

## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

### Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Masterstudiums an der Technischen Universität München

Country of origin:	Russland
University in Bavaria:	Technische Universität München
Subject of study:	MA Consumer Affairs

#### **I. Practical experience and tips**

I started the preparation for my master studies exactly one year before the start of the studies. Taking into account how application deadlines for study programs and scholarships actually vary, one year is a good period of time for preparation. From the very beginning I knew that I would go to study in Germany under one condition – if I receive a scholarship. To start with, I made a list of German universities that were offering business related study programs in English. This list of around 20 schools I formed by looking at [DAAD High Education Compass](#) and simple googling.

After that I thought about potential scholarships, and the only one which came in my mind was the DAAD one. I knew that it is granted for Russians, but I also knew that students from not MINT fields have difficulties in receiving it. So I had a list of potential universities and only one possible scholarship. One day I was scrolling through the Website of Technical University of Munich and in the news section I noticed information about BAYHOST scholarship. Lucky me, I thought, this scholarship is now offered for Russians from 2014! What a jackpot! The deadlines for DAAD and BAYHOST were approximately the same, so I thought, I am going to give it a try. While DAAD grants the financial support for foreign students of all German state universities, BAYHOST was restricted to Bavaria only. This fact made my choice of universities easier. I picked 3 Bavarian universities: TU Munich, Hochschule Nürnberg und FAU Nürnberg. Documents needed for both scholarships were similar, so I did not have trouble preparing two documents packs, although I noticed that for BAYHOST the application procedure was easier and less bureaucratic than for DAAD. By December 2013 I sent out my applications for scholarships and started to prepare my documents for universities. My advice for those who apply to several study programs and scholarships is to prepare checklists with all deadlines and required documents in order to not to lose a track and do not miss something. I already heard stories that someone can be not accepted in the university because of little mistakes in the application documents. Also it is important to leave some time as a buffer and try to not to apply on the last day, because it can happen that you forget that there is a public holiday and your documents cannot be delivered or anything else.

By June 2014 I was lucky to be accepted to all study programs I applied for. Meanwhile, I received rejections from both DAAD and BAYHOST scholarships, but I didn't give up and thought I will wait and see what else I can do. Totally unexpected in July I received an e-mail from BAYHOST saying that I was in the waiting list and someone didn't take the scholarship, so I will get it. The rest was quick and easy: I wrote back saying that I will be happy to accept the scholarship and I am even

already accepted at a Bavarian University. Dreams do come true! Having a letter of confirmation from a German Scholarship Fund felt like a green light for German authorities. My student visa application was for free and very easy thanks to BAYHOST.

I flew to Munich in the first week of October 2014 and even managed to catch the last Oktoberfest day. Studies were starting on October, 6th and I was just in time. First days in Germany were quite stressful, because you do not only try to get back into the study mood, but also have to take care of many organizational issues: opening a bank account, getting a sim card and registering in the city. These all issues are quite tricky as they are connected with each other. You cannot open a bank account without a registration at KVR (Kreisverwaltungsreferat), your scholarship can be transferred to you only at your German bank account, you cannot buy a sim card without a bank account and so on. So again, the earlier you start, the better.

It is well-known that Munich is the most expensive city in Germany and it is also valid for students. The costs of living are high, on the one hand, because the rent is very expensive, on the other hand, because Munich has so much to offer in terms of entertainment, culture and travel, so it is hard to resist. One deciding to study in Munich should be aware of a tough situation with rooms and apartments. Finding an apartment in Munich is hard. Finding an affordable apartment is almost impossible. With a large amount of students, the demand for rooms and single flats is definitely exceeds the supply. Getting a room in a student dorm is also a rare option, because there are too few rooms and too many students. I applied for a student room when I just started studying and received one after a year of waiting. There is still a chance to get a room in the dorm quickly, because Studentenwerk München gives some rooms in the form of a lottery to random applicants. So if you are lucky, you might get a room with a good for 300-400 Euros. One possible solution can be subletting, which means you rent a dorm room from another student for a short period of time, when he or she is on exchange or doing a internship in another city. Such offers can be found on Facebook or just through talking to fellow students. Another solution can be looking for a private room or an apartment. There are several online platforms: <http://www.wg-gesucht.de/>, <https://www.immobilienscout24.de/> and Facebook groups where people rent out there rooms or flats.

The good thing about living in Munich and Bavaria is very low costs for groceries. Bavarian Politicians do their best to keep the cost of basic food low. There are several discounter supermarkets, where you can get basic food (milk products, pasta, vegetables, eggs etc.) very cheap. So in comparison with other regions of Germany or neighbor countries it is quite an advantage. What should not be forgotten is that Bavaria is still very catholic, therefore all shops close at 8 pm during the week and completely closed on Sundays. For me, being used to Russian opening hours 10 am to 11 pm seven days a week, it was quite an adjustment to think and plan ahead all the purchases.

## **II. Academic experiences and further qualifications**

Munich Universities and the city of Munich have a lot to offer in terms of sports. One will for sure find a suitable activity. Just be aware that all university offers, which are very cheap, are booked out very fast, so be quick! Munich is also very international. There are so many students from all

over the world. I made friends with people from the US, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Turkey and Ireland. I think the great benefit of Munich is it's openness to the world.

What I liked about my studies at TU München is the flexibility. I could plan my workload and my schedule myself. In the first semester I took all compulsory lectures, where the attendance was obligatory. In the second and third semesters I took mostly seminars and one big project work. TUM School of Management offers a great opportunity of practical work in the form of the project work. I did a project with two fellow students about the internationalization of our faculty. We analyzed the profile of foreign students at TUM School of Management, performed the competitive analysis and suggested some practical implications how to attract more international students to our faculty. The project lasted around one semester, and we earned a great grade and 12 ECTS. In the fourth semester I did not have any classes and just wrote my thesis. That was probably the most exciting part of my studies. I focused on social entrepreneurship and researched the start-ups that were founded in the wave of the German refugee crisis that started in 2015. In my qualitative study I run interviews with the founders of ventures that were started in order to help refugees integrate in Germany and proposed a model how such ventures come into existence.

The regular study time for Master in Consumer Affairs is 4 semesters, but you can study up to 6 semesters, so it is a perfect option for those who want not only to study but also work (has to be approved by BAYHOST beforehand) in parallel. My first job was a waitress job, around Christmas I helped at some events and earned a bit of money. When in the second semester my study schedule was a bit more relaxed and I realized that I can get a working student position related to my studies, I applied for several working student positions. There are so many companies located in Munich and so many opportunities to get a student job, so after a couple sent applications I was invited to interviews and received a working student position in a Bavarian telecommunications company. So from my second semester I worked up to 20 hours a week and received some money on top of my scholarship. As I said, Munich is expensive and it is tough to rely only on scholarship, but finding a job is not a problem. In my third and fourth semester I worked in the marketing department at my University and was employed as HiWi (Studentische Hilfskraft). This is a great opportunity for those who want to work just a few hours a week (up to 8) and have a good addition to the scholarship. Usually all universities in Bavaria have such positions but very few students know about them. So my advice for those who need a small job along studies – ask at your faculty about HiWi jobs or check universities job portals. My work experience parallel to my master studies added a good value to my CV and definitely helped me finding a full time job after graduation.

Since October 2016 I have a full time job in Germany. I am working as a project-manager for a big Bavarian car producer in Munich. Back in 2013 I could not even imagine that. Thanks to BAYHOST scholarship I had a chance to get an excellent master degree in one of the best German universities. Having a scholarship made me able to focus on my studies and not be worried about financing my life. What I highly appreciate about being a BAYHOST scholarship holder is the feeling of being a part of a big family and not only an incognito in the list of thousands scholarship holders. I enjoyed our annual meetings and trips across Bavaria. Getting to know great minds from across Eastern Europe and exchanging views on science, politics and culture were priceless. I am very grateful to BAYHOST for the support and assistance through my Master studies in Bavaria! Thank you for giving me a chance to get a Master of Science of Consumer Affairs at Technical University of Munich.