

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2019

Heimatland:	Slowenien
Studiengang:	Medizin
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 01.08. bis 29.08.2019
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Deutsch-Sommersprachkurs 2019
Kursort in Bayern:	Würzburg
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B1

I applied for this summer course because I wanted to improve my ability to speak German. I have some friends from Germany and I wanted to be able to talk to them in their native language, which is also the language I studied for many years in school but never really got the hang of. After spending almost a month in Würzburg I can say that my confidence when using German increased tremendously.

The whole application procedure was, at least for me, very easy. I saw a notification on my faculty's website about a scholarship from BAYHOST and my immediate reaction was "why not?". It was around February / March when I sent all the documents (motivation letter, CV, application form and some other certificates, proof of B1 level). I got the letter of acceptance in mid-June, along with detailed instructions on how to proceed with everything. The only thing that was left to do was basically to buy my ticket to get to Würzburg and change my summer plans.

The week before my arrival I got a detailed schedule from the organisers which helped me a lot with planning my stay in Würzburg. I travelled there with Flixbus – the tickets were very cheap but the journey was quite long because I had to change my bus in Munich. I think there are easier ways to get there but this one was by far the cheapest and I did not mind travelling by bus. Once I arrived to the main train station, a student tutor was waiting for me with all the instructions on how to get to the university building, which was very useful and made me feel welcome. At the university, there were more tutors waiting for the newcomers, giving us all the instructions and taking us one by one to our accommodation. My scholarship covered the cost of the course and the accommodation and I also got some pocket money that was practically enough to get me through the whole month.

I was accommodated in a student dorm in a single room with my own bathroom and a small kitchen. There was no Wi-Fi so I bought an internet cable and that worked perfectly. The room was very nice and clean, but there were no things to use for cooking so I had to buy a pan, some plates, cutlery and cups. I also bought some cleaning supplies.

The day after my arrival there was a walking tour organized for us and that gave me a chance to get to know other people on the course and the city itself. Since I haven't even heard of Würzburg before applying for this summer school, I was very surprised by how cute and nice the city is. It is

a relatively small place that offers a lot of history and has an amazing wine-drinking culture. It's situated in Franconia, a region known for numerous vineyards and, as I eventually learned, even more wine-lovers. It was very nice discovering it with other participants of the course, who were from various countries. They were extremely open and friendly and we got along very well.

The course took place in a language institute on campus, which was 15 minutes' bus ride away from my dormitory. For that reason I bought a monthly public transport ticket, provided by the organisers (otherwise, everything in the city can be reached by foot). We were separated in groups based on our level (I signed up for B1 course) and each group had their own teacher. Our teacher was very professional, he tried to explain everything as profoundly as possible and he gave us a lot of insight on German culture. He also encouraged us a lot to speak freely, which is the area I was the worst at, and that really enabled me to use the language for the first time in my life. We got a book that was very useful for studying, but mostly we talked in groups about various topics and the teacher helped us with some words and grammar. Although I wish there was more diversity in teaching methods, I feel like I really improved my knowledge of the grammar and my vocabulary. However, my biggest achievement was finally being able to talk to locals in their language without them realising immediately I'm a foreigner. My teacher and other participants in my group helped me realize that I can gain deep knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, but if I don't have the confidence to actually use the language in everyday life, I will never master it. I believe that this is the most important thing I learned in Germany and I'm very grateful to BAYHOST for enabling me to experience all this. I know I still have a long way to go with German, but as my results on the final exam proved that I've gotten much better in only a month, I now believe language is no longer an obstacle when considering my future career choices.

I also appreciate all the time I got to spend with fellow participants on the course because I think I learned a lot from them. On the weekends there were some trips organized for us and this helped us to get to know each other's countries and cultures. We also had many social events in the afternoons after the course and that made the whole course unforgettable. I would highly recommend this course to anyone who wishes to improve and furtherly use German language in their personal or professional life. I believe it is the best way possible to learn it since it does not only consist of the language course of high quality, but also allows you to integrate with German culture itself and see it from a locals' perspective.