

Munich, Germany

Vlada Yaremenko



Program: Ludwig Maximillians University Exchange, Spring 2017

Major: International Studies & Music Minor

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



While studying abroad in Munich, Germany, I got a chance to play in one of the town's community orchestras – Munich International Orchestra (MiO). This was a great opportunity for me to better my musicianship skills while also immersing myself in the German culture and learning about the local community. It was wonderful to get to know the music scene in Munich and to work with the orchestra to put on two performances for the public. We met for about three hours each week and at the end of the semester we performed two classical concerts. This experience benefited me on so many levels because I got to observe and play with a German orchestra, perform for the people, practice my German, and learn about German culture by engaging with the local community.

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



I took a German language course and attended rehearsals that were taught in German. The German class met for three hours each week. However, it was much different learning German in the classroom and actually being in a situation where it was necessary to speak it. When I decided to join the Munich International Orchestra, I was afraid that I would not be able to understand anything. However, after a few weeks of constantly hearing German in the rehearsals and attending my German course, things got more exciting. I was able to apply and practice the language skills I learned in class, and by the end of the semester I was able to make small conversations and understand some of the things said to me. The combination of the German course and my time in the orchestra really helped me practice and retain everything I learned.

Transferable Skills:



Currently, I hold the position of the assistant concertmaster at the University of Utah Campus Symphony. While studying abroad and playing with the Munich International Orchestra, I was able to acquire some important skills that I can utilize both in my position as the assistant concertmaster and in my future career working in an international field. In the MiO, I learned how to effectively communicate with other musicians without using spoken language, as well as to pay better attention to the orchestra as a whole. Furthermore, I learned how to work with people from different backgrounds and in a completely different language. This experience definitely made me a better musician and gave me an opportunity to work with an international community.



"It has always been my dream to study abroad in Europe, and the University of Utah made this dream come true. This experience reassured me that I am on the right path and that working with and being around an international community is my passion. The world is too big to stay home."