

## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2017

[Report on summer course in Bavaria in 2017]

Herkunftsland:	Slovenia
Heimathochschule:	University of Ljubljana
Studiengang:	Faculty of Arts
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 7.8.2017 bis 2.9.2017
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Bayreuther Sommeruniversität für Interkulturelle Deutsch-Studien
Kursort in Bayern:	Bayreuth
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	A2.2

First, I would like to thank BAYHOST for giving me the scholarship, which enabled me to apply for summer courses of German language in Bavaria. One month after my application employees of BAYHOST informed me that I was selected for a scholarship at a German summer language course in Bayreuth. This opportunity represented for me a chance for improving my German, meet new people and it was also a big challenge, because this was my first time to be away from my family and friends for a longer time.

The cheapest way to travel from Ljubljana to Bayreuth is definitely the bus (combination of Arriva and Flixbus with transfer in Munich). I bought my ticket one month before the course started. When I came to Bayreuth I met other participants at the bus station and we went together to the campus. There were waiting employees of the summer university. They gave us all information about the city and campus, course, public transport in Bayreuth and everything what we were interested about. Everything was organized very well. After that our tutors escorted us to our rooms. My room was at campus (Kreuzstein). It was big, clean and I had my own bathroom and toilet. The walk from my room to our classroom took me only 5 minutes.

Our course was really educative and interesting. Beside German I learned a lot about other cultures, because there were also people in my group from different countries (Japan, China, India, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine). Our teacher used lots of different teaching methods, which were interesting, funny and always drew our attention. That is why class was never boring. Our teacher adjusted the course to our level of knowledge. If she noticed that we did not know something, she always took some time to explain that to us. The language course took place from



Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and after that we had communication course from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm. The cultural programme in the afternoon and evening was also really extensive and interesting. If you were interested, you could go hiking, take part in a choir, go to a theatre workshop, participate in different sport activities, watch movies every Thursday evening... Almost everything was for free. I participated in a theatre workshop and it was super fun. This was a good decision because there were participants with different levels of German and I could practice my German in a relaxed atmosphere. I also attended the movie nights and the movies were great. Every Saturday we had interesting trips: to Bamberg, Dresden, Weimar. All in all I had lots of opportunities to learn and practice German and also got familiar with the German culture.

I like German language a lot and I also go on Erasmus exchange next year to prepare my master degree. I applied to the summer course because I thought that better understanding of German would help me to integrate better into the environment and also to get a higher level of German to read difficult academic articles and other literature, which are all written in German. Those articles and literature are an important source of research data and other information and could be included in my master thesis. My knowledge of German is not so good in this moment to read academic articles (and I also did not expect to be a 'native speaker' after one month), but after that course I can easily communicate about different daily topics. That is a lot for me because before that course I used only English.

Bayreuth is a small and lovely city. I liked it immediately. It had lots of places where you could spend your free time. My favorite place was definitely Hofgarten, where everyone could find something to do.



Prices in Bayreuth were not so high as in other German cities (for example Munich, Dresden). Scoop of ice cream costed 1,20 €, cup of tea in bars 2,00 €,... I ate lunches in Mensa. One lunch costed approximately 4,50 €. I downloaded the app "Uni Bayreuth" where I could see a menu for each day and all prices of the food. Sometimes I also had breakfast in Mensa, where I got fresh sandwiches, coffee, tea, fruit... Average breakfast costed approximately 3,00 € (for example a sandwich and a tea). I could also buy reasonably priced food and cosmetics in different supermarkets (Lidl, Norma, Rewe, dm). If you buy things judiciously, pocket money should be enough for the whole month.

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That month in Bayreuth was an unforgettable experience for me. Being part of this course was one of the best things that happened to me – not only that I improved my German, but I also met lots of amazing people from all around the world, tried some new things and independently solved some problems I had. Something that initially looked just like a language course eventually turned into valuable learning about world cultures, testing your own beliefs and abilities and of course – improving language skills. It was worth it.