ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT ÜBER STUDIENERFAHRUNGEN IN BAYERN

[Report on study experiences in Bavaria]

Herkunftsland [county of origin]:	Russland
Studium in Bayern [program in Bavaria]:	von [from] 10.2021 bis [until] 06.2025
Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]:	Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München
Studienfach [subject of study]:	Slawische Philologie
Abschluss [degree]:	PhD in Bayern

Preparation of the stay, e.g. administrative procedures, study place, accommodation etc.

Communication with both BAYHOST and the university has always been **excellent**. I would especially like to thank the scholarship coordinator at BAYHOST for her kindness and help with some of my personal issues that delayed the start of my scholarship in the first year. I didn't expect things to work out in my case, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity.

Travel and arrival at the place of study

Technically, Munich Airport and the German railway system made my **journey easy and safe**. Upon arrival in Germany, I did not encounter any serious problems.

Stay in the place of study, e.g. transport, cost of living, PC equipment, leisure and sports, contact with other students etc.

Munich is a very expensive city, especially housing. Since graduate students were excluded from the dorm waiting list, I had only private housing available. I rented several rooms in different areas of the city. In all cases, my accommodations were safe and generally satisfactory. I ended up moving to another city, Landshut, which is an hour's train ride from Munich. My experience there was much more pleasant and affordable. So, I can't comment on dorms, but if you rent privately, I wouldn't recommend staying in Munich for long and instead looking for accommodation in another city nearby.

Study at your university in Bavaria, e.g. offered courses, participation in conferences and seminars, libraries etc.

The Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich is **undoubtedly one of the best universities in Europe,** and I was happy to defend my dissertation there. Our Slavic Studies Department is also one of the strongest in Germany and Europe, and its dean is a superb specialist and renowned scholar. **Academic life was very vibrant**, with a regular seminar open to student project presentations, as well as regular conferences, special lectures, and poetry readings, organized with the help of our department's faculty.

Involvement at the department, e.g. supervisory relationship, collaborations, own projects

I am more than **satisfied** with my academic life at the department. My relationship with my supervisor was friendly and supportive. He always answered my questions and helped with all the bureaucratic processes. Overall, the application process itself and the paperwork related to the defense were very gentle and unburdensome for the student.

Further professional qualification, e.g. subject focus, methodological training, research results etc.

My main goal was to continue my academic career and defend my dissertation. This goal was achieved. I also gained a lot of new knowledge not directly related to my research, but important in a broader perspective, for example, the aspects of the educational and scientific process in the German-speaking world, the features of modern trends in Slavic studies. I met new colleagues, met people I had known only through their publications, visited several European countries, attended art exhibitions, visited libraries, and much more.

Assessment of the results of your study visit in Bavaria and its effects on your future career

During my time in Bavaria, I not only gained educational experience, but also lived an intense part of my life in terms of personal development. I believe this experience helped me mature and become more self-aware, which is crucial for a researcher in the humanities. I have more clearly defined my future (and now current) area of research and have a better understanding of what I can contribute to the humanities and what I want to receive in return. Overall, my life and my research interests have become more harmonious. At least I know better what I'm definitely not interested in, and that's already a lot.

Your plans or activities after the BAYHOST-funding

I'm currently searching and applying for **postdoc fellowships** and volunteering on an archival project. I've drifted a bit away from my recent research, but my experience in various fields of knowledge accumulated over the years allows me to think more broadly, and I hope this will positively impact my work. The experience of defending my dissertation in another country has made me more resilient to the difficulties of academic life. I hope I'll be fortunate enough to continue doing what I love and what I'm good at.