

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you very much for supporting me with your scholarship. Your help is very important to me. Thanks to you I could take part in the Phoenix Institute summer program and find out a little about how it is to study abroad. All courses offered by the Phoenix Institute were very interesting for me. This course is an integration of my own studies. I study "missiology" and I was particularly interested in two courses, namely "Faith and Reason" and "Human Rights", because these two courses were connected with my studies. I had a special wish to intensify my knowledge about God, human beings and society.

I came to Austria with students from Poland. We were very nicely surprised when after a hard trip somebody came for us to the train station. It was really nice. I appreciate every gesture of kindness. All acts of goodness which I experienced here assure me that students are not alone in the Phoenix Institute. You will find help here, always when you need it.

At the beginning and at the end of our stay in Gaming we could listen to great words which keep our spirit strong. Every lecture of the professors was like flames in my mind burning up my intellect. My personal contact with the truth of the human being and God, which was given us by the professors at the Phoenix Institute, was very deep and exciting.

I appreciate the work and the devotion of all the professors who spent a lot of time with us sitting and talking about many curious and fascinating things and ideas. In the Phoenix Institute all students have an unusual opportunity for a personal contact with each of the professors. Closer relations help and motivate us to ask questions about everything we need to know without fear.

During these two weeks that we spent together I experienced many touching moments in searching for courage and the truth, especially in the chapel where we were praying together in our national languages.

Every moment of my stay here was unforgettable. I had a chance to meet many wonderful and interesting people. We were sharing our experience, knowledge, talents and kindness with one another. I am sure that none of us felt alone, because it was impossible. Every hour of our stay was filled to the limit. We were learning, talking, eating and living together. We could rest together in the amazing atmosphere of green mountains.

Before I came here, I chose two from the three available courses. These were “Faith and Reason” and “Human Rights” together with “Political History”. At the beginning of my stay I found out that I had to participate in all of them. The third course was about “courage”. We were very surprised and worried, because we were not sure if we were able to survive in these circumstances. We had to be prepared for every single lecture, we had so much to read, sometimes too much, but we did it. We did it, because we were courageous.

After two weeks of studying at the Phoenix Institute I am satisfied and very happy, because I feel inside myself it was worth doing. It was a really good choice – not mine directly, but still right – and I am thankful for it.

All three courses were very well prepared by the professors. In every lecture I had the possibility to discover a new way of thinking and for this I am also thankful.

Summer school in Gaming is a good way to improve your knowledge, this time especially about “courage”, “faith and reason” and “human rights and political history”. I appreciate the work of all professors and their devotion to us and their teaching.

I am really glad to be here, in beautiful Gaming, on this summer school. The Phoenix Institute is a professional institute, which met my expectations. During these three courses I could learn many exciting things and met many interesting people. We all had a really good time together. Although many of us come from different countries, during these two weeks we were able to find common values in our life.

Respectfully yours,

Emilia Baczek (from Poland)