

First-hand report from the class of 2009

... a short report about our first semester

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12 to 16 October 2009 – The introduction week

On Monday, 12 October, we, twenty motivated new FIM students of the class of 2009, started full of expectations into our first day at FIM. In the morning, we had a traditional Bavarian "Weißwurstfrühstück" after a short welcome speech given by the board members, Prof. Buhl and Prof. Zagst. After this warm welcome, "real life" started in the afternoon with several workshops for the pre-tests. After "Optimization", "Capital Investment and Finance" and "Introduction in Informatics", all students had a good overview of the subsequent tests. On Tuesday, we only had workshops in "Stochastic Processes" and "Business and Information Systems Engineering", so that we still had some time left to prepare for the exams on the following days. After two pretests on Wednesday morning and another one in the evening, the last two tests were taken on Thursday morning. Having completed these first FIM exams, everybody was very happy and due to the good preparation in the previous workshops, every student achieved satisfying results. On Friday, the last day of our FIM introduction week, the class of 2008 organized a workshop for us. We got a practical overview of the different topics where finance and information management can be of significant use. After this first official part, we went bowling and had a good time in a Mexican bar called "Enchiladas", which was a good possibility to get to know each other.

19 October to 4 December 2009 – The first semester

The regular semester was full of classes and it took quite a lot of time to prepare for those. Nevertheless, the atmosphere was always harmonious and our discussions with the professors were vivid and interesting. These circumstances substantially facilitated to cope with the huge amount of materials that was covered in the classes. Besides the classes, we did an excursion to the Euro Finance Week in Frankfurt, where we had the opportunity to listen to panel discussions in which financial experts discussed current financial topics. Furthermore, we had the possibility to watch the award ceremony for the "European Banker of the Year 2009", which was awarded to Jean-Claude Juncker. A few days later, the "Mentor meets Mentee" event took place, where every student had the possibility to present himself to several business partners of the FIM program in order to become a mentee of one of those companies. This event was immediately followed by the "Bridging the Gap Conference 2009", an annual symposium organized by prior FIM students.

5 to 18 December 2009 – The reading week and exam phase

On Friday, 4 December, we had our last class of the first semester. After that we had time to prepare for the exams starting Thursday, 10 December. The exam marathon with seven exams in nine days lasted until Friday, 18 December. Every day we went through the same procedure: an exam in the morning and studying for the next one in the afternoon. This probably sounds pretty stressful, but it was feasible because, on the one hand, one gets used to that rhythm and, on the other hand, the continuous working efforts throughout the semester reduced the workload for the exams significantly.

20 to 21 December 2009 – Presentation and Teambuilding Workshop in Munich

Shortly after the exams our whole class went to a presentation and teambuilding seminar in Munich by members of the language laboratory of the Ludwig-Maximilian University. On second day we made a lot of interesting teambuilding games, which outlined many dangers and challenges of working in groups. All in all, we acquired a substantial amount of skills during these two days and, besides, had a lot of fun together.

January to March 2010 – Bachelor Thesis and Individual Study and Research phase

After two relaxing weeks of Christmas holidays, the students who had not yet acquired a Bachelor's degree, started writing their Bachelor's thesis. They were divided into three groups composed of three or four students, working on academic topics closely related to current business partners of FIM, who provided additional guidance to the students. Group meetings with the respective scientific and business advisors were scheduled every two weeks in order to discuss and present the status quo of the groups' work. At the end of March 2010, all groups finished their Bachelor's thesis with a final presentation of their results. The other students yet got further insights into the business and academic environment doing an internship or starting their phase of individual study and research.

... FIM Alumni Soccer Cup in Munich

Saturday, 13 February 2010 – FIM Alumni Soccer Cup in Munich

On 13 February 2010, the FIM Alumni Soccer Cup was held for the third time in Munich's "SoccArena". The teams of the FIM classes of 2007, 2008 and 2009, the team of chair Kaserer and team Risklab competed for the legendary trophy. The tournament was organized in a "league mode" so that all of the five teams had to play against each other. The squad of 6th class (2009) FIM students, with Laszlo Diewald as their team captain, started with high ambitions into the tournament aiming to win the title. Therefore, the team met up in Augsburg two days before the tournament for final practice and tactical coordination.

Despite this highly professional attitude, the dreams of Laszlo's squad had already been shattered after the first match against Team Kaserer, as the game was lost with 2:6 goals. After suffering this first setback, the team quickly had to recover to be prepared for the prestigious duel against the FIM class of 2008. Although the match against the favorite for the title was only lost by two goals and the performance was significantly improved compared to the first match, our 6th class FIM squad was pretty depressed. After a short phase of depression, the team sat together and reconsidered the tactical alignment and lineup, to be prepared against the match against the FIM class of 2007. The team discussion seemed to be successful as the 4th class was beaten with 6:3 goals in a hard fight and a fantastic goal by Martin Linhart.

After our team had already given up hope for the title after the losses in the first two matches, Team Risklab showed an impressive performance in its first games and, thus, emerged as major aspirant for the FIM Cup. Therefore, it came to an early final match between the FIM class of 2008 and Team Risklab. In a typical final game with tactical focus on defense and scanning of the opponent Team Risklab was able to score two late goals and could, thus, secure an early win of the FIM Cup 2010.

In the last match between Team Risklab and the FIM class of 2009, Laszlo's squad was able to achieve a surprising victory. After taking the lead by three goals in the first ten minutes, the victory seemed to be secured, but after a terrible mistake of the goalkeeper and a sending-off due to lack of discipline, Team Risklab was able to get back into the game and equal the score. Nevertheless, the class of 2009 showed strong nerves and was able to secure a 5:3 victory against the later champions.

All in all, the FIM Alumni Soccer Cup 2010 was a great event. All participants had an afternoon full of fun, competition and a well-deserved champion with Team Risklab.