

Report

Summer academy 2013



Author: A.D

My name is Andrei, I'm from Saint-Petersburg from Russia and I was in the summer academy at the Leibniz University in the summer of 2013.

Arrival

I arrived in Hanover late Saturday evening, although classes were to begin only on Monday. I spent the night in a hotel near the Hannover Hbf. In the morning I went to university - well it is a 20 minute walk from city center.

I came to the main building of the Leibniz University, where I was given an envelope. The envelope had all the necessary things: the keys for the dormitory room; directions to the hostel; login and password for Wi-Fi on campus; student ID card for the time of my stay in the summer academy with help which I could buy student card for public transport; all the necessary information about the summer academy and booklets about Hanover. First I went to the ticket office of public transport, but unfortunately on Sunday it was closed. So I bought a day ticket for the tram and went to the dormitory to leave my baggage there. By the way, all the time of stay I did use only trams, because their routes are more clear and stations obviously noticeable, compared with buses.

I was pleased with the level of organization at the first stage, despite the fact that the next day it was necessary to move to a nearby dormitory.

Classes

Before traveling to the summer academy, I never learned German. It is obvious that, I was identified for the A1 level. The group was small - 7 people. Some students in the group have studied the German language was once at homeland, but that did not stop me keep up and join in the learning process. Classes were held five days a week for 5 hours a day with breaks. After the class was lunch and after it - free time, which was to provide entertainment with a free visit.

In our group there were two teachers, who changed each other every 2 days. One of them did not speak English – lessons with him were much harder. Despite the fact that we have studied the basic themes, sometimes I wanted to hear and understand some explanations. But there was also a plus in terms of greater involvement in a new language for me.

Classes were interesting: with classbook, with multimedia material, in the form of a game, in pairs. I didn't feel monotony throughout the day. Classbooks were with a clear, pleasant and high quality pictures, which contributed to a better understanding and memorizing.

Every day we got homework. It was not very much, but it was necessary to take the time to grasp new information, and use it.

Organisation

Summer academy was organized at the proper level. It was felt that it is done responsibly not the first time. Everything was well thought out. And if there were any questions, I could have contact with international office who could help me in every cases. International office staff is very open and happy to help.

Entertaining program

I was pleasantly surprised when the envelope that I received on the first day, I saw an impressive list of planned activities for the time after classes in it. Pleasant remark on this list was the fact that all of these activities are free.

The events were held not less frequently than once every 2 days or more. They are usually more than half of whole students attended.

Evening of the first day of school was a barbecue, which brought together all the students of the summer academy and could meet in a relaxed atmosphere with them. This kind of event was very important.

Several times we have been shown German film with German subtitles. One of those movies I watched a few years ago, translated into my native language, so it was easier to compare what is happening on the screen and dialogues heroes.

Saturdays were more large-scale events, such as a trip to Hamburg and trip to the Hannover Zoo. Road to Hamburg takes a bit longer than 2 hours, so we met at the station quite early in the morning and returned late evening. In Hamburg, we had a walk through the main sightseeing places in the city. We also took advantage of river transport to get to another part of the city. This waterway is remembered very vividly, because at the very moment when we were on the boat, the thunderstorm began with rain and strong wind. Drenched, but a summer thunderstorm very quickly replaced by hot sun, so that this element gave memorably feelings from Hamburg. Hamburg compared to Hannover is very noisy and vain. In Hanover I liked more.



I really enjoyed visiting Zoo in Hannover. The zoo is well styled for visitors. I liked the conditions in which animals were held. They are close to their habitat, and their place is not limited to cell 5 by 5 meters.



Trips to interesting places in Hannover were organized. There were several activities such as salsa workshop and football game.



At the final barbecue I could say goodbye with all students and thank everybody for nearly a month of good impressions. Organizers presented me a mug with symbols of Hanover for my birthday that I celebrated during summer academy. I was very pleasantly surprised by this! Thank you!

Summary

I done the first steps in learning German language in summer academy. Intensive language course for one month - it is a very effective way, compared, for example, with classes 2 times a week during the semester.

Thanks to this summer academy the first time I visited Germany and met with German culture. I was left with a lot of bright and good experiences! I was communicating with people from different countries. It was very exciting and interesting!

Summer academy in Leibniz University - this wonderful place!

Thanks to the organizers and teachers for that they have done this month unforgettable!

