TRAVELOGUE
Winter semester, 2013-2014
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The city: Munich
Munich is the capital and largest city of the German state of Bavaria. It is located on the River Isar north of the Bavarian Alps. Munich is the third largest city in Germany, after Berlin and Hamburg. About 1.47 million people live within the city limits.

Pulsing with prosperity and Gemütlichkeit (cosiness), Munich revels in its own contradictions. Folklore and age-old traditions exist side by side with sleek BMWs, designer boutiques and high-powered industry. Its museums include world-class collections of artistic masterpieces, and its music and cultural scenes give Berlin a run for its money.

Despite all its sophistication, Munich retains a touch of provincialism that visitors find charming. The people's attitude is one of live-and-let-live – and Müncheners will be the first to admit that their ‘metropolis’ is little more than a Weltdorf, a world village. During Oktoberfest representatives of the entire planet turn out to toast the town.

The university: Technische Universität München (TUM)
The Technische Universität München (TUM) is a research university with campuses in Munich, Garching and Freising-Weihenstephan. It is an incorporated society of the largest and most notable German institutes of technology. It is one of the first three German universities to be awarded the title elite university by a selection committee composed of academics and members of the Ministries of Education and Research of the Federation and the German states.

I’ve been taking courses in the main campus in Munich center at the faculty of civil, geo and environmental engineering.

Courses
In general
At TUM, in order to achieve a goal of 30 ECT per semester according to a rule of Erasmus Exchange, I have taken 8 courses in total eventually. Since I’m studying Water Resources Engineering in Lund, I have chosen most of the courses related to water. Everyone can choose courses whatever you like on TUMOnline https://campus.tum.de/tumonline/webnav.ini before new semester start. My idea is it's better to register as much as possible courses that you want to take from the beginning to secure the places in courses. Then go to all of them from the beginning to see which are the favourite and which are really interested in. After the first 1-2 weeks, drop the courses that you don't want to continue. It's free for everybody to deregister courses on TUMOnline whenever you want, but there is only a few days or weeks that you can register a course. Therefore, be on time to catch the position is quite
important. There are very limited English speaking courses at a German University.

**Specific course information**

These are the courses that I’ve taken below. The number in bracket is the credit that transferred back to Lund.
1. Germans as a Foreign Language A1 Intensive Course (8)
2. Energy Economics, Hydro Power and Energy Storage (6)
3. River Engineering and Hydromorphology (3)
4. Hydrochemistry (3)
5. Mathematical Modeling of Hydrodynamics and Water Quality in Coastal Regions (3)
6. Sustainable Water Resources Management (3)
7. Water Management in Mountainous Regions (3)
8. European Water and Sanitation Services vs Sustainable Development (3)-At École des Ponts ParisTech.

For the 8th course European Water and Sanitation Services vs Sustainable Development, I took it by a an intensive course for 1 week at École des Ponts ParisTech last November in Paris. It was a program called ATHENS. ATHENS is an association of accredited European universities whose goal is to offer its students exciting and intensive one-week courses twice a year. The Network consists of 24 European institutions for higher education. After finishing the exam for the course, students can get 2-3 credits back in their home university transcript. I applied it when I arrived in Munich and I found the course fit my field very much, which was a very nice week in Paris with other international colleges all over Europe. Students from TUM can get 50 euro pocket money when they receive the transcript back from the partner university. Exams at TUM are very small. Most grades consist of only final exam without any exercises’ result. Normally it’s 45min-60min exams. However, questions are pretty much and not everyone can finish it in very limited time. But remember, prepare well before the exam then it will be just small cases for us.

**Housing**

It’s quite difficult to find accommodations in Munich even it’s a big city. I have been moving all the time duing 6 months. I've moved 3 times. First I got an shared apartment from a friend’s friend in Milbertshofen at U2 just 5 min by U-Bahn to school; Then one month later, the owner came back so I had to move to Olympiazentrum at U3, 10 min by U-Bahn to the campus; Finally I moved to Studentenstadt at U6, which took me almost half an hour everyday to the main campus. It’s really important to get an accommodation along the U-Bahn station more than S-Bahn otherwise it will take more than 1 hour to get to school. S-Bahn is the sub-urban train with a sparse schedule and speed. All these are short time contracts with renters. It’s pretty hard to get long-term contract if you are staying there only for half a year or a year. Olympiazentrum and
Studentenstadt are very popular students’ living areas in Munich. There are supermarkets and restaurants are only 5 min walk nearby.

Some useful link for house hunting:
http://www.studenten-wg.de/
http://www.wg-gesucht.de/

Leisure time
Beers! In Bavaria, beer is an unforgettable living necessities. I arrived in Munich during Oktoberfest. Oktoberfest is the world's largest held annually in Munich. It is a 16-day festival running from late September to the first weekend in October with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year. To the locals, it is often simply called Wiesn, after the colloquial name of the fairgrounds (Theresienwiese) themselves. The Oktoberfest is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since 1810. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations, modeled after the original Munich event.
And there are bars, beer gardens everywhere in town to spend your leisure time with new friends. You can even get a bottle of beer at any time on the campus! Have a drink after a class and then continue with another sounds fun? English garden would be a nice place to spend weekends too. If you have time, get on a DB train to the famous Schloss Neuschwanstein and Königssee to have some fresh air would be great!
Useful links: http://www.deutschebahn.com/de/start.html
http://www.mvg-mobil.de/

Other useful information
If you want to get to know TUM and Munich more, register the activities held by TUMi office before the semester starts. They have excursion around Bavaria and sometimes cheap trips to Berlin and Frankfurt. It will be a good place to know new people and the German culture.

Permission to publish the travelogue on the LTH website
Yes