

## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2015

Herkunftsland:	Serbia
Heimathochschule:	University of Belgrade
Studiengang:	Faculty for Mining and Geology
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	02.8.2015 bis 28.8.2015
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Summer University
Kursort in Bayern:	Bayreuth
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	A2/2

At first I didn't know what to expect of Bayreuth since it is a very small city with a population of about 70 000. I knew about it because my friend from Serbia is doing his PhD thesis there and I knew that in August they have a famous annual Richard Wagner opera festival. Coming to Bayreuth was a bit complicated, but just because I didn't plan it well and because they decided to start working on the railway between Nürnberg and Bayreuth on the day of our arrival. But when we got there I almost felt like home. As I already wrote the city is small but it's so nice, the streets and buildings make you feel like you're at some play and that they are made out of paper and not of stone.



I was staying on the campus at a students' dormitory (Birken, Frankengutstraße) and I had my own room with a bathroom, but I shared a kitchen with the other students. The accommodation for me was pretty good, the room was clean when I arrived and I didn't have problems with the other people on the floor (they cleaned the kitchen orderly). Since I was staying

on the campus it took me only 5-10 minutes to the classroom, so I didn't have to take public transports or the bike every day. But every day we went to the city center and even then I didn't use any of these because the walk took only 15-20 minutes and between Birken and the city center is the beautiful Bayreuth's Hofgarten, so it was a lovely walk.



Picnic in the Hofgarten

On the first day we had an opening ceremony and we met our professors. I have to say that my professor was absolutely amazing. Every day we started the lessons with a game to wake us up and we had to split in pairs of two to talk to each other about different topics. We also watched some movies and had discussions about them. We actually learned German through games and stories about different cultures. That was a great part since in my class were people from Japan, China, India, Singapore, Korea, Columbia and Serbia and we all have so different lifestyles and cultures. So we didn't learn only German but even the way of living in other parts of the world, and for me that was and is the most important thing that I have learned in these 26 days in Bayreuth. My class was on the level A2/2 and in the end of the summer school we had an exam. The exam was constructed of a hearing part, reading part, grammar and writing parts. Those were 60% of the mark and the teacher gave us the other 40% on the basis of our activities in class and presentations (every few days we split in groups of four or five people and made a presentation about some topic in Germany or another country). I passed the exam with the mark 1 (91.5/100 points).

I think that there is no better way to learn German than to come to the country where it's the official language, and also to take courses in that country. For me this course was really fun and that was great, because since I don't study "Germanistik" or languages in general it's really intensive to take 4-6 hours of German every day (we had morning and afternoon classes and in between was a lunch break). So, they made learning German interesting and it wasn't hard at all. I'm completely sure that if I took German classes every day for 6 hours in Belgrade for a month I wouldn't progress on the way I did in Bayreuth. Because you have to speak German there, no matter on what level you are, they talk with you in German and in class the professor never speaks English. So this was a really great way to learn it. And of course, I started to love that language. I study geology and for me it was very good that I got

the BAYHOST scholarship for Bayreuth, since one of the best Geology Institutes in Europe is there. And of course, I went to see it.

As for the cultural program we had some activities organized by the summer course, but few of my friends and me were mostly taking it by ourselves. In the first week we went to the Czech Republic to two cities – Cheb and Františkovy Lázně, the next week we went to Munich and afterwards with the summer course to Leipzig. We also visited museums (Natural History and History) and a church in Bayreuth; additionally we did a few picnics in the Hofgarten. In our free time (when we didn't travel somewhere) we went to the Theater Workshop and the LiteraturCafé. The Theater Workshop was great! We learned how to express feelings and some words through our bodies – through moves and pantomime and the teacher was great. She is so creative and she was open to all our ideas. At the LiteraturCafé I was a bit struggling with German, since I'm only A2 and to understand and talk about poems you need a higher level. But it was useful to go there since we went through German literature from the Middle Ages till nowadays.



Excursion to the Czech Republic

There are actually two most important things that I learned in Bayreuth. First, I have experienced the life on my own in a foreign country and the way of students' life there. The second one is of course the people and the friendships I made there. When the journey started I was a bit anxious about how I will find friends among all those people from different countries and cultures, but we met the first day and stayed together until the last day. We are in contact every day and we made plans about visiting each other in our home countries. Next week my friend from Singapore will come to my birthday party!

For the end, I need to say that my life would look totally different if I didn't get this scholarship and go to Bayreuth. This was one of the most exciting summers of my life. If you're thinking of preparing yourselves for living and studying somewhere in Europe this is one of the best ways to do it!