

## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2024

Herkunftsland:	Ukraine
Heimathochschule:	Vilnius University
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 03.08.2024 bis 30.08.2024
Kursort in Bayern:	München
Sprachniveau:	C1.1

### I. Practical Experiences and Tips

*Preparation of the Stay:* The preparation phase of the summer school wasn't problematic, thanks to the clear and consistent communication from the course organizers. It is crucial to regularly check your emails, as all key information is provided through this channel. The course administrators were approachable and responded to questions promptly. Additionally, a guide was sent out prior to the start of the course, which covered all frequently asked questions. This guide was simple yet effective in providing all the necessary details, making preparation stress-free.



*Journey and Arrival:* My journey began with a flight to Nuremberg, followed by a regional train to Munich. There are several transport options available for reaching Munich, and it's possible to find budget-friendly flights with low-cost carriers. Unfortunately, due to work, I couldn't arrive on the designated registration day. However, the course organizers suggested I coordinate with another scholarship holder to collect my room keys. This allowed me to settle in and get some rest before the start of the course on Monday, even though I missed the registration.

*Stay in Bavaria (Transport, Accommodation, Cost of Living):* Public transportation in Bavaria, especially Munich, is well-developed. The DB ticket is highly convenient, and the city is serviced by U-Bahn, S-Bahn, and buses. However, during summer, it's common to encounter construction work on transportation routes, so it's wise to always check transportation apps for real-time updates. The accommodation was in a peaceful and safe district, located near a large park perfect for outdoor activities like running, picnics, and even open-air cinema screenings. The student dormitory (WG) was of high quality, with single rooms had private showers and shared kitchens for eight people. Each resident was provided with a new sleeping sack, pillow, pillowcase, and bedsheet, which could be taken home or donated after use. The dorm had laundry facilities, including washing and drying machines. While Munich is known for being an expensive city, food prices in supermarkets are reasonable, and the quality is

good. I mostly ate at the student canteen, called Mensa, which offers affordable, tasty meals with a variety of options. This saved time and the hassle of cooking, especially since I didn't have to buy kitchen supplies. For those interested in museums, Munich offers a 1-euro ticket on Sundays, which is a great way to explore the city's cultural offerings on a budget. Overall my stay and flight were covered by the scholarship, but I would recommend to plan expenses ahead.

## II. Organizational and Instructional Design of the Course

*Content Design of the Course:* The course was professionally structured, with an excellent teacher who tailored the lessons to the students' needs. On the first day, she conducted a questionnaire to determine what areas of the language we wanted to focus on, and throughout the course, she provided clear explanations for any confusing aspects of German, which occur at the advanced C1 level. The course was interactive, with a blend of grammar, speaking, and listening exercises. Additionally, there were opportunities to complete



writing tasks as homework. We also worked on individual projects that we could present creatively, enhancing both our language and presentation skills. The chosen coursebook was comprehensive, and its online version allowed for extra practice and self-assessment after each module.

*Support by Course Organizer / BAYHOST:* BAYHOST, the scholarship program organizers, were highly supportive throughout the stay. All necessary information was communicated in advance, and any questions or concerns were addressed quickly and clearly. This made the entire process smooth and stress-free.

*Personal Progress in the German Language:* After the course, I took the Goethe B2 exam and passed with an excellent score. The course significantly improved my speaking and presentation skills. I now feel much more comfortable speaking in German, even for extended periods without feeling exhausted. The C1-level course was rigorous and pushed me to advance my language proficiency.

*Assessment of the Course's Impact on Future Career:* The language course has not only improved my fluency in German but also boosted my confidence in using the language in my job. This will be especially beneficial as I plan to further my academic and professional career. I am now preparing to apply for a PhD in Munich, as I plan to stay in Germany to work as a medical professional. Having strong German language skills will open up many opportunities in both my academic studies and future medical practice, making it much easier to integrate into the local professional environment.

### III. Cultural Programme and Leisure

*Cultural Programme:* I participated in all the organized excursions and highly recommend not skipping them. The trip to Neuschwanstein Castle was delightful, despite rainy weather—so don't forget to pack a raincoat or umbrella. The Dachau concentration camp visit was an emotional experience, but it's important to visit such places to honour history and reflect on the past.



*Other Activities (Leisure, Cultural, Sports):* Although I didn't visit museums, several classmates did and highly recommended them. Munich offers a wide range of activities for various tastes, including concerts, cultural festivals, and sports events. However, my personal highlight was hiking. Every weekend, we went on hikes to scenic spots like Eibsee and Tegernsee. If you enjoy outdoor activities, I highly recommend packing comfortable clothes, hiking shoes, and swimwear to fully enjoy the beautiful lakes and mountains. All the photos during these hikes were taken by me and serve as wonderful memories of my time in Bavaria.

Overall, the summer German school experience in Bavaria was enriching both academically and culturally. The well-structured course, supportive environment, and vibrant extracurricular activities provided a balanced and enjoyable experience. The progress I made in the German language and the cultural exposure I gained will undoubtedly benefit my future academic and professional endeavors.

