

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2015

Herkunftsland:	Slovenia
Heimathochschule:	University of Maribor
Studiengang:	Medicine
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 3. August bis 27. August
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Internationale DaF-Sommerakademie
Kursort in Bayern:	Würzburg
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B1

I have applied for this “Stipendium” due to my wish to study one year in Germany. I have forgotten quite a big amount of German words and grammar which I had learned in school before I’ve started my studies. Therefore, I had to find the best solution to remember it again and also to learn some more of it. And I think I have found it – I was really lucky when I got the mail where was written that I am chosen for the “Stipendium” by BAYHOST. In my application form I applied for the city Würzburg, because I was planning to do a study exchange in Würzburg and it would be good to get to know the city before my exchange. So that’s why I came to this beautiful city.

At the end of the month of May I was informed about my selection for the scholarship. After that I got many mails with different information. I found it very good, because I had a feeling that all the organization is going well and I was feeling safe, because I knew “they are thinking of me”. They informed me with the contacts of the other happy-humans, who got the “Stipendium”, so we could plan our trip to Germany together. A couple of days before the beginning of the language course, we got the list of our tutors with their contacts, so we could ask them for help to get from the train station to our new rooms.

I’ve taken the train Ljubljana - München - Würzburg one day before the official beginning. I had been traveling for 8 hours and I remember that I felt thrilled, scared, happy...one big mix of different kinds of emotion was driving in my head. I was in contact with one of the tutors, who was planned to be at the train station around the time that I was arriving. When I arrived, she was already waiting for me at the train station and there were also other participants that came around that time to Würzburg. So this was the first opportunity to meet new people and

to acquaint ourselves with our knowledge of German language. I was housed in the International student's dormitory. The tutor gave me the key after arriving from the train station, I just had to sign the contract and I was done with all the papers. My room was very nice, I had enough space for everything and all the furniture was well preserved. There was also a small kitchen in it, so you could make a quick meal there, and there was also a bathroom. All rooms have the same principle: room with small kitchen and bathroom for one person, so you don't have to share it like it's in some dormitories in Slovenia.

Other things that are important for living are quite the same as in my home country. For example, in the city you can take a bus or tram and it takes you to all parts of the city. All the participants got a month-card for city bus, tram and train (we were able to go to some other cities that are close to Würzburg). We used a bus every day to get to the course and it was always full of fun driving to the course, hiding our coffee to go from the driver, getting to know other participants that were not in the same class as you... Another example of similarity between my home and Germany are costs of living. In shops the prices are quite the same, maybe it's fruits and vegetables that are more expensive, but the difference is not too big.

What I found out the most expensive is coffee in cafés and restaurants; cappuccino or latte macchiato costs between 2 – 3 € in the city center. Thank god for the canteen where it was priced normally. And what is the canteen? It's one really huge space (especially "Mensa am Hubland") where all the students eat their lunch for a normal prize. All the participants got a canteen card, which we charged with our money. Würzburg city has lots of canteens in different locations and "Mensa am Hubland" was near our class, so we often went there to eat our lunch. You could choose between 3 different types of meal: daily soups, salads, desserts... It costs approximately 4€: (soup+) main course + salad; it depends on the daily prize of the meal and the type of meal. Here I have to write down that they have a really good system for all the people with allergies. I am allergic to gluten and next to every dish they have a list with all the allergens that the dish contains. Perfect!

And when I go back to my beginning of this super month: firstly we had a test so the organizers could divide us in different levels of knowledge and further learning. I was classified in B1 level with 10 other people (four Chinese, one Serb, two Hungarians, two French and one from America). We had 4 hours of class per day (9.30 – 13.00 with 30 min pause) and we were learning with the textbook that we got on our first day of class. Our teacher was a young lady; she inspired us all with her positive energy and attitude. In the first days we were getting to know each other - speaking German, of course! We hardly understood each other, because of our different accents from our home country and our not-so-good knowledge of German language. But our teacher taught us to be patient and to try many times.

In the first two weeks we didn't do much of grammar, we just played different games through which we've learned to communicate in German and have fun. It was a very good tactic for improving our confidence in speaking German. We've learned some of the words about character, housing, telecommunication, describing a picture. In the second half of the course we started doing the Grammatik. We've had lots of practice with tasks so we were sure about our knowledge. All the grammar we've learned is quite basic and usable in everyday life, so we all had an interest to learn it. What I like is that we spoke some words about the Second World War and the situation after it and today's situation. Now we know that the Germans

Speak about it and it's not one of the taboos. It's easier to get into the conversation with locals when you are familiar with this situation.

After the course we had time for lunch. At 14.30 we had elective subjects that we could choose before arriving to the course. I chose the kitchen of Franconia (first half of the month) and culture training (second half of the month). We all were quite tired at those elective subjects and due to that I didn't learn anything special. But we had fun. Some days we went on an excursion around the city instead of the selective course. We went to see a historical wine cellar below the hospital, a laboratory where W.C. Röntgen found out the X-Rays.

After that we were free and often we went out for a glass of wine (Würzburg is the city of wine) or went for a walk through the city. We built up a good friendship and we were a good company together. Thanks for this go also to our dearest tutors, who were taking care of us out of the classes, so we were not bored. During the weekends it was organized to go on trips to the places near Würzburg. Those were also the times to relax, to get to know the other participants better and to practice German. We had a deal to talk in German so we could really practice and learn The German language as best as possible. And that was the best learning technique. We've learned a lot of German words in the classes and we've learned some of the Grammatik, but when you are forced to speak different sentences fluently and to think quickly about different word. That's the time when you are learning and progressing at the same time with your knowledge.

I've learned a lot in this one month. It was a really good life-time experience. I've met lots of new people from different parts of the world, with a different view to the world. I've progressed in my confidence of speaking German language and now I have an even bigger wish to learn more of it. My expectations were exceeded and now I am going to do an exchange without fear. I know the city very well, my knowledge of German language is good enough to communicate fluently and the most important is that I've learned to be independent even more. Thank you BAYHOST for this opportunity!