

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Masterstudiengang an der LMU München 2010/11

Herkunftsland: **Bulgarien**
Studienort und -fach: **Psychology of Excellence and Business Education an der
Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität München
Masterstudiengang**

I. Practical experience and advice:

Preparing the stay abroad

Preparing required serious efforts. One should do his or her best to make sure the application is good enough and that his capabilities correspond to the desired program. Attending German courses in advance is a great idea, because one should understand at least a bit of the local language when in a foreign country.

Finding housing in Munich was a BIG problem. One should always apply to the Studentenwerk for housing, directly after getting confirmation of being admitted, so at least one can wait only one semester.

- Arriving to Munich was not a problem. It has a wonderful transportation system. One can take the S-Bahn from the Airport to the city center.
- Public Transport: There are several options to go to the LMU by public transport. One is the bus 154, the one that I used. It goes around the city center (from Maxvorstadt to the LMU-Englischer Garten- usw.)
Another great way of transport is the U-bahn(U3-U6).
- Costs of Living : Generally speaking, Munich is more expensive city in comparison to other Bavarian cities. A student should prepare at least 700-750 euros in order to lead normal life, which includes housing, food shopping, social activities from time to time and other expenses.
- IT-Equipment: It is a good idea to arrive with a personal laptop. In this way you can immediately use many Wi-fi free connections, which are available in many cafeterias.
- Leisure: Munich has it all. You can go to the Englischer Garten in case of nice weather and do sport there. Also, another option is the Olympia Park. There are many other smaller parks in the city. A nice way to get to know the city is a walk around the Marienplatz, to explore the famous Viktualienmarkt and to check out some of the lovely Museums in the

city. I would recommend visiting the Deutsche Museum, the BMW museum, the BMW factory, the Alte and Neue Pinakothek.

- There are some student parties, that take place several times in the month. You can learn about that at the University. You can also meet students at the CADU (Café and der Universität)

II. Academic and further Qualification:

The LMU is one of the biggest Universities in Bavaria and Germany. It has around 450000 students and many options for different types of studies. I was part of the faculty of Psychology, which is quite close to the central building (only one stop away, station Giselastrasse). In general, it is a great place to study - there are many international students and great professors. One can attend many meetings and seminars. My faculty organized a meeting with famous guest speakers several times a month. You can also attend conferences, which are also offered. The LMU has a lovely library, one of the most ample. Every faculty has its own library, also with lots of books, magazines and multimedia. I have spent many days in the library, although I didn't have to study, just for fun and curiosity.

The response from the program office was great. They were there any time I needed them. Many times they offered students options to do internships and so on. All in all, we received great support. My studies emphasized attained excellence in various fields of Psychology, with particular respect to Business and Education. The main topics discussed were Giftedness of Individuals in Education and the Workplace, Social communication, Career counseling, Organizational behavior, Research Methods.

I did a thesis centered on psychological and ethical issues in consumer research. For this purpose I investigated the effect of a specific psychological test (IAT) and its application and correlation with traditional methods of consumer research. Results yielded that such psychological investigation into the consumer aspect is quite plausible and it can be employed as an additional tool when researching consumer preferences.

My stay in Germany has helped a lot in deciding my future life and career paths. Now I have a more clear perspective of what I would live to accomplish and what I should do in order to get where I want to. I would definitely recommend the LMU, Munich and everything related to Bavaria, as it is a lovely place to live and study.

I already moved to my home city, Sofia, Bulgaria. Now I have more open options in front of me. My plans are to find a good career opportunity, where I can build on my current knowledge and skills, a big part of which I acquired in Germany.