

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

Herkunftsland [county of origin]: Serbia

Studium in Bayern [program in Bavaria]: von [from] 01.10.2015 bis [until] 31.12.2019

Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]: Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (LMU)

Studienfach [subject of study]: Dentistry

Abschluss [degree]: PhD Bayern

I. Practical experiences and tips

As soon as I got the admission to “Oral science” PhD program at the LMU in June 2015, I have applied for the student visa. At that time, I also had that luck to receive the Summer school grant from BAYHOST, that not only helped me to improve my German language before moving to Germany, but also gave me opportunity to inform myself in advance a bit more about student life and housing while being directly in Bayern. I realized that finding room/apartment in Munich can be particularly challenging at the beginning of the winter semester during the months of September, October, and November—therefore my advice is to initiate the search as soon as possible.

I came to the Munich with a plane. However, the city is perfectly connected with the rest of the Germany and Europe with all other forms of transport and they are functioning perfectly. What I find especially good for student budget, is good connection with small airports like Allgäu Airport Memmingen, where low-cost airlines are flying.

Munich is a perfect place to study and live! It is impossible to ever be bored in Munich. The city has an extraordinary cultural scene with many exhibitions, festivals and concerts taking place during the whole year. If you're into sports, Alps and many beautiful lakes are located only one hour driving from the city, offering many opportunities for hiking and enjoying water sports. The Munich University Sports Center (ZHS) also offers low-cost opportunities for students to participate different types of sports activities, including indoor aerobics, climbing, skiing... University has also an excellent library system. PC workstations are available in the reading rooms at all the University Library locations.

Munich has a perfectly organised public transport system and university offers students a semester ticket for a very reasonable price. Also, during warmer months bicycle is the perfect option to go through the city. Everybody who plans coming to Munich should have in mind that costs of living are higher in comparison to other university cities and the price of rent really does reflect that. Although it is possible to live on a student budget!

II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

Being the PhD student at the „Oral Science“ program at the Medical faculty of Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich gave me lot of opportunities to improve my academic and personal skills, especially through participation in many courses and workshops offered by university itself. The workshops and courses are available for all PhD students, independently of the program they are enrolled. The participation was optional and we could choose the courses depending on our topic of interest. These courses and workshops helped me not only to acquire knowledge that could be useful for my future academic work, but also to develop soft skills important for the team work.

Besides that, we had the weekly organised seminars at dental clinic for all members of my PhD program that were focused on developing the specific skills important for the dental research. At these seminars we also shared the details of our progress with other students and our PhD coordinator.

I also had the opportunity to participate at many international conferences and meetings and to present results of my research. Attendance at these conferences gave me not only opportunity to get familiar with latest progress in the field, but also to meet members of other research groups and make some very useful contacts for my future career.

During my studies I participated in two different projects. My main project was about elucidation of the molecular mechanisms of bone remodelling during orthodontic tooth movement. The project was done at the Department of Orthodontics and Craniofacial Orthopedics at University Hospital of LMU. The great collaboration in the team and meetings on the daily basis with my supervisors assured the smooth progress of my work. The second project I took part was about caries diagnostics and it was coordinated by Professor from Department of Operative Dentistry and Periodontology at University Hospital of LMU. Since this project was based on cooperation between different European universities, it gave me the unique opportunity to meet some of the leading experts in the field of cariology and learn from them.

This PhD program allowed me to learn many new laboratory techniques and obtain skills in data handling and scientific writing that will be of great interest for my future career in dental research. Also, I had the opportunity to learn directly from recognized experts in the field, which is invaluable.

Being a PhD student at the prestigious university like LMU was a unique experience for me and it fulfilled all my expectations. Altogether, my work resulted in two publications in recognized journals in the field of dentistry, which is a great start for a young researcher who plans to continue the work in dental science. Also during studies in Germany I have meet many incredible people and made many contacts that will last for life.

III. Your plans or activities after the BAYHOST-funding

After my PhD studies I definitely plan to continue with my research career starting as the postdoc at the university.