

15th August 2016

To the Trustees of the Harley Trust Education Charity,

Thanks to your funding, from the 31st July – 13th August 2016, I was fortunate enough to participate in a two-week intensive German language course in the picturesque surroundings of Heidelberg. I originally applied for funding from the Harley Trust to do a four-week course at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität of Munich, but I was not able to proceed with this due to the lack of accommodation. Therefore, I found another suitable course to match my requirements.

I am delighted to say, though, that taking part in the Heidelberg course was a decision I definitely do not regret. I was sceptical at the start of the course; given that I had studied German *ab initio* in my first year at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, I did not think it would be possible to find a course which would match the challenge of the world-class teaching from my first year. I was pleasantly surprised - the course exceeded my expectations with both the teaching quality and the lesson content. In my interview in Heidelberg the day before the course started, in order to place me in the correct class according to my CEFR level, I had to assess my own skills to the interviewer. I said my weakest skill in German was speaking, and it is fair to say that this was the main focus of the course. In our classes, we had many debates in German. Topics for this included Sunday opening hours in Germany, the legalisation of Class C drugs and a scenario in which a thirteen-year-old girl wanted to travel the world alone. Alongside the debates, we used other scenarios to develop different levels of formality in our speech. For example, for the debate on the thirteen-year-old wanting to travel the world alone, we all had to play different characters (i.e. the girl, her parents, the educational authorities, psychologist etc.) and face a mock jury who would then have the ultimate decision as to whether she would be allowed to travel or not based on the evidence. The lessons were also very useful in providing groups of vocabulary, and also gave many chances to have one's own work corrected by other participants and likewise to correct other people's mistakes.

I believe the course has considerably improved my confidence in speaking and reading in German, as well as listening to German. However, the course did not really cater for the improvement in writing skills. Despite this, it has given me an even greater foundation for the big jump from *ab initio* German to the *ex-ab initio* course from 2016-2017. To compliment the excellent contact hours, the Goethe Institut had organised a leisure timetable. This included, among other things, audio tours of Heidelberg's famous castle (in German, of course), a 25km bike ride to and from Ladenburg and a BBQ in a neighbouring forest. These things might not have been educational, but they provided many opportunities to have a conversation in German with other course-participants and even the Goethe Institut's leaders.

Though I did receive another grant from my college which was detailed in the application to the Trustees, this trip would have definitely not been possible without the outstanding

generosity of the Harley Trust's Educational Grant. I would like to thank each and every member of the charity for this opportunity and for the careful work that must go in to assessing every application. This is the third time I have been funded by the Harley Trust, and I can honestly say that each and every trip has contributed to my personal development and helped to lead me to where I am today. With particular regard to this trip, I feel it has been very helpful in my preparation for the challenge of the second year of my degree at Cambridge University. I achieved a First class in my German from this year's part of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos, and I will work very hard with the aim of achieving an equally high score for next academic year.

I would like to finish by adding that you will find a few photos from my trip attached to this letter. I would also like to inform you that I would be more than happy to speak at any event, meeting, conference etc. that you may hold in the future as a testimonial for the fantastic opportunities the Harley Trust has allowed me to experience and how it has impacted my academic journey as a languages student through to Cambridge University from a school in an Area of Multiple Deprivation. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this.

With kind regards,
Rhys Locke.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhys Locke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.







