

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

Studienaufenthalt im Rahmen des Masterstudiengangs an der Universität Bayreuth 2010 - 2013

Herkunftsland: Serbien
Studienort: Universität Bayreuth
Studienfach: Global Change Ecology

I. Praktische Erfahrungen und Tipps

I will definitely recommend the University of Bayreuth as a good place for studying. In the following text I would like to explain my statement. Bayreuth is located 80 km from Nuremberg, which is the nearest big city in its vicinity. There are good train connections with Nuremberg as well as with other cities in Bavaria and in the whole of Germany. The train journey from Bayreuth to Nuremberg takes one hour approximately. Nevertheless, there is connection for the high speed trains in Nuremberg. The nearest airport is also in Nuremberg but the connection to other airports is really easy because of good train links. Bayreuth is a student city with almost 10,000 students and the University of Bayreuth offers different study programs for almost all fields. Bayreuth is also a city of culture where famous composers lived, such as Wagner and Liszt.

University of Bayreuth offers good accommodation possibilities. There are a lot of dormitories with different accommodation types. Students can either choose to live in an apartment (to have their own room and bathroom and to share kitchen with other students) or to have a room without bathroom and to share both kitchen and bathroom. Shared apartments can have four or more rooms and the price can vary depending on the type of the room, dormitory etc. Rooms are well equipped with the Internet, heating, chairs, beds, wardrobe and other necessary things. Mainly all dormitories are placed near the University but there are some of them which are placed in the city center and in other parts of the city, which influences the price, time and the cost of living. Therefore, it is important to select dormitories which suit the student's needs. Just to mention, all students can't get room in the students' dormitory because there are not enough rooms for all students and the process of getting a room is a lottery. When a student gets the room in the dormitory it is possible to stay in this room for 6 semesters or three years. Therefore, it is really important to look for the rooms in private apartments and the prices of these rooms are higher than for the rooms in dormitories.

Future students of the University of Bayreuth can get information at the Students' office and regarding rooms there is special office where students can get all the necessary information. Also, every contact can be found at the official University website. For international students there is an international office with really wonderful people who try to make stay in Bayreuth more pleasant for new international students and they offer help for new students through "buddy program". Foreign students can get all important information in this office or through buddy program. Also, for international students it is really important to find emigration office for Visa application and extension. Besides, every student has to be registered at the municipal building which is located in the city center.

Free time at the University of Bayreuth is well organized and there are different activities. There are a lot of parties and every faculty organizes party in its own building. Thus, it is really easy to make contact with people

from all over the world. Apart from these events at the University there are a lot of clubs in the city center which are definitely more expensive than parties which are offered by the University. Some good tasty beers can be tried in these clubs which are produced in Bayreuth or in Upper Franconia. Regarding free time University sport institute offers more than 50 sports. There are really good facilities for football, basketball and all other sports. Also, there is a well-equipped gym.

Depending on the students needs and way of leaving costs at the University of Bayreuth can vary. Nevertheless, the city of Bayreuth is not expensive in comparison with other cities. Speaking about the costs for food, University of Bayreuth offers Canteen where average lunch costs between 2.50 € and 3.50 € or even less. Also, there are different supermarkets in the vicinity of the University where students can buy good and also not expensive food. Overall expenditures can vary between 450 up to 650 €, less or more, which definitely depends on the student needs and way of leaving. But, the scholarship of 700 € is definitely enough for a decent student life at the University of Bayreuth.

At the University there is PC garage where students can ask for the help and support about their computer problems and they can repair their computers. Students have to register their computer or mobile phone in this office in order to have access to the Internet at the University Campus. Campus at the University of Bayreuth is connected with two direct bus lines to the city center. Also, there are other bus lines to every part of the city. However, I would recommend bicycle because it is cheaper, faster and environmental friendly way of transport. Every student has a bicycle and students can get one at the lower price, even for free, if they live in student dormitory. For this students have to ask the caretaker. Moreover, every year there is market where student can find and buy bicycle at cheaper price. Overall, studying in Bayreuth and life in the city of Bayreuth is really good and everything is well organized. The quality of life is high and I would definitely recommend everybody to come and to study at the University of Bayreuth. I am really happy that I have had this opportunity.

II. Akademische Erfahrungen und Weiterqualifikation

My study program is an international study program. The master program "Global Change Ecology" is part of the elite master programs founded by the state of Bavaria. The program offers different courses and seminars with high quality lectures. The aim of the master program is to educate future generations of students who will do research and cope with one of the natural global issues such as climate change. Besides this issue the master program has focus on other ecological and environmental problems. Therefore, master program provides and offers broad and comprehensive knowledge about the current and future ecological issues. Depending on the students' interests they can choose among various courses.

Connection between students and professors is at the same time professional but also friendly. Lectures are always open to students' opinions and every seminar is evaluated. Throughout discussion we have tried to develop new perspectives and views in order to emphasize future research and in order to get new ideas for the research. This way of working gives opportunity of constant work and improvement which is the only way to provide good results and to build scientific way of thinking and working. Besides the courses which have been offered by the study programs, students have chance to listen lectures from different Universities from all over the world who come at the University of Bayreuth as guests lectures. This is a good way to get new insight and to broaden the knowledge about different issues. Every subject is divided into lecture and seminar part. The seminar part is really important because students present their research about certain topic and after it there is discussion which finally gives better view and insight to the problem.

Besides the courses which are offered by the master program students can find any course at the University which applies to their interest and take a part. Therefore, students have really broad possibilities and finally

knowledge which they gain is characterized by high quality which is scientifically oriented. Every faculty at the University of Bayreuth has library and students have access to every of them. Also, there is browser which gives easily available approach for finding a certain book. Also, it is possible to order books elsewhere from other Universities or libraries in Germany if these books are not offered by the University of Bayreuth. Besides printed version, it is possible to find a book in electronic form. University of Bayreuth offers and has agreements with the most famous scientific browsers in the world which gives huge opportunity for the students to find good articles and thus make better research.

At the University of Bayreuth during every semester there is career fair which gives opportunity for the students to speak directly with the companies and try to find possible internship or a future job. The master program "Global Change Ecology" is a part of elite master program which offers different soft skill seminars. Also, professors who are leading this master program support students to attend different conferences where students can find and hear new information about the current environmental issues. I took part at the conference in Brussels where I figured out that the European Union will support all projects which are related to the renewable energy. Actually the goal of the European Union is to produce 20% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020. At the conference in Vienna I met a lot of people from the United Nations organization. Also, I took part in two summer schools where I broadened my knowledge about environmental problems and where I met professors and researchers from all over the world. All these activities have helped me to find my way of interest and research topics which I should consider in the future. Moreover, I have made contact with the people from all over the world, which is definitely important. Additionally, I have gained knowledge and experience which is priceless.

Regarding my educational assessment during my studying in Germany I am completely satisfied with my grades and success which I made. My average grade shows that I was highly devoted to study program. Besides, I am really satisfied with the knowledge which I gained during my studies. This knowledge is definitely the biggest success. I think that this success will definitely have positive influence on my future career and professional development. Additionally, for me it was really important to live and study in one of the most developed countries in the world. For me this is great experience. Besides my studying I have met and made friendship with people from all over the world. I have tried to link professors from Serbia with professors in Germany. One of my mentors for the master thesis was from Serbia and thus he has cooperation in this respect with a professor from Germany. Also, I suggested to one professor in Serbia to make cooperation with professors in Germany in the field of climate issues. I think that this cooperation will provide better research possibilities and will definitely give a chance to improve cooperation between German and Serbian professors.

III. Pläne bzw. Tätigkeit nach Ende der Förderung durch BAYHOST

I have already applied for some job offers in Germany. Unfortunately, I did not have success. Nevertheless, I will continue to try. I would like to work in Germany but I haven't succeeded in finding any appropriate job yet. Therefore, if BAYHOST could help me, I would be grateful. My wish is to finish doctoral studies. Still, I am thinking about to which direction I should go and which topic I should choose. Also, I am thinking about applying with some companies or international organizations which have focus on the nature protection or in NGOs. I hope that I will satisfy my aim and ambitions. Actually, if I do not manage to find PhD studies I will try to find some German company which is working in Serbia. This would also satisfy my interest in order to stay in contact with Germany and at the same time to be in Serbia. Finally, I have to say thank you very much for giving me opportunity to study in Germany and for helping me during my studying at the University of Bayreuth. I would like to stay in contact with BAYHOST and I hope that I will come to Germany again.