

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

Herkunftsland [county of origin]:	Russian Federation
Studium in Bayern [program in Bavaria]:	von [from] 01.10.2019 bis [until]30.09.2020
Hochschule in Bayern [university in Bavaria]:	University of Applied Sciences Landshut
Studienfach [subject of study]:	Electric engineering
Abschluss [degree]:	PhD Heimatland

In this report I will briefly describe my year in Bavaria from the very beginning, throughout study/work details and then I will go to the results and conclusion.

It all had started with the preparation of course. Surprisingly for me the whole process was clear and easy due to the support from host side along the way. Admission process was all in signing up for courses and signing papers like learning agreement and rental agreement for student's dormitory.

The travel itself was nothing special: flight to Munich and then train to Landshut – the destination city in Bavaria where I spent my research-year. That could have been challenging if I would be there alone, but again, the host side helped a lot. I was proposed to take part in so-called 'buddy-program' for international students where everyone of incomers is attached to one of the host university students. That was really helpful because I was able to ask all informal questions in advance and my buddy also met me at the train station and showed me how to get to dorm, grocery shops and city center later on.

In Landshut all the dorms are placed relatively close to university which makes it easy and fast to get there. The dorm rooms equipped with Wi-Fi, some of rooms do have own and other – shared kitchen. I would also highlight good noise isolation and it all comes for a fair price around 300 euros monthly, which is great. Living cost in general lies within the scholarship amount but to travel around Germany or EU you might need some savings. City of Landshut itself is not a big one, so idea to buy (or bring with you) a bicycle is really worthy to be considered. Public transportation is also alright, moreover it is free for students, but the busses come and go according to the schedule twice in hour and you have to keep it in mind when you need a public transportation.

I arrived in Germany with absolute zero level in German language, but anyway I was offered big vary of courses in English. I have picked the most interesting for me plus German language course. Studying process was organized effectively. Teachers were always open and ready for discussion. For me it was a first experience in taking courses taught in English, but the structure, organization and lections flow were just fine, so I have followed it easily. In some of courses I was the only person who can't speak German, so I expected a group work to be challenging, but students were same welcoming as teachers and almost everybody can speak decent English – that helped a lot.

Since I was awarded the BAYHOST scholarship as a visiting researcher, my project work at the department was much bigger than the courses part. The project that I supposed to work on in Bavaria

was negotiated before my arrival and once I arrived and finished all placement procedures I was ready to start. By my supervisor I have been introduced to the faculty teachers on the group meeting and then to laboratory workers as well. I have been well instructed about all laboratory equipment and to the equipment that I will work or might need during my work. The working days has started. The specificity of the project I was working on meant close cooperation with my colleagues and this is another side I was positively surprised with. I was always welcome when I needed my colleague's expertise or advise. Collaboration and welcoming working environment seem to be in genes here. The interaction with my supervisor was also organized perfectly. From my side I can say that we were able to understand each other pretty well. The professor was always able to clearly explain what is expected from me during that project work and at the same time my professional interests have always been considered along with the goals of the laboratory. I was able to contact my supervisor anytime when I needed. During the work process I was given sufficient freedom of action and choice of the methods to achieve the defined objectives, which is a really big plus for me. And even though, I was supposed to be quite independent in work I have always had an opportunity for discussion and consultancy with my professor. To sum this part up I can say that I am totally satisfied with how the work and interaction with supervisor and coworkers were organized.

Obviously, COVID crisis has affected everyone in this year, and this project work was not an exception. However, with the support of my supervisor we managed to continue our research even during the lockdown, using modeling and simulation methods. We have also used that time for paperwork, which never was the best part of science but still has to be done. Somehow, to this moment I can say that our work has brought the results for which it was all intended. We have analyzed the research subject, built theory and implemented everything in practice, which lead to decent results that we are going to use in future. Research results are going to be published as well.

During the scholarship period, I have clearly learned a lot not only in my major but also about work ethics and teamwork. I had a chance to work in completely different environment that for sure made great impact in my personal growth and soft skills. The technologies I been working with were up to date and will strongly influence quality of my PhD thesis in Russia allowing it become even more innovative and technologically improved.

As I have already mentioned the world pandemic affected that research year and even though we have managed to active success in our work there are some more things left to do to make it finished. The nearest future I will still spend in Bavaria and once I will be able to finalize everything here, I will go back to Russia to continue my research there and defend the thesis when it will be ready.

Along all times future has been very unpredictable matter so I can't be sure how will my life goes further on and where it leads me. For now, I definitely can say that I am very glad to have this experience and I am highly grateful to BAYHOST for giving me the chance to take part in that great adventure.