

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2016

Herkunftsland:	Serbien
Heimathochschule:	Universität Novi Sad
Studiengang:	Werkstoffwissenschaften
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 18. Juli bis 12. August
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Internationaler Sommerkurs 2016
Kursort in Bayern:	Eichstätt
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B1

It was this year in March when I discovered the BAYHOST scholarship on the internet and it could not be better for me. That was something I was planning to do in order to improve my knowledge of German language and culture. About two weeks (which was more than enough to finish my application) before the application deadline, I had realised that it would be a great opportunity for me. Also, I thought the period between the third and the fourth year of studies was the best for this kind of course, especially for those who want to continue their master studies in Germany, like I do. And that was it, I was determined to get involved in this programme.

It was the middle of May when I received an e-mail saying that I would be one of the scholarship holders this summer. I cannot explain how surprized, relieved and honoured I felt!

The first thing to do was to organize transportation from Novi Sad, my home city, to Eichstätt. Among other options, I had chosen to travel by van only because it was the simplest way – you catch it in Novi Sad and it will take you to any address in Germany. Thanks to the adaptability of the tutors, my late arrival in Eichstätt at 2 a.m. did not pose a problem.

The scholarship included accommodation and breakfast at the Kolping-Tagungshotel. Although most of the rooms were with two beds, mine was single with a shared bathroom. It was really comfortable. I would describe it as "everything a student needs", since it had a comfortable bed, a work table, TV, a wardrobe and a sink. The hotel was 5 minutes away from the train station, 15 minutes from the University, 7 minutes from the closest supermarket and 12 minutes away from McDonald's.

From the beginning on the course was really well organized. The welcoming evening was very useful, since we received loads of information about the course and we had a chance to meet

each other. Sightseeing in the town with a tourist guide revealed not only how nice and charming this quiet town is, but also that you don't need public transport at all. Moreover, our tutors showed us where the University was, how to use the card for the canteen, where lunch was offered for 3 to 5 euros (we paid 5 euros for the card, but at the end of the course it was possible to give the card back and get your money back), how to use the laundry room (for only 2 euros you could wash and dry your laundry), how to use the library, places to eat, drink coffee, where the cinema was, etc. Therefore, there were no ambiguities. The tutors were also available for any questions, so they made our stay at Eichstätt even more comfortable and enjoyable, which I am very grateful for!

After a test we were separated into 5 groups for morning classes (A1 to C1) and 4 groups for afternoon classes (Let's Learn German, "Deutsch Intensiv im Herzen Bayerns 1 und 2" and Literature course). Morning classes were every work day from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and afternoon classes were 2 to 3 times a week from 2 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. Morning classes focused on grammar, listening and writing skills, while afternoon classes focused on speaking skills as well as learning about Germany. Although the teachers had their plans, they were really open to any suggestions and willing to accept good ideas and initiative.

During the whole course I had a feeling that everything was dedicated to one goal: students learning German. Apart from that, I had a feeling that the whole community was included in that process. For example, one day was a project day where students were divided into groups and every group had the task to do interviews with people of Eichstätt on certain topics and later to present their work in class. The topic of my group was the Red Cross. We had to interview the head of the Red Cross Eichstätt and one more employee. That was a real challenge, because everything had to be done in German. That was the situation where one could see how good their knowledge of German is and also yet another opportunity for improvement. Very helpful was the fact that people were kind, friendly and really patient.

The first and third weekend were reserved for trips. The final destination was the beautiful city of Regensburg, but Weltenburg, the place we visited a week before, was not less relevant or amazing. It was really fun to drink beer at the oldest monastery brewery in the world (in Weltenburg), to see the cathedral in Regensburg, experience a ship ride on the Danube river, etc. Rothenburg ob der Tauber was the city of interest at the third weekend. This medieval town was reconstructed to revive the original feel of the medieval period. We also visited Ingolstadt, where we had a ceremony at the city hall. Everything mentioned above was included in the scholarship; you only needed to sign up for it. I believe this report would never come to an end if I tried to describe every single activity we have experienced, such as movie nights, "Theater und Tanzkurs", canoe trip, parties, etc.

Finally, I want to give my general opinion on the course. During the course time every single activity that was organized made me feel that they have been working hard, listening to all of the

given suggestions during the 32 years long history of this course and that they are trying hard to make students feel comfortable, welcome and engaged in learning. At the end they wouldn't exist after all these years if they were not improving and being that great. With no doubt, I would highly recommend this course and BAYHOST.