

Germany – Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Institution	Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU)
Study programs	LMU provides Bachelor- and Master programs (national and international) in education as well as structured PHD programs. http://www.fak11.lmu.de/studium/index.html
Skills in German language	German language skills are necessary for admission for many study programs, but there are also study programs in English language: http://www.en.mcls.lmu.de/study_programs/master/index.html
Study fees	There are no study fees at LMU
Interviewed Person	Refugee

I – Preparation

This is the case of J., a 24-year-old man from Syria. He arrived in Germany in 2016. His German is very good. Therefore, it was really easy to talk to him about his experiences in Germany. J's case stands for a very well planned escape. Although we did not talk about his way to Germany (or better: I did not dare to ask him).

II - Awareness

Before his escape J. took all his documents to the public authorities in Syria in order to receive translations into internationally recognized transcripts. This is why he had no problems to get the papers accepted in Germany after he was recognized as asylum seeker (he got recognized very quickly compared to other refugees).

III - Starting up

Some friends from Syria – who were already acknowledged as asylum seekers in Germany – and an uncle in Sweden had given him advice to get internationally recognized transcripts of his documents. J. told me, in Syria it would be a lot easier to get documents recognized if you live in a city than it is living in rural areas, as the authorities are located in the cities. He also said that it would be important to think up good reasons for why one needs to get recognized transcripts. For example you could claim that you are looking for a job abroad or that you need the documents for an application. Another possibility would be to corrupt the service people.

IV – Documentation and support

J. learned German in the refugee camp at first. He had to do so because he does not speak English very fluently. Afterwards J. visited two German courses at a time but was not satisfied with what he learned. Hence, he wrote a letter to the federal office to ask for participation in an integration course in order to get recognized as asylum seeker. In this course he got supported by a counselling service. His motion was successful.

V - Assessment

After J. had completed the integration course he took another German course at LMU (in Munich). There he received a C1 certificate in German. J. would like to study German as a

second language at LMU. He has already received some support by the International Office of LMU. He wanted to study law in the first place. But many of his friends advised him not to do so because of language barriers. He did not get any additional formal information or guidance. He received all his information about the German educational system from German friends. J. said that it would be very important to be open-minded to get in contact with people living here. He managed to get in contact with Germans after living here for three months. Making music (as a singer in bands) or cooking helped him very much to make new friends.

VI – Impact

He also got into contact to his German teachers because they were students and thus about his age. But on the other hand he experienced that it is not easy to stay in contact with his new friends. The issue is, that it is always him to take the initiative. At the moment he is starting to make music as a singer in a band and he is writing short articles about his life as a refugee in Germany. He is also doing presentations in the Munich house for literature (Literaturhaus).