
ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2022

Herkunftsland:	Ukraine
Heimathochschule:	Central Ukrainian State Pedagogical University
Studiengang:	Applied Linguistics
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 17.07.2022 bis 05.08.2022
Kursort in Bayern:	Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
Sprachkursniveau:	B1

Report for Summer Language School in Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

1. Preparation for the stay & journey

Preparation for the stay will not necessarily come easy. I had to concern myself with many things for going abroad this time, and I can understand the nervousness one experiences before traveling. Luckily, I did not have to undergo any administrative procedures before coming to Germany – if you do, indeed, have to apply for a visa, start early, as that will save you the worry of whether you get it in time. Another thing not to worry about is how BAYHOST informed us about the requirements and arrangements, and referred us to the respective summer schools' representatives – that was done in a timely, orderly manner. I could not wish for better communication on their part. It was not complicated to know how to get to the course location, either. To anyone traveling to Germany, I can give simple advice: check your documents before leaving, do not be afraid to go on trips with a few changes, and do not hesitate to contact the coordinator and request the information you need. e.g., the coordinators and tutors of my course in Eichstätt created a Padlet board where they gave us tips on how to get to Eichstätt, they also gave us a list of things we should bring with us, and such. All of that turned out to be useful! If your coordinators do not get you covered like that, once again, just write them an email.

2. Stay in Bavaria

Our stay in Bavaria was comfortable. Traveling around was convenient because of the 9-EUR-ticket that was introduced this summer – it made exploring Bavaria inexpensive. We did not need it to move around Eichstätt though, as everything there was within easy reach. It was a blessing for those who had lived in a big city before, if you ask me, and felt more like a 'language retreat'. Bischöfliches Seminar, a place where the BAYHOST scholarship holders stayed in Eichstätt, is a place that is both in the city center and in close vicinity to many university facilities. More than that, some of the classes were conducted on the seminary premises – I guess I do not have to elaborate on how big an advantage that is. If I were to talk about money matters, I definitely have to mention how the scholarship money covered a big part of my expenses. One must keep in mind that Bavaria is relatively costly and, at the end of the day, the way you allocate your finances depends solely on you. I am the kind of person who enjoys paying for experiences, and my experience with KU Summer School was definitely worth it. Please, if you are a prospective student, note that many places will ask you to pay in cash. It would be better if you came prepared for that.

3. Course design & personal progress

In Eichstätt, we had two courses – General German (in my case, B1) and Cultural Studies, which were complemented by various workshops. I found the structure of the course and the materials to be quite logical and concise. During class, we covered many different topics such as tourism, jobs, marketing, etc. We developed reading and listening comprehension and honed our oral skills. I personally found storytelling and dialogue making (mostly with the intent to exchange our cultural experiences) to be extremely useful. I thoroughly enjoyed every class, and, of course, kept speaking German outside the class as well. That was the first indicator of my progress. Being able to read the literature and understand the speech, I found it challenging to communicate before coming to Germany for summer school. After a while, I noticed how more relaxed I became and how speaking to other students and locals stopped bringing me discomfort – the whole process started running smoothly. I can also say that my writing skills became better, as the course definitely helped me improve my grammar.

I already have many plans regarding my future studies in Germany, starting from the winter schools on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and ending with doing a double degree program there next academic year. Although the primary language of instruction is English, the improved German is certainly a great benefit.

4. Other activities

The support that we got from the coordinators and tutors in Eichstätt was tremendous. They made this fairly small summer school exceed all our expectations. Always available in the chats, and attentive to all our wishes regarding pastimes, they made our time in Eichstätt infinitely interesting.

During summer school, we got to experience Bavaria to the fullest, thanks to the organized activities. We traveled around a lot and visited Munich, Ingolstadt, Bamberg, and Nuremberg. We also engaged in hiking, kayaking, and other sports activities. Exploring Eichstätt and its surroundings, e.g. The nature park Altmühltal is without a doubt worth your time.