

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2019

Heimatland:	Albanien
Studiengang:	Zahnmedizin
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 03.08. bis 29.08.2019
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	MISU at LMU: Sommersprachkurs Deutsch/General German
Kursort in Bayern:	München
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B1+

Dear future participants,

I would love to share my wonderful experience in Munich with you. It all started when I saw the scholarship advertisement online. It immediately sparked interest in me and so I decided to apply. I went through all the necessary procedures, which were very well explained on the website in German and English, and I kept hoping I would be one of the lucky applicants. I was so happy when I received the acceptance letter!

I attended the B1+ course from the 3rd to the 28th of August in Munich, at the Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU). I arrived in Munich on the 3rd of August in the morning, and on that day we also had the student residence welcome. It took place in Studentenstadt at around 2 p.m. There were so many people from the staff who were willing to help everybody with getting around. I went through the registration procedure, found out where I would be staying at and got the keys to my room plus some general information and rules regarding the dormitory. I also bought the Mensa Card and an internet cable (because there was no Wi-Fi, you had to connect it with a cable which you could buy for just 3 € or bring yourself).

After that, I went to my room and got to know the neighbourhood around it. It happened to be near Schloss Nymphenburg, which is a marvellous palace in Munich. The conditions of the room were very modest but good. I had a private bathroom inside my room and a shared kitchen with about six other people. The dorm was usually very clean but everyone is responsible for their own hygiene.

Before I arrived in Munich, I received an e-mail from the course with every necessary information regarding my stay in Munich, from the arrival at the airport to the departure on the last day. Therefore, it was very easy for me to get around Munich at first and later in the month. Depending on the location of your dorm, a monthly ticket could cost from 55 to 79 €. Munich public transport system is very easy to understand with their network maps. There is also a free app where you can find every bus or train number you need to take.

The 5th of August was the first day of the course. We met at the LMU building where we watched a presentation which was quite helpful for the following month. Then we met with the

teacher and introduced ourselves. It was very fun to get to know the other students who came from different countries in and outside of Europe. We learned where the classroom was, the Mensa, the main buildings around the course center etc. I also went to the welcome party on the same day, where I met a lot of people from the other groups too, who I became very good friends with.

Every day I had four amazing hours of German class and afternoons full of fun activities that Munich has to offer. The course finished around 1 p.m. every day, and we went to the Mensa just in front of the building to eat most days. The food there was very similar to what I am used to eat at home, so it was very good for me (there were also vegetarian/vegan options). The prices were super low there, from 2 to 5 € for a big meal. You could also find many restaurants around the building, but the prices were not so low. However, the most amazing thing is you can drink tap water from every tap in Munich (unless it says otherwise)! So you can save all the money you would spend on water just by carrying a reusable water bottle with you.

Most of the days when it was not raining, we went to the Englischer Garten to have beers and snacks with good music and great friendships included! Marienplatz, Allianz Arena, Odeonsplatz and Olympiadorf are great places to visit.

On weekends, there were some trips organized for us (no extra payment necessary). One trip was Nuremberg, one was Schloss Neuschwanstein and the other one was Dachau Concentration Camp. We had so much fun in Nuremberg and Schloss Neuschwanstein, and Dachau Camp was a very sad but valuable experience.

As for the lessons, they were never boring. The teacher was very good and almost always speaking German, which really pushed me to learn way more than in my origin country. The lessons included little learning games, informative videos and the teacher gave us a lot of materials with exercises in addition to the course book. Speaking was probably the best aspect of our lessons. We would get up and walk around the class, find a partner, speak for some minutes and then speak in front of the others too. That really helped me with my German because up until this summer, I have always been too shy to express myself in German. If you have the same problem, which is very common no matter what your level is, you will never feel judged by the other students because everyone struggles in his or her own way.

Another part of the course was a project day. We were divided in small groups and every group chose an own topic. We had some days to prepare a presentation about it. My group and I went to visit an organization called "Die Tafel", which collects food from supermarkets and firms and gives it out to people in need for free. That experience really opened my eyes as to how many people who need help are "hiding" in such a big and wealthy city as Munich.

On the last day, I took the final exam and passed. It made me realize how much I had really learned in those four weeks. And the exam also provided me with 3 ECTS credits! Most importantly, aside from German, I learned a lot about life in another country, different cultures, living alone and so many life-worthy lessons!

Finally, I would really like to thank BAYHOST for this wonderful opportunity. I do not think I would have been able to enjoy my summer days any more than I did thanks to BAYHOST. My stay in Munich provided me with German knowledge, self-confidence regarding my language skills, new amazing friendships from all around the world and most importantly, precious memories which I will hold on to forever! I would go back there again anytime with no hesitation. I hope everyone who is reading this will also enjoy Munich as much as I did and improve as a German speaker and socially at the same time.