

## My Experiences in Mannheim

Name: **Theo Hassett**  
Home Country: New Zealand  
Home Uni: Auckland University of Technology (AUT)  
Semesters: 2 (in Germany)  
Period of Time: July 2005 – July 2006  
e-mail: theohassett@hotmail.com



Der Wasserturm und Rosengarten

Here is one of the first tourist stops I made when I arrived. The Watertower. It was also the last thing I saw, this photo was taken on my way out of Mannheim on the way to the airport to fly home.

Mannheim was an interesting city to do an exchange. It is not a very well known city, but I quite like the fact that I went somewhere none of my New Zealand friends have heard of, I think it makes the whole experience more special. One thing I would definitely recommend would be to take a German course before you go. I didn't and found it very difficult to learn the language because everyone spoke English to me and you can't really learn about or enjoy a culture without speaking the language!

Of course summer was the best time! Lots of sun and parties in the Schneckenhof and very little study!



Here I am biking up the Rhine River to the beach.  
And below, with my Girlfriend at the Lake (Great place to relax with a few beers)





Schloss Neuschwanstein

I was lucky enough to get to travel in France, Italy, Scandinavia and Spain while I was studying in Mannheim, but Germany was the most interesting country for me, few tourists and so much to see. I especially liked the little villages.

I really think that doing an exchange anywhere is a great experience for anyone. I would particularly recommend Mannheim for and it's University for several reasons; Firstly, the University itself is fantastic (the top public University for Business in Germany), Secondly, the exchange program is really great and its coordinators were unbelievably helpful. The coordinators really make your stay homely and put on many activities so no one can be bored. Thirdly, Mannheim has an excellent location (close to Heidelberg, France, the Black Forest and Airports Frankfurt + Hahn) and although it may not be a very well know historic place itself, you really get an opportunity to see how German people live and how the German system works which I think is much more important.

I had a great time!