

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT ÜBER STUDIENERFAHRUNGEN IN BAYERN

[Report on study experiences in Bavaria]

Herkunftsland [county of origin]:	Russland
Studium in Bayern [program in Bavaria]:	von [from] October 2017 bis [until] March 2020
Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]:	LMU München
Studienfach [subject of study]:	Economics
Abschluss [degree]:	Master

I. Practical experiences and tips

Let me start my report with expressing my deep thanks to BAYHOST for the opportunity to study at one of top universities in Europe. This was my dream and with the support of BAYHOST it came true.

I started my application for Master's programs opening a website of DAAD. Why? There is a database of all study programs called "[Higher Education Compass](#)" which allows applicants to search for study programs based on the criteria that are important for them. I would recommend everyone who aims to study in Germany to utilize this resource. You will simply save time being able to quickly compare study programs with each other, check the prerequisites for applying, costs and deadlines. For instance, my criteria for studies were the following: a Master's program in Economics, in English, tuition fees of less than 500 Euro per semester. There are many universities that offer such programs, so I made an Excel table with 10 most interesting programs and focused on them later. At this stage it might be also a great idea to ask friends whether they want to apply together with you and do all the application steps together – this is what I did and it helped me a lot to go through all the "preparing documents" and "sending documents" steps.

Another useful resource that I utilized was the database of scholarships on the website of DAAD called "[Scholarship Database](#)". This is the place where I informed myself about various funding opportunities and exactly here I discovered BAYHOST!

As soon as my application plan (in the form of an Excel table with deadlines) was ready, I started to prepare documents. At this stage I reached to my friends who have been studying at German universities and kindly asked them to share their experience, which was a great thing. In addition, I attended a couple of events devoted to study in Germany and just asked questions that I had there. This experience helped me prepare good motivation letters for application.

At the end I sent application documents to three universities of interest and got matriculation letters from 2 of them. There were no issues with matriculation and visa, the only disaster in Munich appeared to be accommodation. Here I would encourage all applicants to apply for dorms as early as possible – I had to

wait 1 year to get a place in the dorm. Nevertheless, even if the queue for the dorm tends to be large, a WG-room is a good alternative option for accommodation. A lot of students live currently in WG-rooms, such accommodation is affordable and relatively easy to find. For this purpose, I would recommend using the website “WG-gesucht”. I would just highlight here that there are a few fraudsters that are sending messages to applicants, so it is recommended not to transfer money to anyone before meeting these people in person.

After my preparation for studies were done, I took a flight to Munich. Here it is worthy to note that all cities in Bavaria are relatively close to each other. So, if you are flying to Munich, it is worthy to consider also the Memmingen, Nürnberg and Stuttgart airports. It takes about 2-3 hours to reach Munich from them. Here I would recommend using “Skyscanner” (its website or App) for flights and “Busradar” for buses and trains to find the most affordable and suitable connection.

As for costs of living in Munich, they largely depend on students’ living habits. I pay 550 Euro per month for accommodation (students that live in a dorm usually pay only 280 Euro/month); 70 Euro for insurance; around 50 Euro for public ticket (the semester ticket costs 300 Euro for a semester) and 300-400 Euro for food and other expenses. At a restaurant you normally pay about 15-20 Euro for one meal. But the supermarkets are affordable and offer products of good quality, so I cook a lot by myself. A good option for students is also to go to Mensa – there you can get a great lunch for just 3 or 4 Euro.

My last practical tip for future students is to use all the opportunities provided to us. For instance, sports in Munich cost just 1 Euro/Month (7 Euro for a semester). For this price students can attend any sports sections they want. We also pay just 2 Euro/month (15 Euro for a semester) to go to a very great swimming pool (Olympiaschwimmhalle). In addition, it costs only 2 Euro/month to use all bikes of the company MVV in Munich (with 30 free minutes every day).

II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

Let us now move to the second part of my report – academic experience. I would recommend LMU as the university of choice. My Master’s program consists of 1 semester with obligatory courses and all other semesters with optional courses. I used this opportunity to study more Behavioral Economics courses and take less Public Economics courses (which is without doubts an important subject but is less related to my career path). LMU also invites students to a lot of extracurricular events as well as gives opportunities to engage in many students’ organizations, which is a great advantage.

As for my experience with the department of interest at LMU, I can only say that my impressions are very positive so far. My supervisor is not only competent but also friendly and supportive. It is also important to me that he is open to my initiatives – I suggested to write my Master’s thesis in a collaboration with a company (the firm where I am employed in as a working student) and he gave me a green light.

I am very grateful to LMU and BAYHOST also for the chance to define my major. I didn’t expect that but optional courses at LMU allowed me to find a research topic that I will focus on – Behavioral Economics. As all our optional courses gave us knowledge on an advanced level, it was easier for me to realize which



topics are especially interesting and which not. This was an important step for my further professional qualification.

I would assess the results of the scholarship in the following way: this time went beyond my expectations. Thank you, BAYHOST! I had the chance to grow both professionally and personally during this time, meet inspiring people as well as get to know German culture. This was fantastic and at the same time very useful experience! The scholarship allowed me to focus on studying and research instead of devoting time to earning my living. I had an opportunity to learn a lot and prepare myself for the future.

Let me also thank BAYHOST for holding an event for scholarship holders in Passau. It was not only interesting to participate in the official program on international competence, it was also really great to get to know fellow scholarship holders! It was amazing to realize that scholarship holders from the Eastern Europe have so much in common, that we share a similar culture and ideas. I think it would be great to keep in touch with other scholarship holders, hold common events and continue building connections between our countries.

III. Plans or activities after the BAYHOST-funding

As for my plans after the BAYHOST-scholarship, I have two dreams. On the one hand, I would like to come back to my lovely family in Moscow and do a PhD at my home university Higher School of Economics. On the other hand, I currently think of going for another Master's studies (this time in business psychology) before doing a PhD. Why? I want to focus on behavioral economics, which is a mix of economics and psychology. Now I have solid knowledge of economics thanks to LMU but I lack some knowledge of psychology. I have a feeling that a Master's degree in business psychology could be a great next step in my career.