Useful websites for Universität Stuttgart
Universität Stuttgart Homepage: [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/index.en.html](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/index.en.html)
Information for Exchange Students: [http://www.ia.uni-stuttgart.de/internat/groups/program/index.en.html](http://www.ia.uni-stuttgart.de/internat/groups/program/index.en.html)
Information by IRO: [http://www.nus.edu.sg/IRO/partners/europe/germany/uni-stuttgart.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/IRO/partners/europe/germany/uni-stuttgart.html)
Study Programs in Stuttgart: [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/studieren/angebot/index.en.html#a](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/studieren/angebot/index.en.html#a)
Vorlesungsverzeichnis (Module Listing): [https://lsf.unistuttgart.de/qisserver/rds?state=wtree&search=1&menuid=lectureindex](https://lsf.unistuttgart.de/qisserver/rds?state=wtree&search=1&menuid=lectureindex)

Q1. Are the courses in English?
The language of instruction is German and most of the courses and modules are taught in German. There are a few courses that are taught in English but most are master level or higher level course. The List of the modules taught in English can be found in the link below. The courses I took were all in German. [http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/ia/EnglishCourses/index.html](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/ia/EnglishCourses/index.html)

Most English courses are at Master Level. It is suggested that one should try out all possible English course during the first two weeks, then he could decide which one he wants to do.

Q2. Are the exams in English?
The professors are extremely nice to exchange students and will conduct oral examinations for the exchange students unless otherwise stated. But the oral examinations are not easy and preparation is needed as it will be concept based. Most professors will not mind conducting the examinations in English but some will only conduct it in German as it is a requirement of the respective institute. Student can opt whether they want to have the exam in English or German. If you choose German, you may get bonus on exam result.

Q3. Are English texts available?
The Lecture notes and tutorials are in German and have to bought or printed by self just like in NUS. There are English texts which are available in the Library. The professor can be consulted to recommended relevant English textbooks.

Q4. Do I need German?
Yes. It is very important to know the language as it is useful not only in school but also in daily life. Students can learn German in NUS before going on exchange. NUS offer up to 6 levels of German. You can also take academic German under Language Centre at University of Stuttgart (Sprachzentrum)

Q5. German Language Intensive Course
All exchange students are encouraged and expected to take part in the German Language Intensive
Course offered by the Internationale Angelegenheiten Büro (International Affairs Office). It course lasts for 6 weeks and students are expected to complete 200 hours of German lessons. The courses take place just before the start of the academic semester. Since, the course is for exchange students, it is very useful in forming friendships and bonds with other students from other countries.

Q6. Academic Calendar
The dates are shown as below. The Examinations can be scheduled straight after so that NUS students can return in time for the following semesters. The professors have no problem accommodating this but you must ensure that you make the first move and make an appointment for the examination.
Winter Semester: Mid Oct – Mid Feb
Summer Semester: Mid Apr – Mid Jul

However, August for German is Urlaubszeit (Holiday Time). Most offices at the University is closed and professors are away. It is better to settle your exam time slot before August.

Q7. Transferring of Credits
Once you have completed your examinations and have passed them, you will be given a certificate for each module or course you pass. You will have to then fill in a form from the International Affairs Office at University of Stuttgart and pass them a copy of your certificates. They will then process it and pass you your transcript. If you have to return to Singapore, they will send it to you by mail. Collect it and then pass to your relevant SEP department coordinators. Remember to do this as this is an important step.

Q8. Living Expenses
The Living expenses are about 600 – 700 Euros per month as Stuttgart is considered to be the 2nd most expensive city in Germany after Munich.
- The accommodation is expensive and it will cost about 250 Euros per month.
- Transportation is also expensive. Thus, Buy a Semester Ticket (Studi-Ticket) which costs about 160 Euros that will allow you to travel in any form of transport (U-Bahn, S-Bahn or Bus) up to 7 Zones will cost 168 Euros which is valid for the entire term. For one semester exchange, Stuttgart City will reimburse you once you formally registered as university student.
- Health Insurance is a must for you to matriculate and thus it is something that you cannot save on. It costs about 60 Euros per month.

Different insurance company have different policies regarding charging of premium. AOK is quarter based and DAK is monthly based. Once you exmatriculate from the university, you can bring your exmatriculation certificate to the insurance company and ask them to terminate your contract and collect your account balance if any.
- Eating out is expensive. A meal will cost about 7 – 15 Euros depending on the restaurant. Cooking will save a lot of money as there are many Supermarkets which have cheap groceries. Another option is Kebab as they are cheap (2 to 5 Euro) and they can found all over Stuttgart. However, it is not very healthy. Groceries in Stuttgart are generally cheaper than that in Singapore. However, service is expensive. Therefore, I strongly recommend you to learn cooking before you go to Germany.

**Q9. Scholarships**
You can apply for the
- NASA (NUS Award for Study Abroad) at the NUS IRO Office. [http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/nus/students/awards/nasa/index.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/nus/students/awards/nasa/index.html)
- Baden-Württemberg Scholarship at the Internationale Angelegenheiten, University of Stuttgart. Just Email your contact person at the International Affairs Office at the University of Stuttgart or the contact person at the International Relations Office in NUS for application. The scholarship is only offered to Engineering and Science students. If you are EU citizen, you may be qualified regardless of your major under ERASMUS.
- DUO Exchange Awards offered by MFA.

**Q10. Accommodation**
Although, the accommodation in Stuttgart is expensive, the facilities and location of the Student hostels that they provide international students are excellent. Exchange Students are usually housed in Vaihingen Campus (11mins to city centre Stadtmitte by subway)

**Q12 Welcoming Service**
Welcoming Service is a service provided by the University of Stuttgart in order to assist international students to settle down. A local student (Student Mentor) will be assigned to you and they will help you deal with the initial difficulties and receive you - if you arrive between 8 a.m and 8 p.m – and take you to your accommodation. They will also help you with all the formalities like registration or residence permits, etc. They will show you around Stuttgart and the campus. They will help you find out where the best bargains are and what to do in your leisure time. The University will email or mail you to ask if you need such a service.

**Q12. Application for Visa**
As soon as you get your acceptance letter, apply for Visa with the relevant documents. Make sure you apply for the Visa at least 2 months before you leave as the process will take about 6 weeks and call after 6 weeks and check. You will only be given an entry Visa for 2 -3 months. Once you arrive in Stuttgart, within one or two weeks, you have to visit the nearest Rathaus (Town Council) to make Polizei Anmeldung (Police Registration). you will have to go to Rathaus at Stadtmitte (Auslanderbehörde) and extend the Visa for the required period of stay. Usually 6 month Residence Permit will be granted. Before going down, you will have to call or email the Rathaus and make an appointment with
them. You will be guided by your Student Mentor or you can follow the Student Guide issued by IZ (Interationales Zentrum).

Please make sure you have applied a visa for education purpose before you enter Germany. A tourist visa cannot be converted into Residence Permit (Aufenthalterlaubnis) afterwards.

**Q13. Traveling in Germany – Baden-Wurttemberg Ticket**

This ticket can be used to travel in the Bundesland (federal state) Baden-Wurttemberg. It is valid on all days from 9 a.m. until 3 a.m. of the following day. It can be used on all local trains (Interregio-Express, Regional-Express, Regionalbahn, S-Bahn) and the entire transport system of the Verkehrsverbünde Baden-Württemberg, with some exceptions. It costs 28 Euros for 5 persons. This is a very good offer if you want to somewhere nearby like Konstanz or Karlsruhe for a day with you group of friends. The only disadvantage is that you are only allowed to take slow trains but it saves a lot of money.

**Q14. Traveling in Germany – Happy Weekend Ticket**

This ticket can be used to travel all around Germany and is valid for up to 5 persons travelling together on Saturdays or Sundays between 0:00 a.m. (midnight) until 3 a.m. of the following day for only 37 EUR. This is a good offer if you want to go some state nearby outside Baden-Wurttemberg like Munich and again the disadvantage is that you are only allowed to take slow trains.

**Q15. Traveling in Germany – Mitfahrzentralen**

This is car pooling for long distance travels to destinations in Germany and sometimes abroad. You can perform searches on the websites below where people who travel by cars put up offers. If there is a match, you can contact the person and arrange a meeting point and the money and go along with him.

- [http://www.mitfahrzentrale.de/](http://www.mitfahrzentrale.de/)
- [http://www.mfz.de/](http://www.mfz.de/)

**Q16. Traveling – The Deutsche Bahn**

Travelling by trains would be effective and comfortable as the Deutsche Bahn provides good service but it is rather expensive. But they do have constant offers and one way to beat the expensive tickets is to book early. For example, a trip to Zurich would cost only 19 Euros if booked early whereas a normal ticket (purchasing a day before) would cost around 90 Euros.

**Q17. Travelling – Budget Air**

Stuttgart has its own airport and although it is small, many budget airlines fly to Stuttgart. The airport is not far away from the town. Below are the links to a few budget airlines that fly to Stuttgart.

- [http://www.germanwings.com](http://www.germanwings.com)
Unfortunately, Ryan Air does not fly to Stuttgart. But it flies to Karlsruhe and thus, if there are cheap tickets available, you can take the Baden-Wurttemberg Ticket and go to Karlsruhe and then take the flight from there. Link for Ryan Air is below.
http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/

Q18. Traveling – Car Rental
You can also rent cars and go to neighboring states like Berlin or countries like Switzerland or Czech Rep. Below are a few Rental Car sites which I have rent from before.
If you travel in 4 or 5, renting a car will be the most cost-efficient way of travelling. Foreigners who hold driving license are eligible to rent cars in entire Europe. Detailed Policy may vary from country to country. Non-English driving license must be translated and endorsed by public notary.
http://www.europcar.com/
http://www.hertz.com/
http://www.sixt.de/

Sixt usually offers the cheapest rate. My normal car rental is like this
1. Opt for diesel engine
2. With GPS. (mit Navi)
3. Unlimited mileage (unbegrenzt kilometer)

Q19. Student Activities
There are sports activities from Soccer to Dance to Fitness activities organized by the Sports faculty at the University of Stuttgart. You have to pay a small administration fee and go down for the activity once or twice a week depending on the activity.

Q20. Entertainment, Nightlife and Festivals
It is very quiet in the weekdays as students will be working or studying but come weekend everyone will be out and there will be countless house parties and clubs and pubs open for a good night out. And although, public transport runs till only midnight, there is the service of the night buses which runs till 5am and then the first bahn (Train) and bus starts again. There are also movie theatres which run shows in English and German and Bowling alleys and Pool places. Apart from the crowded and expensive Oktoberfest which you will have to travel all the way to Munich, there are festivals in Stuttgart too. The most popular ones are the Volksfest and the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest (Spring Festival). Links are as below.
Although, they are expensive, it is still considered to be cheaper than the Oktoberfest.
A night out at the Troll Bar

A tent by one of the vendors at the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest