

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2016

Herkunftsland:	Bosnien und Herzegowina
Heimathochschule:	Universität Ost-Sarajevo, Medizinische Fakultät Foca
Studiengang :	Humanmedizin
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	02.08.2016 bis 31.08.2016
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	German Courses Passau (GCP)
Kursort in Bayern:	Passau
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	A2

Can you imagine that you could spend an entire month of summer as a really special "holiday" in a truly special place? And if someone told you that during this time you have to regularly go to university and learn, but that learning will be neither difficult nor boring, could you believe it? Sounds pretty surreal, but this program is just so organized. It's composed perfectly of interesting and useful, general and language knowledge and experience.

How to prepare yourself for a one-month stay on this program?

First of all, I want to say that GCP administration will give you a lot of information about the program. With this report I'll pay attention to the important information and how it looks in practice from the student's perspective. But something necessary you have to "bring along" is openness, willingness to meet new people, cultures, places and habits for regular learning.

How to reach Passau?

Passau is a town in eastern Bavaria, sharing a border with Austria and near the border to the Czech Republic. To reach it you can use different types of transport. I have chosen the plane because I found quite cheap flights to Munich a month earlier on the website www.skyscanner.net/. Then, at the airport in Munich I bought a Bavaria-Ticket, with which you can travel all over Bavaria for one day. It includes the majority of means of transport such as busses, trains, trams, metro, etc. You can find more information about that and also buy tickets on the website www.bahn.de. From Munich airport I took a bus to Freising, a city 20 min away from Munich and then from Freising to Passau I came by train which took 2h. From Passau railway station to the check-in place and accommodation I was accompanied by the GCP staff with which I pre-arranged a date and time for the meeting.

What about student life in Passau?

There are several advantages of life in a small university town as Passau. Some of them are: better student connecting, a bit lower costs of everyday life, easy orientation in traffic, nearness from

place of residence to university, etc. Busses are the main public means of transportation. The city has no trams and most places you can reach by foot or by bike. This means you don't lose as much time in traffic as you would for example in large cities. I've lived in a dorm at Leonhard-Paminger-Straße. From this location to the university it took 20 min by foot or 6 min by bus. In this dorm there are single rooms with bathroom. It is important if you want to have internet access in the dorm, you need to bring your laptop, because there is no wi-fi, but there is an internet cable for the laptop. The kitchen is common and you share it with 6 other students on the floor where you live. Close to the dorm there is a large supermarket where you can find all the foods and products that you need. Most of the money is spent on food, but you will get a Mensa card with which you can buy cheaper meals. For breakfast you can buy something in the cafeteria and lunch is in Mensa (the university restaurant). The food is varied and for everyone's taste and the average price of a meal is 5€.

Instructional design and learning in the course?

Before you start taking classes you will take a placement test and according to these results, you will get in a group with the appropriate level of language. Each group consists of about 20 students. The whole course comprises 80 teaching units of 45 minutes. Classes are in the morning from 8:30 – 10:00 and 10:30 – 12:00 every day except for weekends. Classes are interactive, the teachers are motivated, willing to cooperate and know how to transfer that knowledge. The content of the program is adapted to the level of language. Classes consist of learning new lessons, unknown words, grammar, reading, listening and conversation, which consisted of a variety of topics. Sometimes they are related to the topic of the lessons in the book and sometimes to various environmental situations e.g. how to cope and communicate in a store, restaurant, bus stop, and everyday life. In class you will not have a lot of opportunities to participate in the conversation because of the large group of students. Try to ask the teachers as many questions as possible and also when you are in company outside of class try to talk in German much. In particular, I wish to commend the GCP organization, professors and mentors, because they were always ready for cooperation and gave us all their support.

What does the cultural and social GCP program look like?

For me, the most interesting part was students connecting. The program was attended by 130 students from 30 different countries. Passau was, for one month, the world in miniature. I can say that besides learning the language, this program included learning about geography, history, culture and mentality of other people and countries, all this through getting to know the students. Within the university campus there are sports courts that are available when the weather is fine. Inside there are fitness centers and yoga rooms available. In the city there are so many interesting places you can visit. Passau is a city like from some kind of fairy tale. Decorated with 3 rivers, rich natural environment, Gothic and Baroque architecture, it will make you fall in love with it at first sight. Some of the events I would particularly single out are: the boat cruise, visiting the world's biggest church organ concert in St. Stephan's Cathedral, the walking tour to the Veste Oberhaus, a castle at the top of the hill, where you have a marvelous view over the entire city. There are also events for which you can register but you have to pay extra, like trips to Munich or Salzburg or visits to folk festivals in Straubing and Vilshofen.

How much have I improved my knowledge of German and how does it affect my future career?

I've quite improved my knowledge of German in all areas of learning. I also learned a bit about the social and educational system in Germany. This is a great stimulus for further learning the German language, which will be important in my future professional development and work, both in my country and also for the same possibility in Germany.

My gratitude to BAYHOST

I owe special thanks to BAYHOST, because you made it possible to participate in this program. Also, thank you for the support you have given me by sending all this useful information and by replying to all my questions. Servus!

