

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT
Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Masterstudiums an der
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg 2013-2016

Country of origin:	Russland
University in Bavaria:	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
Subject of study:	MA Development Economics and International Studies

I. Practical experience and tips

My arrival preparation was easy and smooth. After I got the email invitation from the university, I made an appointment in the embassy of Germany and started collecting all documents for getting visa. Till the time I had to go the embassy, the official letter from the university with all sent documents arrived by post. Getting visa took me around one month, but without any problems. At the same time, I got in touch with the International Office from FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg to get an appointment for the Orientation Day for international students. Also, I got the place in the dormitory from the university. Furthermore, my program had the facebook group, where all students can communicate in advance, asking questions. This way, I found the girl, who was studying one year before me. She answered on all my questions and moreover, she agreed to help me on the day of my arrival. So by the time I arrived in Germany I had everything arranged. Finally, I got the visa and flew to Germany.

My plane landed in Munich, from where I took the direct bus to the city of studying – Erlangen. On the bus station the groupmate was waiting for me. She gave me the map of the city, explained where each building of the university is located, showed the most important shops for the beginning and also showed where is my dormitory. Her help was really necessary as I did not speak any German language. During the first week I had to visit the orientation day for international students, where we were helped to fill all documents for getting health insurance, opening the bank account and registering in the citizen center.

The city has a good transport system; the majority of university buildings are located in the city center. Moreover, any point of the city is possible to reach using a bicycle. This is a huge advantage of the student city. In winter semester I was usually using buses. The university has a semester ticket for a reasonable price. In summer semester I was always using my bicycle. The living costs are higher than in my home city. However, the scholarship is enough, when you do not need to buy a lot of books for studying. The university provides sport courses, varying from

swimming to canoeing - all kind of sports which you can only wish. Visiting them it gives the opportunity to meet new people. As the city is small, for spending free time it has more sense to travel to Nürnberg, which you can reach in 25 minutes by train. There you can visit different concerts, museums or festivals. Erlangen is a perfect city for studying and living as a student.

II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

My study program "Development Economics and International Studies" was divided into two main blocks – graded and ungraded. In both modules there was a huge variety of courses. In graded module there were some courses obligatory, such as Development Economics or International Business Ethics. These courses are the base for my studies. Other courses could be chosen up to a student. In ungraded module I could choose any course, including language courses. Each semester we had invited professors for conducting seminars from abroad: Mexico and South Africa, what is really important for the chosen studies, as you are getting the first-hand information regarding nowadays economic problems. Moreover, we had guest lectures or panel discussions. To sum up, my master program in FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg has a great choice of courses and possibilities to attend additional discussions.

The university has a good facilitation. There are 3 libraries which have both computer rooms and studying silent rooms. During lectures all necessary materials are provided. Also, there are 2 main canteens. All professors have a high qualification and working experience in the studied field. This way they are providing the real life examples.

The focus of my studies was on the developing countries. The main idea – where lies the problem, how can we improve the life and what future and possibilities have underprivileged population. To answer on these questions, I have studied not only the theory, but also the application of it. This way, my master thesis was dedicated to India: "Corporate Social Responsibility Activities in the Education Sector in India". The lack of education is a serious problem in India, and CSR can be a useful tool to improve the education. The businesses can help to solve social issues.

To sum up, I can say that studying in Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg plays a significant role in my life. The quality of education has a high level. I had a chance to choose those topics in frames of the studying in which I am interested the most. After completing my master program with a support from BAYHOST I would like to enter the work market. For the beginning I am planning to get the working experience in the marketing sphere. Later, I am planning to join the non-governmental organization as this was one of the direction of my studies.