

The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on student mobility from India to Germany

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Methods

- **Previous project** about student migration from India to Germany (2017-2018 at GIGA IAS):
 - Interviews with 41 Indians studying at 18 different institutions in Germany
 - Digital ethnographic research within ‘Study in Germany’ Facebook and WhatsApp groups, and YouTube channels



Methods

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook group page. At the top, there is a blue header with the Facebook logo and the group name 'MS in Germany™ 2018' next to a search icon. Below the header, the page is divided into two main sections. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: 'MS in Germany™ 2018', 'Closed Group' (with a lock icon), 'About' (highlighted), 'Discussion', 'Members', 'Events', 'Videos', 'Photos', 'Files', and 'Recommendations'. On the right is the main content area, which includes a section titled 'About This Group'. Under this section, there is a 'Description' heading followed by the text: 'The official Facebook group for the website <http://msingermany.co.in/>'. Below this, there is a 'HINT' section that reads: 'HINT: You can use the "Search this group" option on the left menu of this group to search for members, topics, previously asked questions etc.'. This is followed by a welcome message: 'Welcome, Thank you for being here 😊'. Below the description, there is a 'Group Type' section that identifies the group as a 'Study Group'. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Members · 21,601' section.

MS in Germany™ 2018

Closed Group

About

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Recommendations

About This Group

Description

The official Facebook group for the website <http://msingermany.co.in/>

HINT: You can use the "Search this group" option on the left menu of this group to search for members, topics, previously asked questions etc.

Welcome, Thank you for being here 😊

Group Type

Study Group

Members · 21,601

Methods

Facebook

April 9 at 9:55pm · [Public]

Hello people, Someone list me Paid Universities in Germany for Industrial/Mechanical. Thanks in Advance 😊

8 · 29 Comments

██████████ try to find a job in Germany as of now, also learn the language if possible. With these many years of experience in this field. There is a course in Dresden International University on Automotive Safety, look... See more

██████████ ▶ **Bharat in Germany!**
April 9 at 6:28pm · [Public]

Can we consider internship period as work experience ?

7 · 4 Comments

██████████ Hi friends I worked for 2.5 years as an engineer after completion of my btech and at present i resigned my job because of my family problems and i applied for ms in Germany for suppose if i got admit then during the... See more

██████████ ▶ **Bharat in Germany!**
January 24 at 7:50pm · [Public]

...I am currently having more than 3yrs of work experience in development profile (Java and Java script). Can anyone let me know how's the university, and what are the job prospects for DA profile in Germ...

8 · 75 Comments

██████████ Data sciences is a good field and I don't think one might have problem in getting a job in Germany Bro Jacob university is a private institute and there are a lot more universities in Germany which are totally free so... See more

WhatsApp

BIG. Masters CSE
Bharat, +233 26 448 0940, +234 803 274 5058, +420 777 142 701, +49 176 27864850, +49

[Image of a phone screen] 20:10

I had made this list of universities and english taught CS courses..might help you guys 20:11

██████████ [Image of a phone screen] 20:12

Thanks brother 🙌 20:12

██████████ Blurred image but visible enough 🙌 20:12

██████████ what* 20:15

██████████ [Image of a phone screen] 20:16

Quite helpful 20:16

██████████ Thanks mate 20:16





HOW TO SELECT UNIVERSITIES: STUDYING IN GERMANY

59,614 views • Nov 1, 2017

👍 1.4K 💬 29 ➦



Bharat in Germany! ✓
178K subscribers

📄 Download the free ebook 'An Indian's Guide to Surviving in Germany' here:

<https://www.bharat-in-germany.com/german>

Stats

Joined Oct 29, 2010

10,651,940 views

Methods

- **Previous project** about student migration from India to Germany:
 - Interviews with 41 Indians studying at 18 different institutions in Germany
 - Ethnographic research within ‘Study in Germany’ Facebook and WhatsApp groups, and YouTube channels
- **Current project (March 2020 onwards):**
 - Follow-up chats with some of the previous interviewees
 - Ethnographic research within Facebook and WhatsApp groups + some analysis of YouTube channels



Structure

- Reasons behind the popularity of Germany as a study destination among Indians
- Impact of Covid-19 on:
 - Current students
 - Recent graduates
 - Prospective students and aspirants
- Conclusions

Reasons for the popularity of Germany as a study destination among Indians

- Over 20,000 Indian students in Germany, 70% are enrolled on engineering courses
- Indian student flows closely tied to job market for Engineers in India and Germany
- Engineering education = preferred degree after school, vehicle of social mobility in India
- Job creation = not proportionate, lopsided
- Hierarchical university system
→ vast majority struggle to get suitable jobs

Reasons for the popularity of Germany as a study destination among Indians



Many of my interlocutors reported:

- Feeling “stuck”:
 - Unemployed
 - Working in a job not matching their qualifications

Accessible path to social mobility and way to get “back on track”:

- Courses taught in English
- Affordable
- Good job market for Engineers

Reasons for the popularity of Germany as a study destination among Indians



- The goal of Master's degree = a job in Germany
- Most would not have done the Master's if they could directly get a job in Germany.
- Plan after graduation = work in Germany for some years and then go back to India or go somewhere else
- Relevant work experience = valuable capital.
- Foreign credentials have little exchange value on Indian job market.

What is the impact of Covid-19 on current students?

- Internships and Master's thesis placements in companies seen as vehicle to employment
- Always difficult to get; now much more so
 - Worried about career prospects
 - Financial problems because of this + some disruptions to part-time jobs
- Those with internships + Master's thesis placements → worried about opportunities to build networks, gain experience of working in German company
- Situation of those 'stuck' in India

What is the impact of Covid-19 on current students?

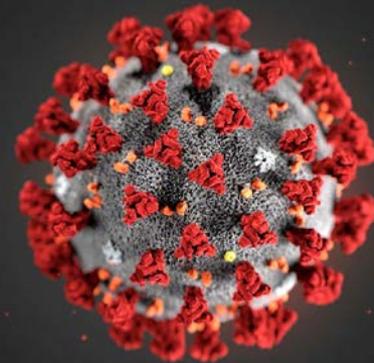
- Loss of university experience (students in first two semesters)
 - Some unhappiness with online courses: fall in learning, no chance to interact closely with professors and other classmates
 - Will future employers feel this 'Corona batch' did a less rigorous Master's?

What is the impact of Covid-19 on recent graduates?

- Struggle to find jobs (hiring freezes, delays)
- Financial problems
- Visa problems
- No point going home with just a degree

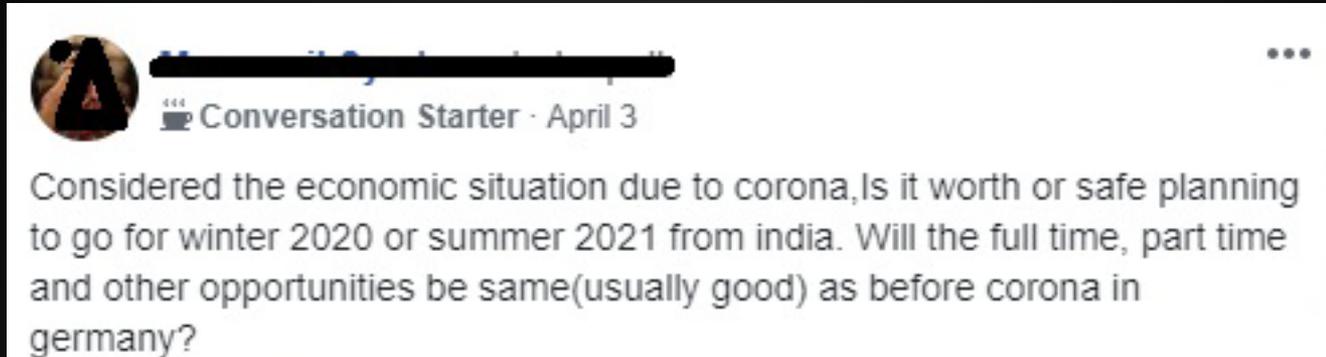
Health-related concerns?

- Fears/concerns about Covid-19 itself → limited
 - Feel safe in Germany, confident about healthcare system
("German government will take care of us")
 - None wished to go home
- #IndiansStuckInGermany
 - Social media backlash



What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

- Some health-related concerns about Covid-19 +



- Significant anxiety about job market
 - Will there be a recession?
 - What impact will it have on job opportunities after graduation?
 - What impact will it have on companies offering internships and other work-placements?
 - Will preference be given to German citizens?
- Concerns about sub-par study experience

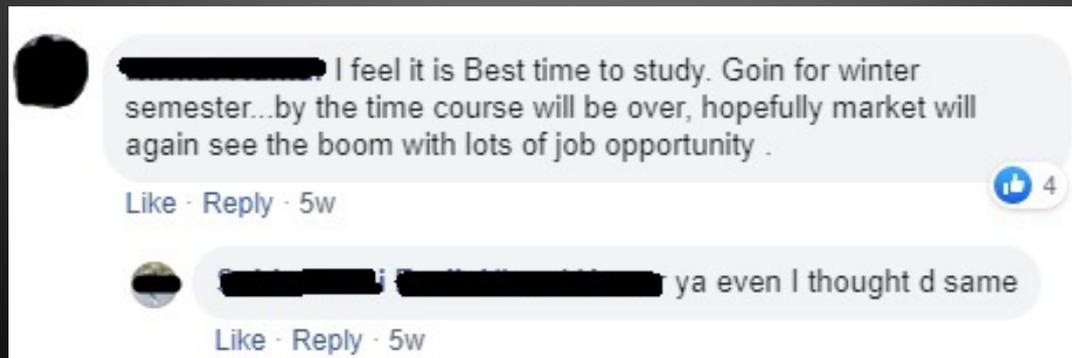
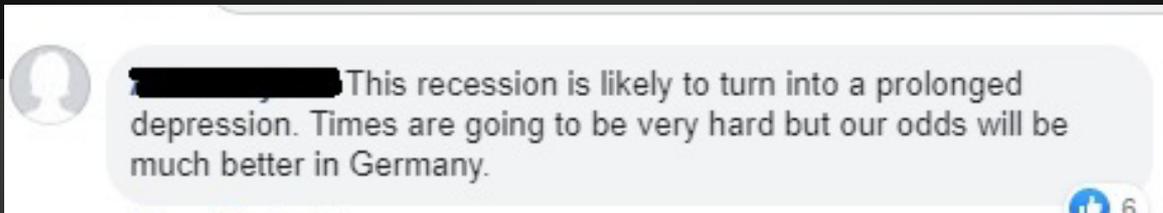
What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

HOWEVER, many don't appear to be much rethinking of plan to study in Germany

- What other options?
 - Some have already resigned from jobs
 - Some “rotting” in jobs they see as a stop-gap
 - Some unemployed
 - Some in final year of degree anticipating entering a worse-than-normal job market in India.
 - Worried about long period of inactivity/stagnation in India
 - Some feel it's getting “too late” to do a Master's

What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

- Germany handling pandemic well + better able to bounce back from recession than many other countries
- Master's degree = good option in times of recession



What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

- Concerns about chances of getting admission in the future:
 - Fears that competition will skyrocket next year:
 - ❖ more selective admission criteria
 - ❖ more applicants
 - ❖ restrictions on numbers of international students
 - Fears about reintroduction of tuition fees
 - Fears about changes in visa rules

* EFFECT ON WISE 2020

→ OPTIONS & CHALLENGES (DETAILED LECTURE ON BIG ACADEMY)

1. APPLICATION DEADLINES
2. START OF WISE 2020

	<u>NORMALLY</u>	<u>THIS TIME</u>
SoSe:	01.09 to 30.09	SoSe: 21.09 to 31.10
WiSe:	01.10 to 31.03	WiSe: 01.11 to 31.10

Video player controls: 3:03 / 6:15, CC, Settings, Full Screen, Maximize, Exit Full Screen

#AskBiG #BharatinGermany #StudyinGermany

Some Major Changes in 2020: Deadlines and Application Processes for German Universities DE

15,470 views • Apr 21, 2020

👍 490 💬 14 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ⋮



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178K subscribers

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German Public Health Insurance Payments and Alternatives: Exclusive Series with Expatrio |

1,904 views • Streamed live on May 21, 2020

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Top chat replay ▾

completion of online enrollment

-  **[REDACTED]** 3. Also on some facebook posts and blogs I read that the blocked amount money per month has been increased to 915 euors. Is that true for masters students?
-  **[REDACTED]** Thats not for student
-  **[REDACTED]** My enrolled date is 15.03.2020. From march till June total HI insurance premium is(104€ X 4mth) 416€. So do I need to pay only premium of July or from March?
-  **[REDACTED]** I am in my 4th semester at a public uni in Germany and have TK insurance (taken directly from TK) and currently stranded in India. can I also avoid paying monthly contributions for these months?
-  **[REDACTED]** hey in my mail federal health person said I don't have to any money.
-  **[REDACTED]** So there's no need to respond to the email sent by expatrio regarding the HI?
-  **[REDACTED]** I have enrolled online in April and have given TK confirmation to University. Expatrio have sent me a mail to send me Enrollment certificate. Should I send them?
-  **[REDACTED]** I wrote to my university yesterday, and I got a reply today stating that the health insurance is mandatory irrespective of where we are currently placed. Is this change applicable to all universities?

HIDE CHAT REPLAY



#GermanUniversities #BharatinGermany #StudyinGermany

Free 500 Euros and 0% Interest Loans: Support for International Students by the German Government DE

9,728 views • Jun 16, 2020

419 13 SHARE SAVE ...

What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

- Some people deferring/taking 'leave of absence', most intending to go ahead with plans.
- The bulk of exchanges in the group concern immediate bureaucratic concerns pertaining to:
 - University applications: how to get transcripts, degree certificate etc.
 - Visas:
 - People at all stages of the visa application process facing disruptions
 - People with visas unsure about what to do if visa expires before they can leave for Germany – re-apply/extension?
 - Some universities allow online enrolment only with visa.

What is the impact of Covid-19 on prospective students?

- Travel:
 - Is it safe to travel : relatively minor concern, people with SS admits keen to leave ASAP
 - When will travel restrictions be eased?
 - How to organise travel?

The value of the social media communities

- Even pre-Covid, the application process was experienced as stressful and uncertain; now much worse!
- Facebook and WhatsApp 'mutual-support' groups are a place where members can:
 - Get information and guidance about immediate struggles and problems related to university applications and visas
 - Discuss longer-term concerns and fears with others in the same boat
 - Get confidence seeing that there are many others in the same boat
 - Always important, now more so
- 'Study in Germany' YouTube channels
→ a chance to get honest advice from Indians in Germany

Conclusions

- Goal of Master's → job in Germany
- Work placements during Master's → important for getting job
- Considerable anxiety among prospective and current students + recent graduates about job market
- However, many prospective students not rethinking plans
 - Not many good alternatives
 - Affordable education = a less risky bet



[#YUDI J](#) [#MSinUSA](#) [#DontComeToUSA](#)

DONT Come TO USA For MASTERS!

34,661 views • Mar 28, 2020

1.2K 61 SHARE SAVE



Yudi J
58.7K subscribers

SUBSCRIBED



Conclusions

- Goal of Master's → job in Germany
- Work placements during Master's → important for getting job
- Considerable anxiety among prospective and current students + recent graduates about job market
- However, many prospective students not rethinking plans
 - Not many good alternatives
 - Affordable education = a less risky bet
- Online 'Study in Germany' communities – on FB, WhatsApp, YouTube – play key role in navigating current uncertainty

Thank you!

If you want to know more about the social media groups:

Jayadeva, S. (2019). Keep calm and apply to Germany: how online communities mediate transnational student mobility from India to Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-18.

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