

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IM ÖSTLICHEN EUROPA

Hochschule in Bayern:	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Studiengang:	Geschichte Ost- und Südosteuropas
Sprache:	Slowenisch
Sprachkurs im östlichen Europa:	von 16.07. bis 04.08.2018
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	38 th Summer Summer School of Slovene Language
Kursort im östlichen Europa:	Ljubljana (Slowenien)
Sprachkursniveau:	Intermediate

In the first two weeks of July 2019 I attended a Slovene language course, thanks to a stipend granted by BAYHOST. It was the 38th edition of the well-established Summer School of Slovene Language in Ljubljana. The summer school was organized by the Centre for Slovene as a second and foreign language at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana. The classes were at the building of the faculty, while the cultural programme activities took place both in and outside of Ljubljana.

Course registration

After the confirmation of the BAYHOST stipend, the course registration process was straightforward: several days after I filled out the application form on the Centre's website, I received an e-mail with the confirmation of registration and some information about the course schedule and the accommodation in Ljubljana. I was also asked to complete a written placement test.

Accommodation and city transportation

As covered by the stipend, I was accommodated in Dijaški dom Bežigrad, which is normally a dormitory for school pupils, but also operates as a hostel during the summer holidays. The dorm is located in the northern suburb of Ljubljana, in a quiet neighbourhood with student dormitories and some faculty buildings of the University of Ljubljana. The building is situated behind a small park, and the view out of my window was tranquil. At the same time of my stay, there were also participants of several other summer schools staying at the same dorm. The closest bus stop was Mercator. Bus 6 and 11 both went to the Faculty of Arts, but the former was more convenient and frequent. The railway station was three stops away by bus. I used a Urbana card for buses in Ljubljana, which one could buy on machines and load at kiosks. In general, buses in Ljubljana were modern, comfortable and eco-friendly, although I also had a memorable experience of tak-

ing a bus on detour. I also tried once to go by foot from the faculty to the dorm. It took about 45 minutes and was pretty interesting. Going by bike was a popular way to go to the faculty and to get around in general. Ljubljana is a bike-friendly city.

Classes

The classes took place every morning from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. There were optional afternoon classes, but I did not take them. On the first day of the course, an oral placement test was held, in addition to the written test which I mentioned above. Course participants (of the first two weeks) were then divided into five groups of six to eight people. I was put into the third group, where we used a textbook at the A2 level. Since there were only 40 hours of teaching in total, the classes only covered parts of the textbook. In terms of grammar, it means that we learned about the usage of the six cases, the inflection of nouns and pronouns, the verb conjugation in three tenses, while not much about the dual number, the perfective and the imperfective aspects, and the numerals. Language in use was seemingly more emphasised than grammar and new words. We had many conversations around given topics, mostly about ourselves and daily life. A tip for future course participants: It is possible to use the various subject libraries at the Faculty of Arts, which is a great opportunity to read Slovenian adapted to one's own interest.

Cultural programme and other activities

The accompanying programme of the summer school took place every afternoon after the classes. Besides the usual, more predictable events like city tour and museum visits, there were also activities that were uniquely local. My two favourite events were visiting an urban institute, where I for the first time learned about urban beekeeping on the roof, a print workshop, where I learned about historical printing technique and then even printed a famous poem using a printing press! Outside of the summer school programme, there were many other cultural activities in Ljubljana during the summer months. I attended an open-air performance of the opera Aida, which contained an amazing episode of authentic Lipizzaner horses marching across the stage.

Personal progress

I found the conversation practices especially helpful. By the end of the course, I felt much more confident in trying to speak Slovene in situations like buying ticket or asking for direction, even though much of the vocabulary was not new to me. The course contributed to my studies in another way. Every afternoon after the classes finished, I went to research at the Archive of the Republic of Slovenia, located only a few hundred metres from the faculty building. Both knowledge of the Slovene language and the research that I conducted at the archive are going to be very useful to my research.