

**ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT**  
**Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Diplomstudiums**  
**an der Akademie der Bildenden Künste Nürnberg 2014-2017**

Country of origin:	Serbien
University in Bavaria:	Akademie der Bildenden Künste Nürnberg
Subject of study:	Kunst im öffentlichen Raum

**I. Practical experiences and tips**

At the time of writing this report, I'm in the process of preparing my final exam at the Academy of fine Arts in Nuremberg. Unfortunately, various circumstances lead to me not finishing my studies in four semesters. The main of them being, that my first supervisor had changed in the middle of my program. So I basically had to start all over again with the new professor. Even in this unorthodox situation, BAYHOST has proven to be flexible and understanding, providing me with a scholarship for one semester more. But let me start from the beginning.

Even though my studies are in German language, I am writing this report in English, knowing how many science and law students study with a BAYHOST scholarship: quite a lot. So my writing in German wouldn't help them much. I have to say, however, that studying in German was something that enriched me as a person and hopefully as a young professional in the field of art. Not only do you have an access to a whole new horizon of knowledge, but maybe even more than that (looking from a perspective of Art in Public Space student), you are enabled to communicate with people whom you encounter outside the university. This provides a great feeling of safety and freedom, which is to me a core element for studying and working abroad. So learn some German as well.

I would like to spare you my thoughts on the administrative procedures, I'm sure you will find them as annoying as I have, regardless of the country you come from. Not even German efficiency has yet come up with a system that spares you from queueing in front of the German Consulate, or any other institution for that matter.

The entrance exam at any Art Academy requires candidates' presence (the exam consists of a practical and an interview part), so that's when I first visited Nuremberg. It was in July 2014. The course I applied for is called „Art in Public Space“, it is one of two programs at the Academy that provide a Diplom degree. The Art Academies in Bavaria are not part of the Bologna-Process, so the Bachelor/Master system doesn't apply here. After being informed that I passed the exam, I

started browsing the Web for flat shares in Nuremberg, *Wohnungsgemeinschaft*, as it is called in German. The most popular website is called WG-Gesucht.de. Most of the flat shares were already taken by that time. The best time to look would be sometime in April or May. Good and affordable student flatshares in Nuremberg in the town part called Gostenhof, and around the Stadtpark. So I decided to look for a different type of a flat share. My academy is on the far east part of the city, so I also looked for flat shares there. There was this one ad, a guy living with his daughter deciding to make a flat share in his family house. I decided to give it a go and set up a Skype interview. It turned out, my new flatmate's ex-wife was from Serbia. So he already knew some Serbian. It was basically pure luck, I moved to Nuremberg in mid-September 2014 and now, in 2017, I'm still living in the same house. My advice would be: try to find someone who lives in Nuremberg to help you but browse online as well. Also, it is advisable to look for an intermediate rent, maybe for the first semester, and then continue looking for a flat when you're already here. Every city has its own specifics when it comes to looking for a flat or a flatshare.

When you enroll a study program at the Academy or any university for that matter, you get a Students Identity Card and a „Immatrikulationsbescheinigung“ – a certificate that you are a student now. With this, you can go to your local public transportation company (in Nuremberg it is called „VAG“) and get your students transportation card made. This usually doesn't take long. There you can also buy your semester ticket. Depending on where you live, you can also opt for a bike (every student in Germany has a bike), especially if you don't live far away from your university. I had the luck to live close to my Academy so I didn't buy the semester ticket. But sometimes, your university may have a contract with the public transportation company, so you have no choice as a student, you have to buy it. A semester ticket can also sometimes pay off even if you don't use it that often, but maybe want to go to the countryside or some other smaller places in the vicinity of your city. For example, with a semester ticket in Nuremberg, you can take the S-Bahn as far as to Bamberg (70 km away).

The Academy in Nuremberg is the oldest art Academy in the German-speaking world. The campus was built in the 1950s, based on the plan of the famous BAUHAUS architect Sep Ruf. The whole campus is under the preservation order. It has very well equipped facilities, from classical ones like carpentry to studios for sound and photography. Newest Apple Macintosh technology is installed. In fact, according to the latest students survey, the facilities of the Academy are the best-evaluated element of studying at the Academy of fine Arts in Nuremberg.

## **II. Academic experiences and further qualifications**

My program has only two compulsory seminars, so I had enough time to visit theory seminars offered by respected professors in the theory field. Coming to a fine arts academy with a background in applied arts, I used these seminars to sharpen my critical position about making and experiencing art. After the first two semesters, the class had no professor for over a semester. I used this time for my projects, taking part in events and local contests. One of them is „The blue night“, the long night of art and culture in Nuremberg. I presented an installation there last year, and I am preparing a new one for this year. I have learned a lot from this direct experience with an institution (in this case the city of Nuremberg). Such chances are very seldom in Serbia. For the

last two semesters, the class was guided by a new professor. He will be my main supervisor for my final exam. During the fact that his status at the Academy is that of a substitute Professor, with an uncertain status, we have been able to develop a relationship only to a certain level. To be more precise, the program he has offered to the class was very intensive, with little time for individual projects. Nevertheless, he is a professional and acclaimed artist, so I trust his guidance when it comes to my final exam.

The situation concerning the class for Art in Public Space at the Academy in Nuremberg is a specific one, where the Academy administration doesn't have a clear and uniform opinion. That lead to more and more students leaving the class over the last four semesters. From around 30 students at the beginning of the winter semester in 2014, it has reduced to 15 students, with a falling trend. Having a different status than most of my German colleagues, who can afford to study for more than six or seven years, I am obliged to finish my studies in maximum three years. So all of this lead to me putting much effort in overcoming all of these „external“ problems and trying to concentrate on my own praxis.

I wish to make one last remark regarding working and studying, as I have made some experience with this over the last three years. To me, it was from early on clear that the BAYHOST scholarship would cover my rent, my health insurance, and food costs. But studying arts I also need money for my art projects. So for the most part of my studies, I have been working in restaurants, working my way up. My advice would be: if your parents support you with some money and you're fine with it – great, you don't have to work. On my behalf, it felt good to earn some money myself, because I could also plan better with this money. I had the luck, that my program was relatively loose, so I had time. Some programs are much more structured and there's no free time. So, analyze the situation well, you can always get a „mini job“ somewhere, it's not that difficult.

### **III. Your plans or activities after the Bayhost-funding**

At this moment it is difficult to say in which direction my professional career will develop and if I will stay in Nuremberg or not. After all, I am being educated to become a free artist. But I am sure of this: without the BAYHOST scholarship, I wouldn't have had a chance to study in Bavaria. BAYHOST is maybe the only element in the equation that really understood my needs as their scholar. They provided me with a balance of care and support, being there when I needed them but also not being there when I didn't need them. A true, honest and effective springboard.

I hope this report gives you some heads-up regarding studying in Bavaria.