

## Report on the Summer School HISSEMA 2015 in Hannover, Germany

Dear Sir or Madame,

My name is Olena Fomenko and here I would love to tell more about 1.5 months that I spent in Germany this summer. This was my first experience like that. I have never heard about any summer courses like HISSEMA summer school that could include not only language practice but also could give you some knowledge about International trade or Labor economics. So from the very beginning I am able to say that HISSEMA was a great experience that combined both entertainment and studying and well as meeting new people and discovering history and culture of Germany.

I will start with **preparation process**. Application was not hard to complete, only few documents were needed: online application form, motivation letter, reference letter and I think it was pretty much it, so I have managed this task successfully. Next step was to get information about scholarship that was kindly offered by DAAD and was vitally helpful for taking part in summer school. After receiving all documents I could finally apply for Schengen visa that I have luckily received just in few days.

Each student had a study buddy, a guy or girl who had to meet them from airport or Central Station. Luckily I had no troubles with arrival and

**Living conditions** were pretty good. My room same as rooms of my colleagues was located in Schwesternhaus that is an extremely nice place. Though it was not at university campus, we had a benefit of common kitchen with all kitchen items necessary, the overall atmosphere was very nice and homelike, and the Veterinary school located next to our house was surprising us with all different kind of animals as lamas and cows.

**Studying process** is probably the most interesting and hard part. Classes were really intense and we had to consume a lot of information in a very short time. We have had 3 modules: German Culture, Business and Language, International Management and Economics and The German Economy and the European Union.

Each module included some courses that were really interesting and most of those were absolutely new to me. So German Culture, Business and Language obviously included classes of German language and culture. Every student had a chance to present the topic that he has got randomly. As a final task each of us had to write an essay on the topic one had received. My topic was Maternal regulations in Germany. In my essay I included comparative table of these laws in Russia and the USA. All other modules had final exam as the reason to be graded. Exams seemed to be not too difficult, but obviously one should learn a lot in a short time and studying conditions such as Summer, wonderful weather, new city and new friends were obstacles for getting the perfect grade. But intensive classes were still interesting to interact with new classmates and get new knowledge and overall opinion on this programme was 100% positive.

Entertaining programme was very intense and interesting as well. We had some bbqs that was a wonderful opportunity to get to know my new groupmates and some other excursions. I really liked excursion to Berlin that took few days and we had a great opportunity to see the capital of Germany and to know more about it history and culture.

After all I want to say that I wish that every student could have this opportunity to go abroad for such summer school. This opportunity not only makes you smarter or increases your horizons, it also can change your life, turn it upside down, and bring something new and absolutely fantastic into it.

I am endlessly thankful for getting this scholarship that brought me to Germany and gave me this possibility to know this wonderful country better, improve my German language and to meet fantastic people.

Sincerely

Olena Fomenko