

## 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] 2016 bis [until] 2019
Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]:	University of Bamberg
Studienfach [subject of study]:	Geography
Abschluss [degree]:	PhD Bayern

### I. Practical experiences and tips

Getting the scholarship for study period in Bavaria was actually my second time to go, live and study in foreign country. As a PhD scholar I was quite prepared for procedures that were waiting for me.

In fact, there are many procedures in front of every student before he even comes to new country where he will be studying in next period. Some of them are: application for visa, searching for accommodation and transport till new place. Application for visa for citizens of Serbia is quite easy procedure, just collecting the necessary papers listed for the student visa, it is completely smooth procedure. Also, coming to Bavaria was not a stressful thing to do. There are many flight carriers operating from Serbia to Germany, but if you need to move more luggage with you, bus is a better option in that case. Trip will take longer but at least you and your luggage will be together on new address. Searching for accommodation was very challenging, maybe in my case it was the hardest thing to manage. You can find a lot of information from other students about living in WGs (apartments where more students are living together in own rooms) or student dorms, but the procedures are quite different if you are applying for some of them from other country. In most WGs live interviews are organized, sometimes skype interview can work out as well. In most cases competence is huge and it is quite hard to get the room in WG. On the other hand, living in dorm is much cheaper and also quite convenient, most important it is easy to apply for a dorm from your home country. It is later on more relaxed to search for something else when you are already on the location and when you already know the people and the city.

In Bavaria it is quite easy to organize your life. Costs of living mostly depend on the size of the city, smaller the city cheaper to live in. With your student card and payed semester fees you can travel with public transport in and around your city. It is quite easy to adapt to new system especially since you can manage everything in English and also people are very kind and helpful.

### II. Academic experiences and further qualifications

At the University of Bamberg, during three years of studying I had a lot of opportunities which I had used and many of them were very helpful for me. I would like to mention some of them. For foreign students, official office from University is offering language courses, excursions and practicing sports.

Excursions are organized both in winter and in summer semester, they are quite cheap and it is nice way to discover new city or region. Language courses were free of charge, it was very good and practical way to learn basics in German language. My University has a very strong support for woman in science, where I have attended one conference and had a publication published by Universities official publication. Except of direct University opportunities, during studying at University of Bamberg, I have attended many courses, workshops and conferences in Germany and also abroad. I had a great support from my supervisor to use all the opportunities which I found and have thought were worth first applying for and later on attending them.

### **III. Plans or activities after the BAYHOST funding**

My personal short-term plans are actually connected to finalization of my PhD thesis. I have moved back to my home country after the funding from BAYHOST, which lasted for three years. I could probably say I do have many goals and plans in my professional career, but all of them are actually possible to consider first after I finish my thesis, which is the most important thing for me and would be the biggest personal achievement till now.