

German Language Summer Academy



Leibniz University
Hannover, Germany

14.07.2013-09.08.2013

Impression by I.T. 

Introduction

My name is Ivan, I live in St. Petersburg, Russia, since 2000. I was born in Crimea, Ukrainian Soviet Republic in a city, called Kerch, on a Black sea, which is several kilometers away from Russian border. I study IT in St. Petersburg Polytechnical University, got a Bachelor degree and decided to go to double degree Master program between my university, and Leibniz University of Hannover. After first year of education, just the summer before I needed to go to Hannover, to spend there the second year of my education I was given a chance to go to Summer academy, to learn German language, and to get used to the cultural and other aspects. Also, I was kindly given a scholarship, which covered all my expenses, and academy education costs, except only food and transport expenses. So here is my report and impression.

Arrival

My first WOW-impression was on a half-way to Hannover, even not in Lower Saxony. I talk about Frankfurt's airport. Before this trip to Germany I was in foreign countries only once. It was Finland, but I travelled there by car, so didn't imagine how great can be European airport. It was amazing, I have never seen anything so big and huge, it was very hi-tech designed, with long corridors with moving trails, big terminals and everywhere the yellow symbols of Lufthansa, which you can easily notice.

I was impressed, but that was Frankfurt, everybody knows, that it is one of the biggest airports in Europe, a big connecting-flights node for airplanes from all over the world. I was astonished, when I saw airport of Hannover. It was not so big, but it was definitely much nicer, and bigger, than St. Petersburg's. And that is all, keeping in mind, that population of Hannover is roughly 500 000, and in St. Petersburg – 6 000 000.



We travelled to Hauptbahnhof by S-train, which is the most silent and comfortable suburban electric train, I ever travelled in. We arrived with my friends at late night, and were thinking only of going to the Uni building next day.

Registration and dormitory settlement day

I must say, that everything was organized very well, we found the University building easily, security guy near the doorway gave us our envelopes with all information, we were even given a tutor, Marta Olech, she helped us with all issues, regarding dormitory and stuff (because of lack of places, we needed to stay in another dormitory for one day, so she helped us with that). She was very kind and awesome, a lot of thanks to her!

It was a big deal to set up internet connection in our rooms, so we went to Markus Remmers, who helped us with that in a day, he is also a great man, I want to say thanks to him he made a great time for all of us, was opened, and reliable.

Opening party and lessons start

It was a very pleasant and nice party, everybody was just making new friends in relaxed and calm atmosphere, I liked it very much. Back home, you think that people in other countries may somehow differ from what you see in your country. And guess that feeling, when you suddenly realize, that everybody have the same interests, problems, different thoughts and worries, and you communicate with all of them, just like with people from your country, get to know some interesting features about countries, cities and so on, it is beautiful.

Education started fir me unexpectedly hard, I studied German at school, but since then 5 years passed, so I hardly remembered anything, and the group I was in was a bit too hard for me, so I decided to move to lower group. Of course, I could go through it and stay, but I would spent quite a lot of time getting everything tied, and I would definitely miss a lot of material, so on that point, moving to a lower level group was the best option for me. Surprisingly, no one was against, and I made it with ease, was given a new set of books (fortunately I didn't get the first one and didn't mess with it). The group was very friendly and not big.

I must point out, that I liked very much the style of learning, especially the fact, that we had two teachers. One was teaching us, explaining almost every time on English, but the other was 95 % speaking German. It makes you work hard, and you much faster progress through with this kind of education.

Trips and after-lesson entertainment

We visited a lot of places, and made a lot of stuff with all groups, taking part in this academy.

I liked the most trip to Zoo, I caressed pelicans, was on a boat trip, saw an elephant, which I haven't; seen before. I was surprised by the fact that there was a cow and a horse in this Zoo. In Russia everybody is familiar with such kind of animals, and there is no need to present them in Zoo.



As well as trip to Zoo, I liked Herrenhauser Garten excursion. It is really nice and well-prepared by keepers, everything in order and the

sights are very flowerous, colorfull and shiny. Though it is not so big, it can compete with such kind of parks in St. Petersburg, which were also built for King family.

The good thing about summer academy is a lot of activities, you can do after lessons, for example we played football on real big field, everyone enjoyed the time. We were on salsa-workshop, which was also a great time, and there was pretty a lot of people. I knew a lot of new with those workshops.

Also, I liked the trip to Hamburg, despite the fact that it was a rain storm, we were all soaked to the skin, but it was a lot of fun. I didn't like the LGBT people, goosing off around the city, we do not have such things in public places in Russia, but this is what I call "cultural features".

Impression of city itself

I totally like Hannover. After St. Petersburg it is a relatively small, calm city. It has a lot of stuff to see, I was impressed by the sightseen from the top of Neues Rathaus. We visited a couple of museums, were on festival on Machsee. The people are very kind and smiling. I liked that in Hannover there is not so many people, who smoke. It is a problem in Russia, and in big cities especially.

The city transport system is awesome, everything was in time by tens of seconds, and you can make the whole trip via phone-App, because everything is connected to one big network, containing busses, trams, and trains.

One day we were in Altstadt, sightseeing, and suddenly decided to go inside the Market church, and there was a procession, with organ playing. We sat, and for some minutes, till the end listened to this awesome sound, which I felt like going through me, and literally, filling me with some kind of power and mightiness inside. That powerfull and ant the same time peacefull sound astonished me, I was kind a vibrating with the propagation of this sound. And the church itself looks old and monumentally growing above you, when you stand near it.

I do like the building of newspaper at night. It is a gorgeous looking building.



Results of education and conclusion

I passed exam with grade 1.0 It was only A1 level, but I continued my education, and now I already passed A2 exam with the same mark, and I will continue to learn German next semester. I could try to write this report on German, but to make it at least readable, I would need to spend 10 times more time, than I spent, but it doesn't mean that I studied in vain. I am very thankful for this course, because now I can easily communicate in stores, restaurants, to order something, or just to talk on easy themes about my life with anyone.



I really liked the city of Hannover, the people, and the attitude towards me, during my education, and after course time.

I wanna say special thanks to Natalia Butych, who helped us with any questions anytime, and made a lot for us, to visit this summer academy.

A wanna thank Markus Remmers, who was responsible for this educational program and entertainment, he did a really great job! And I hope he will continue next years.



Also, I want to thank all tutors and people, who have taken a part in our time on summer academy, and especially Marta Olech, for her shiny smiling face, and kindness to all our questions and issues.

Thanks to Herr Altmann, the most positive language teacher ever!

And special thanks to all the people, who gave us a scholarship, so I could have such a great time on that summer 2013, which will remain unforgotten!

Thank you all! :)