for you to settle in?

The adjustment was not very easy at the beginning. Germany is very different from Cameroon. For example concerning appointments and punctuality. In Germany if you say let's meet at twelve you show up at twelve or even better ten minutes before that. In Cameroon you say twelve and you meet at one, maybe even two. But the people at the Africa Centre were very helpful.

How did the Africa Centre help you?

First of all they helped me with the application. When I got here they picked me up at the station, showed me my accommodation and helped me with all the organisational stuff like registering, bank account, insurance... If I have any question I can always come here and find help.

What are the main differences to your studies in Cameroon?

The content is the same but the equipment here is a lot better. In Cameroon there is lot of knowledge but the lecturers often don't have the educational skills to pass it on to the students. In Germany the lecturers are very good with the students, they explain something to you and you mostly understand it immediately. Moreover the facilities like laboratories are better equipped. In Cameroon we mainly have lessons in the evening because a lot of students have to work during the day to be able to afford their studies. But it is a lot easier to concentrate in lessons during the day as you have in Germany.

Are there also things you don't like?

The relationship between students and lecturers is quite close in Cameroon and we study in a friendlier atmosphere. Here in Germany everyone stays at a very professional level. Also the range of courses in English is very limited and even if the language within the lectures is English the learning material often is in German anyway.

What kind of impressions will you take home?

My stay in Germany is a great opportunity I am very thankful for. I would do it again any time. Although the summer in Flensburg is pretty cold and rainy I am having a great time. I learned a lot about differences in culture and also that there are different ways of teaching.