

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2018

Heimatland:	Ukraine
Studiengang:	Psychologie
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 02.08. bis 26.08.2018
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	MISU at LMU: Sommersprachkurs Deutsch / General German
Kursort in Bayern:	München
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B1.1

This summer was a unique experience for me and I am sure it was for all participants of Munich International Summer University (MISU) in the year 2018. In this short report I would like to tell you about my preparation and my stay in Munich for three course weeks. I want to describe the course and the after-class activities I was engaged in. There are also tips on socializing and feeling more comfortable in this city and in class which I learned by myself.

I arrived in Munich and was welcomed. All participants met each other and we settled down for three weeks in our dormitories. At the beginning, I worried whether I would make friends and whether I could speak German understandably enough. I was insecure about what I should do on the first day and whom to ask for help if I might need it. There are so many worries on the first day when you are a foreigner! But once MISU staff welcomed us, once I met them, there was no time to worry anymore. I started making friendships and experiences from day one.

Something I would recommend to do on the first (or second) day in Munich is buying a MensaCard and IsarCard. The MensaCard allows you to buy cheap food for lunch at the University, at least cheaper than at restaurants. It is a great way not to spend too much money every day, because Munich is one of the most expensive cities in Bavaria. The IsarCard is a monthly ticket for any kind of transport in Munich: the metro (U-Bahn), suburban trains (S-Bahn), trams and buses. However, keep in mind, that if you would like to go somewhere outside the city, you should buy another single trip ticket.

The classes I attended took place from 9:00 to 13:00 every day and every time our teacher used different tools of formal and non-formal education. I think it depends on your teacher whether you will like the subjects, your classmates, the University and sometimes even the city. Our teacher was honest with his tuition about Germany and very influential. He motivated us and tried to come up with several activities during the lessons. What I liked the most was talking in small groups (of two or three persons) and writing my own texts in German. To be honest, at first I was too shy to talk German in public and probably I still am, so writing was a good practice for me. By the way, the course and our textbook gave me much more understanding about German grammar. Generally, I feel much more confident now.

I studied in a B1.1 course group and I was glad I could be at this level. When I attended the lesson for the first time, it seemed like I forgot all my German and it was hard for me to say anything. I was very upset, but it only motivated me more to study harder during the first days, because I wanted to stay at this level and not change to an A2 group. I think it is very difficult for a teacher to deal with so many students and to understand the needs of each one of them. Our teacher did. He was also very welcoming when I came up with questions after class. I remember one situation when I saw a poster in the city saying "München – die beste Stadt der Welt" and I felt very happy that I could understand now why it is "DER Welt" (and not "die"). The next day we discussed it with the teacher and he was pleasantly surprised as well that I can now read posters, advertisements in the city centre and understand their meaning and grammatical structures. I know that for some people it is easy, but for some it could be challenging!

The cultural and leisure activities were very well thought of and planned by the course organizers. I took part in all I could. That included a one-day trip to Nuremberg, a Munich city-tour, a welcoming party and a barbecue. I remember all of them very well and now I see that they helped me to understand the German culture and get familiar with the Bavarian mentality. I learned a lot about the natives' hobbies and saw how the people in Munich prefer to spend their time.

The course organizers were always there to help me and answered all my e-mails. Even when they had a busy schedule, they were ready to answer my questions in their office, too. While studying, I also found some groups of interesting people. One of them was organizing events for church and the other was meeting every Sunday in a park to do yoga. By the way, there are so many wonderful parks in Munich! Now I think that even three weeks are not enough time to visit all of them.

However, when taking part in activities, there was obviously the German language barrier. I could not talk freely with those people yet. When we came to class, one of the course organizers told us "Do not be afraid to make mistakes!" I think I need to remember this in the context of studying German, learning about another culture, staying abroad or even at home. Do not put too much pressure on yourself. Appreciate what others do for you and appreciate where you are and what new things you can learn here. I think it is very hard to do, but this is what travelling and studying abroad kept teaching me.

I am thankful to BAYHOST and all the people behind it for helping me to get closer to my dream step by step. My German is not perfect now, but my stay in Munich was a huge step for me to improve it and to become a better person.