

First Hand Report Class of 2011

Welcome week (October 4th 2011 to October 7th 2011)

It was Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. at the University of Augsburg. There were 27 excited students waiting for the welcome week of their new study program "Finance and Information Management" (FIM) to start.

In the afternoon there have already been some workshops to prepare us for the first tests in the program: the so-called pre-tests. They had to be written only two days later and so the workshops have been a decisive point in our preparation for the tests.

On Friday we got five tests over with and were really relieved. The first great step in FIM had successfully been taken and we had started into a new study life. After this week we got to know each other a bit better and we also had a good impression of the program and how challenging even a single week could be. To bring this informative week to a pleasant end we got together with the students of the last year and went for bowling and some drinks.

Individual Study course, "Mentor meets Mentee" and "Bridging the Gap VI" (October 10th 2011 to November 25th 2011)

In the time period from October 10th 2011 to November 25th 2011 the Individual Study courses had taken place. After this time we fully understood how full a timetable in the program could be. In general, seven courses had been offered of which at least five had to be taken: Operations Research, Introduction to Information Management, Stochastic Processes, Process Management, Introduction to Finance/Operations/Information Management, Business and Information System Engineering and Capital Investment.

Looking at the end of the period, there were two big events on the agenda at November 11th 2012: "Mentor meets Mentee" and "Bridging the Gap VI". Both events took place at the HVB Forum in Munich, which was a exceptionally nice location.

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FIM Winter School (December 12th 2011 to December 22th 2011)

From December 12th 2011 to December 22th 2011 we had the great possibility to take part in a four-day soft skill training. It is the winter school of the program. The first day included a presentation training, the next day we had a team building event with some outdoor projects and the last two days professor Dieter Frey (Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München) held a seminar concerning „Ethic oriented leadership and the psychology of persuasion“.

The winter school had taken place in a hostel in Munich. Hence, we were able to enjoy the leisure facilities of Munich besides the exciting program.



The FIM Core Courses (January 2012 – May 2012)

The lessons of the core courses are based on the knowledge of the individual study courses. We had two parts (each about 6 weeks) of lessons and every one of us had to choose nine lessons. The time of the core courses was very interesting but also very intense because of all the new topics we had to learn in this short period of time. During the core courses most of us found their fields of interest and so we are all were looking forward to get more knowledge in our preferred fields during the elective courses in autumn.

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Guest Lectures (March 2012)

In March 2012 we had a very interesting workshop. The aim of this workshop was to discuss different social aspects in our society e.g. globalization, our responsibility for the future or the consequences of the economic crises. In this workshop the class was divided into different teams which worked on these topics. To get new ideas and impulses some excellent guest lectures were included into the workshop. Prof. Dr. F. J. Radermacher (professor of computer science, University Ulm) talked about the possibilities to be sustainable. The speech of Dr. Hartmut Wurster (UPM Kymmene Augsburg) was about the "BIOFORE" and the new chances emerging from this concept for the business model of UPM. Prof. Dr. Armin Reller (University Augsburg) talked about different strategies in the context of resources. Finally, Prof. Dr. Thomas Schwartz (University Augsburg) talked about values in our society. Every single guest lecture was really interesting and had a special perspective on the topic. We all got new impulses and had a lot of enriching discussions with the speakers.

Spring School (May 2012)

From May 7th 2012 until May 11th 2012, after the last exams of the core courses, we stayed a week in the youth hostel in Bad Tölz for the Spring School 2012.

There we could enjoy a diverse program. Amongst others, we had a seminar on "Leadership and Motivation" with Prof. Dr. Lutz von Rosenstiel, an active team day outside and a team reflection workshop with Dipl.-Psych. Friederike Borntträger.

We'll all remember this week as a great and fun experience which helped us to understand leadership, each other and ourselves.



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Individual Research Phase (Summer 2012)

In the time between May 14th 2012 and August 17th 2012 the “individual research phase” of our class took place. After consulting their scientific mentors the students could arrange this time according to their individual desires. This gave the FIM students opportunities for many different activities.

Most of the students even used the following holidays for their chosen activities. Some FIM students worked as interns at one of the business partners of the program - like UPM Kymmene, Deutsche Bank or Allianz Global Investors. Other students gathered job experiences as interns for other well-known companies.

But many students also used their time for scientific research projects. Some worked on their own, while others formed small teams to profit even more from the interdisciplinarity of the graduate program.

As always, the research projects were supervised by professors of the Technische Universität München and the University of Augsburg. Exemplary topics were “The creation of audience-specific sustainability reports with the use of information systems”, “IT-based management control system in the food industry - Can IT and IS help with the quality management of foods and contribute to higher foods security?” and “Risk in dynamic optimization, especially conditional value at risk in revenue management” .

Women and Career (May 25th 2012)

On Friday, May 25th 2012, the 7th Women and Career event took place in Augsburg. As always the event was organized by female students of the current FIM class. This year’s topic was „Successful Women – Successful Lives?“



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Four successful women from different companies were available for the discussion of this topic. After the official discussion the participants had the opportunity to use the following get-together to talk to the speakers in a more private atmosphere and get clarification on any questions that had remained unanswered during the general discussion.

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