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Leibniz
Universität
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by Ten Ju Mi

Introduction

Hello everyone, my name is Iu Mi (Yuliya) Ten. I study at Peter the Great Saint-Petersburg Polytechnical University and my field of study is "International Regional Studies". I study history and social anthropology, religion, language and culture, economic and political structure of Germany. That's why I decided to go to Germany, to live there for the whole month, to know more about culture and to improve my language skills.

Polytechnical University and Leibniz University have strategic program, thanks to that I had an opportunity to get a scholarship from DAAD.

Now I'd like to tell you more about my experience in Germany and of course about language course. I hope, that my review will help students, who are going to participate next year.

Registration

It's very easy to apply for Sommerakademie and it doesn't take a lot of time. You just need to download the registration form and fill it, print out and leave a signature, then scan and send to sommerakademie@uni-hannover.de. Also you must choose yourself which language course to take for beginners (A1-A2) or for students with level B1-B2. After this steps you should wait for the answer. Marcus, who organized language course, answered me immediately and wrote some details about payment. The course fee is 500 Euro, for accommodation you will pay in Hannover. Besides, you have a great opportunity to have a group trip with to Hamburg in July and to Berlin in August, it costs 130-150 Euro.

When you pay for the course, you'll receive an invitation. Now you can buy tickets and apply for a visa.

If you have any questions, you can write Marcus, he will answer all your questions with pleasure and help you.

Nearly two weeks before the beginning of the course, you'll have an online test.

Course fee is paid, visa is done, tickets are bought, so it's time to go to Hannover!

Arrival

You should know that no one will meet you at the airport. You must go to the university yourself and find Hochschulbüro für Internationales. Thanks God I was with my friend, so it was easier to get to the university and not to get lost. In Hochschulbüro we met Markus and he told us all information about dormitory, transport card and language course.

We had to get to the dormitory ourselves. It took about 30 minutes. Before the departure to Hannover, I got an E-mail, where it was said that I will be able to buy bedclothes or bring it from home. So I decided to buy it. But there was no one in the dormitory, the administrator was absent and I couldn't buy bedclothes. Where should I sleep in that case??? Thanks to the guy, who lived there and helped me. He called the administrator and asked to come to the dormitory. The administrator was pretty sure, that everything was ok and no one needed bedclothes. He was absolutely wrong, but the problem was solved and I had a good dream that night.

I recommend you to take bedclothes from home, you won't have any problems and save 35 Euro.

The first day was very tough: long trip from Saint-Petersburg, then from the airport to the University and to the dormitory. It would be better if there was a transfer or something like that. I would better pay for transfer, than use firstly S-Bahn, than U-Bahn to get to the University and than U-Bahn again to the dormitory. For example, my friend had a language course in Munich this summer. But she was very lucky, that university staff met all the students at the airport, offered a group transfer for just 10 Euro and also gave transport tickets and sim-cards. In Hannover we had to do everything ourselves. For someone it seems easy, but after 9 hours trip from Saint-Petersburg, it doesn't.

Dormitory

The dormitory was quiet nice. We had single rooms and it was really good, because I didn't want to share the room with anyone. The room is cozy and spacious. There is all necessary furniture: bed, a desk, a lot of shelves, a wardrobe and even a washbasin, internet cabel.

Besides, there is a big kitchen, where you can cook and store food in your own locker in fridge and freezer. But you need to have your own dishes.

Also there is a very clean toilet and shower room, separate for boys and girls on every floor. On the whole I can say, that I liked the dormitory. The location was good, it was easy to get to the University by U-Bahn for just 30 minutes. We had the key from the dormitory and our rooms, so only if you have a key, you will have an access to the dormitory. It's not forbidden to bring friends. No one cares with whom you are in your room:)



Language course



The best thing was the course itself. At the beginning we had a test and according to the results we were divided into two groups: B1 and B2. I was in the group B1 and there were only 13 students in my group. My classmates were from all over the world: China, South Korea, Spain, Norway, Italy, Albania and even New Zealand. We had two nice teachers and thanks to them the lessons were really interesting. We were doing grammar exercises, playing different games, discussing today's problems. I can confidently say that I improved my speaking and grammar skills. The lessons started at 8:30 and finished at 13:00. We had two breaks, during them we usually drank coffee and eat sandwiches. It is not easy to get up so early especially in summer, but the lessons finished early and you can do everything you want at the rest of the day.

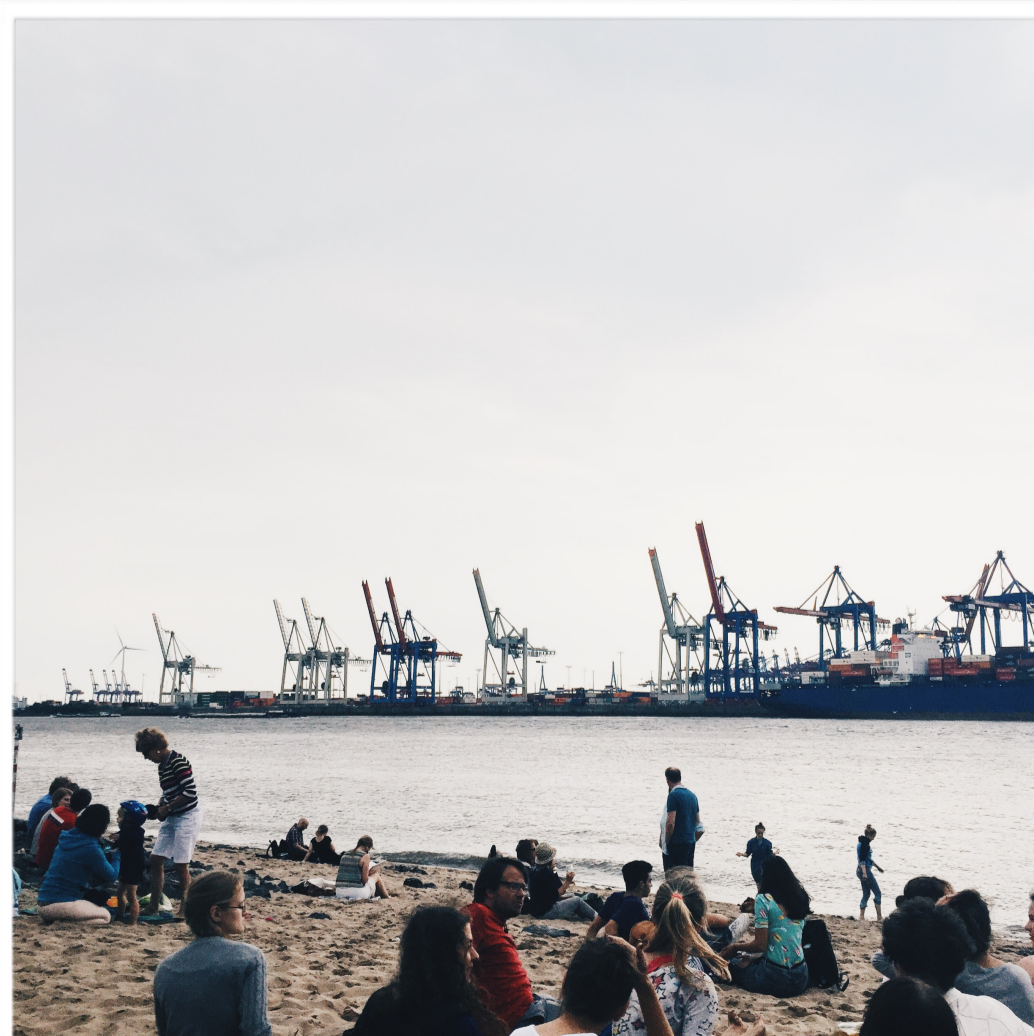


Activities

There were a lot of different activities after classes. We had an opportunity to visit the main sights of Hannover and to spend time with other students, and of course to practice language skills in German. For example, biking, hiking, watching movies with German subtitles, visiting Maschseefest and etc.

The highlight was trip to Hamburg. The trip lasted 3 days and we paid for it with the course payment. It costed 150 Euro. We lived in hostel at the center of the town. There were 6 bed rooms with shower. They were pretty clean and nice. During all the day we had excursions and visited cathedrals, parks, tried some traditional dishes of Hamburg and also visited the main building in Hamburg - City Hall.

In my opinion, this trip was not worth of money. It's cheaper to go in your own and you can do what you want and plan your time as you want. Besides, bus tickets are very cheap, so at the end of the course I decided to go to Hamburg again and saw what I haven't seen the previous time.





Conclusion

Four weeks passed really fast. It was difficult to say goodbye to Hannover and the students. I got a lot of new experience, improved my language skills. made new friends from all over the world. Thanks to the scholarship from DAAD I was fortunate to take a trip to Hamburg, Berlin and Munich. It was unforgettable month and I hope to come back to Germany as soon as possible and to continue improving my german language skills. I highly recommend all the students who learn german to take summer course in Germany. And the scholarship from DAAD will help this thing to happen.