

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2015

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| Herkunftsland: | Macedonia |
| Heimathochschule: | University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje |
| Studiengang: | Telecommunication and Information Engineering |
| Sprachkurs in Bayern: Passau | von 01.08 bis 28.08 |
| Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses: | German Courses Passau |
| Kursort in Bayern: | Passau |
| Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses: | B1 |

I attended the course in Passau. Passau is a small city, but it's very beautiful. It's well known as "Venice of Bavaria" because of the fact that three rivers pass by this city - Danube, Inn and Ilz. First of all, I would like to share my experience about **traveling to Passau**. From Skopje to Memmingen there is cheap flight with wizz-air, both way ticket with big luggage is around 100 euros. The airport in Memmingen is pretty far away from Munich. There is a bus that brings you from the terminal to the train station in Munich. It takes nearly 2 hours. You can buy the bus ticket online, because it's cheaper that way, it costs 15 euros on the site www.aaexpress.de. Then you can travel by train from Munich to Passau. To Passau you will need a Bayern-Ticket which is 23 euros for one passenger, 28 for two, 33 for 3 people. Near the ticket machines, there are always people asking for sharing.

In Passau the meeting point was the train station, if you **arrive** in the planned time for check-in. Then people from GCP (German Courses Passau) will bring you to the office where you will check in. There you will receive the info brochure with all planned events and timetables and also the ticket for using the public transport one month and the canteen-card. After this, the next step is going to the dormitory. The ones that don't arrive in the appropriate time can check in on the next day and if you arrive after 11 p.m. there isn't public transport anymore, so you will have to use a taxi to get to the dormitory, taxi number for Passau: +49 (0) 85157373.

There are many different **dormitories**; we were 120 participants so it was impossible to be accommodated in one dormitory. You can't choose the dormitory; you get to know in which one you are planned to live in the office when you are checked in. I was in the dormitory

Schönleitnerweg. This dormitory consists of houses that are very close to each other, and they are on 4 floors. Every room is a single-room and has an own bathroom, you will only share the kitchen with 7 other people. One more thing about the dormitory is that there are washing machines available. Of course, you have to use your own laundry detergent and you pay 2 euros for using them.

This dormitory is a bit far away from the city, but its location is still better than the ones closer to the center, because of the **bus lines**. From this station buses with the numbers 1,2,8,9 are available. Buses 1 and 2 bring you to the city center, and 8 and 9 directly to the University, so you won't have to walk in the morning for going to lectures. Buses are not very regular, because it's not during the school year, so the bus drives twice an hour. The bus ticket for one month costs only 10 euros.

About the **food**: You can eat in the canteen at the university. The canteen works until 13:30, again because it's summer time. But you will always have a lunch break at 12, so it's feasible. One meal at the canteen costs around 5 euros. Also for breakfast there is a cafeteria, which is part of the university's canteen. There you can buy a croissant for 1,10 €, coffee for 1,50 € and some fruits. The food in the supermarkets is really cheap. So if you organize yourself well preparing food at home for breakfast and dinner and eating lunch in the canteen, the scholarship is enough to cover all this.

Lectures were always in the morning. We had lectures from 8:30 to 10 with one professor and from 10:30 to 12 with another professor every day. Then we had one hour lunch break before the other activities started. At the first day there was a placement test which was actually a DAF test, and according to your results you will visit classes of the level you achieved. This test is obligatory for everyone except for the people attending "German for lawyers". For our course we used "Aspekte" books, which in my opinion are really good and very interesting. I can say that I improved my grammar, but speaking not so much, because we had only two conversational classes during the entire course. We used German during lectures, but it's better to have more classes dedicated to speaking and conversation.

Our professors were really friendly and dedicated. We felt free to ask them anything anytime. They always wanted to help and it was not a problem for them to repeat the things or to explain them for second time. The final exam was different from the placement test. It consisted of many parts, or more specific: listening, reading, writing and speaking. We didn't know the results until the final ceremony and when you get the certificate you see your grade, which can be "very good", "good", "satisfactory", "passed", but also "failed".

The **free time** was also very well organized. There were many activities like watching movies, going to the swimming pool, visiting different places, going for a coffee together. Of course, all these activities were optional. You can also visit some other places/cities organized by yourself. You can always ask tutors for advice about some places you want to visit, what the best option to get there is or what you should not miss to visit. About sports activities, there was aerobics and yoga offered every Thursday. Also on the same day fitness, basketball and handball were offered. For the ones that like to have more sports activities, running along the river is always an option. It's a nice path, and it's near the university, also near the dormitory.