ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT ÜBER STUDIENERFAHRUNGEN IN BAYERN
[Report on study experiences in Bavaria]

Herkunftsland [county of origin]:	Serbien
Studium in Bayern [program in Bavaria]:	von [from] 10.2021 bis [until] 02.2024
Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]:	Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg
Studienfach [subject of study]:	Korrepetition instrumental
Abschluss [degree]:	Master

At the beginning of writing about my experience studying in Bavaria, I need to extend one big thank you to the BAYHOST scholarship program and their team for being the nicest people, willing to help and being super quick responders to all of our dilemmas or questions! They gave me this unique life changing opportunity. Without their support, I couldn't ever even consider coming to Bavaria for my master studies.

Preparation for studies in Bavaria

Going back to the beginning, I come from Belgrade, Serbia, and I finished my Bachelor of piano studies at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade. During my Bachelor studies, I participated in the Erasmus program, being an exchange student for one semester in Trieste, Italy. After this program, I knew I wanted to try to pursue Master studies abroad. Considering Germany's rich musical history, I started looking for programs in Germany and heard about the BAYHOST scholarship program for students from Eastern Europe through a friend. I read their requirements and started preparing documents. I found a very nice program in Nürnberg for Instrumental Accompaniment and a very good Professor there. One of the most difficult documents to obtain is a Recommendation letter from your future supervisor or main Professor from a University in Bavaria. My Professor from Nürnberg showed interest in working with me and taking me into her class of Master Instrumental Accompaniment studies even though we had only had a chance to meet online due to Corona in 2020.

Preparing documents must be done one academic year before the actual start of master or PhD studies. After receiving a positive answer from both the BAYHOST scholarship and the University, I applied for a visa appointment at the Embassy of Germany in Belgrade. Usually, it takes around 2 months to get an appointment, but luckily, students with any kind of scholarship have the privilege of getting an appointment sooner.

Accommodation

Regarding accommodation in Nürnberg, around 6 months before coming, I applied to several different student dormitories, and I would really like to recommend staying in one of them. They are affordable, and if

you apply on time, they should have free space. Staying at the Studentenwohnheim Max Kade in Nürnberg was a very comfortable, suitable place for living, well-located in the city, and close to my university. Additionally, I met many good people there and spontaneously became very good friends. Living in the dormitory is not only affordable but also a place where you can connect with other students from all over the world. Building a community in a foreign country is hard, so living in a student dormitory is one step closer to feeling welcome and at home at the beginning of living abroad.

Academic experiences and further qualifications

Studying at the Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg was a great experience in many aspects for me. I have finished my Master studies in Instrumental Accompaniment. The first and most important thing is that this University has very good conditions for practicing and creating music. The University was renovated in 2018, and since then, they have invested in buying new instruments and pianos. That's why practicing at Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg was a pleasure for my ears and crucial for my growth.

The master's program at Hochschule für Musik is very efficient and well-organized. Having the opportunity to apply for courses like Film music, Baroque music, Yoga, Historical dances, and many more was invaluable. Hochschule für Musik collaborates with Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm, so we had the opportunity to apply for language courses at Technische Hochschule and participate for free in any language courses every semester. In my second semester, I took a B2 German course, and in my 4th semester, I took a French A1 course. It was my first time seeing how many universities in Bavaria are connected or in some kind of collaboration. Being a BAYHOST scholarship holder gave me the opportunity to participate in many kinds of workshops at Regensburg University. So, for two years in a row, I participated in the Animation Music and Poetry workshop at Regensburg University. After finishing the workshop, I received credits that I could use in my Master's program. This workshop meant a lot to me, considering it was the inspiration for my Master thesis. My Master's theme was "Der musikalische Einfluss von Emotionen in multimedialer Kunst".

At Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg, you can choose any kind of theme for your Master thesis, which I found very interesting. My idea was to prepare a 75-minute concert of music, and alongside my performances with my colleagues, I collected and prepared a video of different kinds of multimedia art. That video was played three times in a row so we could see how music can affect our emotions when watching the same video three times next to different pieces. In February 2024, I successfully finished my Master studies with a grade of 1.0.

Practical experiences and tips

Nürnberg is one of the prettiest and most famous cities in Germany. So, it's a pleasure to live here. As a student, we could enter every museum for free or at a minimum price. The city is the perfect size, with three lines of Metro, making daily life easy. Students receive a transport ticket included in the semester fees after 18h. In the last two years, with a Deutschland ticket priced at 29 euros per month for students, you can use every regional public transport in Germany. So, finding the best transportation solutions in Bavaria will never be a problem for students. Being a student in Germany has so many benefits. Now that I have finished, I already miss it!

Nürnberg is located in a very good position in Europe and has its own airport. You can travel to Prague, Berlin, München, Vienna, Salzburg, just in a few hours. My experience is that every weekend you can find a new place to visit, with so many beautiful natural spots around Nürnberg.

With the BAYHOST scholarship program, we officially have two seminars per year, one usually at the beginning of November and the other in June. These meetings are not only nice for introducing ourselves and discussing certain topics but also for meeting other scholarship holders. My impression after these meetings was always being very inspired and motivated. Learning about different stories, studies, countries, and seeing many PhD ideas grow into reality.

Plans or activities after funding by BAYHOST

My plans after studying are to stay in Germany. I have started a new job as a Piano teacher at Kreismusikschule in Bamberg. I work with small children and help them fall in love with music like I have. I am still improving my German language skills. I believe working with children also helps me, considering I don't feel pressured talking with them and making mistakes. I would like to take a C1 German course this summer. As a student, I worked at Hochschule für Musik as a Student Tutor, where my job was playing with other students, preparing them for exams, playing competitions with them, or recording music. I am still in contact with both of my professors from Hochschule für Musik, and I am still playing concerts as an Accompanist there. I would like to stay in touch with the BAYHOST team as well. I am still organizing concerts in Nürnberg and its surrounding areas. I had one concert in March at Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana with my Slovenian colleagues. At the moment, I am preparing a project that will hopefully take place in Serbia, where I will showcase the works of the new generation of Serbian composers. My wish is to never stop organizing concerts in my hometown and to remain an active participant in the music scene in Germany.