

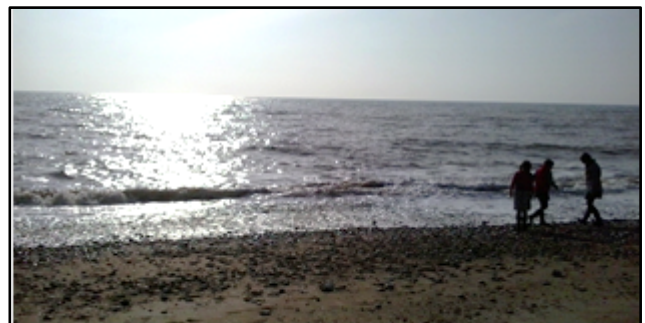


Experiment in
International
Living UK

Letter from UK

The last week in Germany I spent completely with my family as I had already said goodbye to my friends on the last day in my boarding school. After some drama getting everything packed it was finally there: the day of the flight. Getting up at six in the morning, breakfast, last look around the room, into the car and then we were already on the way to the airport in Berlin – where had all the summer holiday gone, I wondered. Last time weighing the trunk on the airport, it decided that I had to take out more stuff – so I wore another pullover, yes in August under my new winter coat that did not fit in there anymore either. After some hugs and tears I finally went to the final check-in - and got taken out; my parents looked at me in shock. As it turned out some paper clip had found its way into the laptop in my hand luggage, naturally only to put a bit more spices into the otherwise unexciting day... Luckily I met a friend on the plane, had a good book and good view out of the window.

When I arrived at the airport in England, the sun, my host mum and a friend of hers with another host student were already waiting for me; we did some small talk though I was probably a bit shy. But after a light lunch in the garden and an enjoyable walk on the close forest, we warmed up for each other more and more.



Seaside in Brighton - Perfect weekend destination –
The weather doesn't matter, our friends do

She showed me around the town, led me to her allotment and also to school – where I tried to get on my own the next day... it took me about two hours, now it only takes me twenty minutes; but at least I got to know the town on my own and I could not get lost as I already had my new sim-card for my mobile – and a good basic orientation – to guess how to get back home.



Our recent meeting of all foreigners in school....
.....there were not enough doughnuts!

On the first day in school we only chose the subjects and met all the other exchange students from our school: almost thirty!! We were not alone, not the only ones, that might be good and bad, but we all made the best of it.

After only a few days we all went out together – I still remember this crazy evening very well, sitting opposite a brilliant Brazilian. Picture that: thirty foreign teenagers, sitting in a restaurant

of a small town, trying to order their dinner, first time in an English-speaking restaurant. I can promise: this is what legends are made of!

We made many more trips together, to London, to the cinema, to cafes, to the sea side but mostly I remember our last trip to London, seeing Olympia and finishing with a flash mob like dance in Trafalgar Square – it was amazing and I thank you all!

Pitifully not everyone is staying the whole ten months, some going home for Christmas, some coming firstly afterwards, some going home for Easter... saying goodbye all over again is sad – my grandma even asked me whether there would be anyone left to say goodbye to me in June; I laughed - but we all keep great memories and absolutely amazing friends from all over the world, connected by this simply unique experience.

But we are not only here for fun evenings, weekends and holidays, we still have to go to school. Especially German students might be delighted to hear that school does not start until 8.30, technically not even until 9 o'clock – a dream compared to what I was used to. Another rather relaxing part was the fact, that I only had four subjects – instead of my normal twelve, or in the last years up to twenty. I chose Music and Dance, as I enjoy them very much, Physics, because I plan to take it when I am back home, and French for learning a foreign language in another language. I cannot lie to you: in the beginning it was like hell. Cultures, languages, ideas and reality colliding in my head... we all got used to it.

Were we homesick? Of course, some earlier, some later, more or less; for me it got part of everyday life as there can be everywhere some things that remind you of back home, which is completely natural.

Many people worry about finding friends. My first and best friends here are exchange students themselves; when you are more introverted like me, it is surely easier to have host siblings of your age that can introduce you to some, take you to meetings or parties, ease the first contacts.



Not only the tourists care about them - the double deckers are essential for British life!



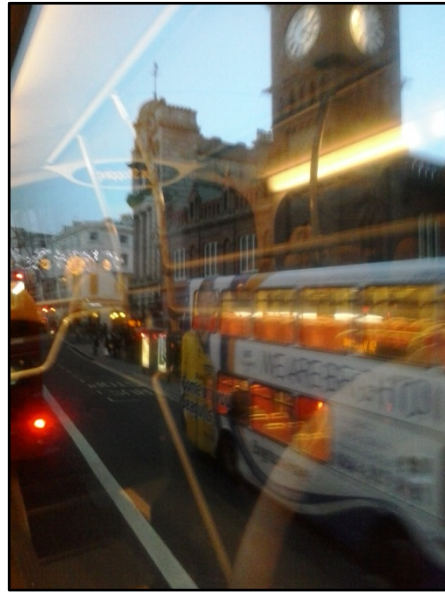
**We're all in this together.
Unforgettable, unregrettable – unless
you miss it!**

I, personally, have a single placement, meaning that I am only living with my host mother, my two host sisters already grown up. December was an amazing month: the older one got married and we spent Christmas with the younger one in London. If you have the chance: stay as long here as possible, do as many things as you want to and enjoy.

Enjoy every second of this new freedom, away from parents, away from home. Discover life and yourself - in another country!



It may be an end or a new start - we can decide



Losing track of time as it carries on

High-School 2014/2015 Jenny, Student from Germany