

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Masterstudiums an der Hochschule Rosenheim 2014-2016

Country of origin:	Rumänien
University in Bavaria:	Hochschule Rosenheim
Subject of study:	Master Elektro- und Informationstechnik

I. Practical experiences and tips

I applied to a Master's Program in Bavaria some years after finishing my Bachelor and I think this was the best decision I could have made. I hope my experience can help others decide to apply here for a scholarship thru BAYHOST and see for their selves how many things Bavaria has to offer: not only from the academic point of view but also from the cultural and social perspective.

I was introduced to BAYHOST and Bavaria by a friend a mine, himself a BAYHOST scholarship recipient. I decided that I will quit my job and enroll at a Master's Program, the same one he was following. So I started reading about the Curricula of the Master's Program and the requirements for being awarded admittance. I would recommend getting all information about this at least one year and half before your planned starting date. I started my studies in October 2014, applied for the Scholarship in November 2013, and for the Master's Program after the answer from BAYHOST, somewhere in spring 2014.

Finding accommodation was an adventure. This was partly my fault, as I did not know that I had to apply at least 6 months before for student accommodation. I applied immediately after I received the answer from the University that I have been accepted. But this was only 3 months before coming to Germany. From my point of view this does not make much sense: people applying for accommodation and being on the waiting list before even knowing if they were accepted or not. And finding accommodation in Bavaria in October, right in the middle of Oktoberfest is nearly impossible and very expensive. I was given accommodation in the student dormitories only in December, after switching from 2 hotels and one temporary room that I was lucky to find thru a colleague. The University tries to help in this matter, but finding accommodation is no easy task.

II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

The University greeted us well and offered all the information that we needed for a good start. Being an international Mater's Program, they were extra careful in explaining the big cultural differences that we will face during our study. After all, we were students from 12 countries and different continents: Asia, Europe, Africa and South and North America. Intercultural training was

offered and it was more than useful in helping us study and get to know each other. All the facilities and how to access them were described from the first day: library, laboratories, how to contact professors, sport activities and where and who we can contact for different information.

Most of my colleagues were not from Germany. But German students were surprisingly social, helpful and friendly. Whenever you ask for help they do their best. I would recommend learning German as it is a big advantage when socializing, apart from being nearly a must if you want to continue working and settling here. English language is spoken at an advanced level by almost everyone in the campus so there was no problem in communicating with professors and students. German classes are offered at the University and some language teaching institutions. One can enroll in these courses, but nothing compares with the experience of exercising and learning by talking to locals.

From the economical point of view, I had no problem supporting myself using the scholarship from BAYHOST. In my opinion this will suffice in most cases. It depends on your life style and, of course, the rent you need to pay. I would recommend verifying rent possibilities when calculating costs of living before coming to Germany.

From the academic point of view, everything is at a high level. From the professionalism of the professors and University staff to the quality of the courses. And everything is evolving: they always ask for feedback, always improving and adapting to the needs of the students. Laboratory equipment is designed to be at the level found in the industry and the practical experience you get will definitely help you in your career. Apart from a close link to the industry, they also encourage research and most of the professors have projects where they involve students. Collaboration between students is encouraged by the Semester Project, but also during the different tasks given to enhance team work. I came to find out that very few things are mandatory and a lot of freedom is given in choosing courses and activities. Taking responsibility and self-organization are the two driving values on which every activity is based. Not only in the interaction with professors but also in daily life. You learn to plan, be on time and take responsibility of your actions. And this is not imposed, but you somehow adapt to it as the whole German culture is based on these principles. This will bring you more stability and equilibrium not only in your professional life, but also when it comes to your personal life.

Apart from the courses in the Curricula, there were a lot of workshops and trainings offered. And this is everywhere throughout Germany. Transportation is not a problem as you can get anywhere by train, bus or car-sharing.

III. Your plans or activities after the BAYHOST-funding

As I am approaching the end of my studies, I can say that this was a very good experience: from the quality of the education, to the social environment and different cultures, to the extraordinary nature and cities that Bavaria has to offer. It has made me a better person. Career opportunities are everywhere and in all domains. Personally, I choose to return in my country for reasons related to my family, but I will surely return to Germany someday.