

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Masterstudiums an der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Nürnberg-Erlangen 2014-2017

Country of origin:	Ukraine
University in Bavaria:	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
Subject of study:	International Information Systems

I. Practical experiences and tips

1. Preparation of the stay

In December 2013 I applied for a BAYHOST scholarship. In May 2014 I applied for a study place at IIS Master Program at FAU, along with a couple of different study programs at different Bavarian universities (to be save). As soon as I got the admission to IIS program in June 2014, I started the process for receiving a study visa. The guidelines for this process can be found at the German Embassy website in your country. In August and September 2014 I attended German language courses in Nuremberg, which let me search for accommodation for the study period, get used to living in Nuremberg and, of course, improve my German language skills.

2. Travel and arrival at the place of study

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, I arrived two months before the start of the Master Program, which saved me some stress with moving to a new country.

3. Stay at the place of study

700 € pro month were enough for living in Nuremberg. The costs for accommodation in student dormitories vary around 200 € pro month. Public transportation costs are covered with the "Semester Ticket" which costs around 200 € pro semester (6 months). It is also valid outside of Nuremberg (whole VGN area, e.g. Erlangen, Bamberg, etc.) and is quite convenient. FAU is very nicely equipped with libraries, study areas, multiple PC rooms, where you can study. As an IT student, though, I could not go by without having my own laptop. FAU offers diverse possibilities for sports, leisure, learning languages and developing soft skills. There are multiple sport courses offered each semester (from badminton and swimming to yoga and salsa) for a very fair price (20-30 € pro semester). Language courses at the university are free for students, and you can take as many as you wish. Career service of FAU offers free seminars for developing soft skills and preparing for future professional occupation. FAU International office organizes various events for international students. University canteens offer a minimum of four different lunch options daily for the price of 3-5 €.

II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

1. Study at your university in Bavaria

The study process at FAU was very well organized. The structure of my program was a bit complicated because of the program's interdisciplinarity. There is a very detailed course manual available on the program's website clearly explaining which modules the students can take. There were not many mandatory courses and the choice of the optional modules was very broad, which provided a possibility to be flexible and focus on the fields of interest. It was mandatory to take at least one seminar during studies, at least one foreign language course as well as to spend one semester studying abroad. Most of the courses were designed in a way connecting the theory with real world developments, through practical projects, cooperation with industrial partners and guest lectures.

2. Involvement at the department

The program coordinators were always ready to help with any kinds of problems. At the moment, there are six chairs participating in designing the IIS master program: three informatics chairs and three information management chairs. Each chair has its own research focus and there are various possibilities for conducting research in the broad range of fields.

3. Further professional qualification

The goal of my studies at FAU was to shift my focus from advanced programming and mathematics topics that I have learned in my Bachelor studies in Ukraine to being a mediator between the IT side and the business side. This role is critical in the modern world and the demand for people with such qualification is drastic, especially in Germany. In frames of my studies at IIS master program at FAU I have learned the foundations of International Management, gained advanced knowledge and skills in Services Management, Business Intelligence, Business Processes Engineering, deepened my knowledge in Software Project Management and Data Management. In addition, I have improved my English and German language skills and gained intercultural competences through communication with international fellow students and accomplishing semester abroad in Prague. Numerous group works, presentations and challenging study projects along with living independently in a foreign country essentially contributed to my professional and personal development. In frames of my Master Thesis I am researching a hot topic of Open Source Governance in Commercial Setting which will definitely be helpful in my future career, since almost all of the software companies nowadays use open source software extensively.

4. Assessment of the results of your study visit in Bavaria and its effects on your future career

The study program I have completed in Bavaria has met my expectations perfectly. I have learned the skills and competences necessary for a career of my striving – a mediator role between IT and business in an international company. I have gotten a chance to gather professional experiences while working as a working student along with studies. With the skills and competences (both professional and soft skills) I gained during the last two and a half years studying in Bavaria, along

with the fluency in German and English languages and international experiences, I am sure that I have everything necessary to succeed in my chosen career path. The first prove of this is the fact that I have already received a job offer from my current employer to start working full time after I am finished with my master thesis.

III. Your plans or activities after the BAYHOST-funding

At the moment I am finishing my Master Thesis and I have received an offer for full time employment after I am finished with the studies at the company where I am currently working as a working student. My future position in the company will be Junior Project Manager, which fits my career goals perfectly. I am working both in German and English languages, which provides me with constant practice. I plan to apply for the Blue Card this summer and stay in Nuremberg to work for this company.