

## How to survive Munich

### General information

I studied at the LMU Munich, Germany for the wintersemester 2016/2017. I arrived at the start of September and moved back half February.

### Preparation

Going on exchange is one of the best things you can do during your study, there is however quite some preparation required before the moment is there. Because I am a citizen of the EU a visa was of course not required to go to Germany, but plenty of other things were: I had to prepare a learning agreement with the courses I wanted to take and acquire stamps from both the coordinators from home and arrival university. It was however quite difficult to already check for courses in the spring months. The lmu has an old-fashioned website and is not properly accessible as someone who is not enrolled there. So I looked at the student reports from others and contacted the LMU when the exam dates were. In the end, I did nonetheless none of my initial chosen courses! Besides this I signed up for housing at the studentenwerk. I was unfortunately one of the many unlucky who lost the lottery; I didn't get a place. Then I signed up for the language course in September, hereby I got a 1-person apartment in studentenstadt for the entire month. I kept using my dutch phone provider, bank account and health care for the entire period, so that didn't take me any time.

### Arrival

Because I signed up for the language course (and so the apartment for 1 month) I had to go on a specific date to Munich (September 3<sup>rd</sup>), this was unfortunately on a Saturday and so flying was quite expensive. This made me decide to take the train. I arrived in the afternoon and got my keys in one of the best student places in Munich; studentenstadt. Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> was the date the language course started and when I registered as citizen of Munich at the KVR "kreisverwaltungsreferat". Here you have sometimes major lines, but I was lucky and did this quick. For the first month you also have to buy a public transport ticket, this costs about 70€. After the first month, so when the LMU semester starts (10<sup>th</sup> October), you get a semester ticket with which you can travel from 6pm to 6am. For 190€ extra you could travel with all the u and s bahns for 24 hours a day. In the first month you also had to show that you have a proper health insurance, showing your EHIC card was already sufficient.

### Courses

Because I already did my minor one year earlier, I needed to obtain 16 ects instead of 24 ects. Half of the ects had to be done in the field of economics, the other half were open to whatever field you wanted.

-German language course, 6 ects, level B2.1:

I had german for 5 years on high school and was always good in it. Besides that I watched german news and sport channels every now and then, so that my german remained a bit on the same level before arriving to Munich. In the class, the emphasis was really on speaking. Despite the fact that I almost never spoke german, I was getting better and better at it everyday. The grammar and reading exercises given in the course were not difficult and also the last exam was easy.

-Strategic organization design, 6 ects,

This was a course in English and the grade was determined with a final exam. It was a course about the changing hierarchy of the firm because of the changing environment of markets. There was also a tutorial every week where you had to read a case first and then discuss about it for an hour with your fellow classmates.

-Digital Media & business, 6 ects:

First I did Spieltheorie, a course where differentiation is applied on game theorie, I didn't find it interesting enough and too difficult. So I did this German course. This course is about social media and the importance of advertising in new ways for big firms. It was an interesting course, definitely when you're interested in ICT.

-Corporate Finance, 6 ects:

This was an English taught course. It uses the famous book of berk & de Marzo, corporate finance. The chapters taught in this course where the ones about the models (like CAPM) and the valuation of businesses. With a finance background this course is well suited for you.

### **Finances**

Munich is one of the most expensive cities in Germany. There is a housing problem, because there are so many people doing an internship at companies like BMW, next to all the students from both LMU and TUM. This made it difficult to find a room after the language course, but in the end I found a really well located place near the TUM and LMU. The rent (all inclusive) was about 600€ per month! You get a grant of 210€ per month and also 100€ from the dutch government for not using the public transport there. IN the first two months I received my last stufi and after that I had to borrow from the dutch government and use my savings account.

I only bought the u-bahnsemesterticket for nighttime and used a bicycle for daytime. This cost me maybe 170€ total. Daily costs as groceries are a bit similar priced as in the Netherlands I would say. Drinking in a bar or pub is way cheaper, with 0.5 liter beer for under 3€ and having dinner in a restaurant is a bit cheaper perhaps.

Besides that I also travelled a lot: I went to Budapest, Prague, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Garmisch (skiing). This also cost a lot of money but in the end, I would say it is definitely worth it.

### **Daily Life**

Munich is a really well livable city. Maybe it does not have that many touristic spots as cities like Berlin, but it is a pleasure to live there. In the first month of arrival, I spend a lot of time at Oktoberfest and in the englischer garten to swim and hangout. These two places made my stay unforgettable already in September. Then in October I moved to near wards the heart of the city centre, with many restaurants and bars surrounding me. I played an indoor football tournament with a team that existed just of exchange students and made many trips this month. I also went to three FC Bayern matches and went out partying a few times a week. On Sundays (when you are not to hangover), you can go for just 1 euro to museums, I did this quite often because there are really some interesting museums in Munich.

I'd like to end with the typical way of saying goodbye/hello in Munich,

**Servus!**

