



My name is Anna, I was an Exchange Student in 5th year in Kinsale, Ireland for a semester.

I'm in Kinsale since January and in a few weeks, I will go back to Italy. Time flew so fast. Here in Ireland I felt like at home, people are very welcoming and always available to help you if they see you in difficulty. The first weeks have not been easy. I had to get used to my new routine, the school was huge and I took a few days to understand how the blocks system worked and I won't lie I got lost a lot of times, but since the beginning I met amazing friends that were always ready to help me. With them settling in was faster and homesickness wasn't so bad.

The school was very different from what I was expecting. At first, I thought that school days would have been never ending since the lessons start at 8,45 and finish at 3,40 pm but it wasn't so stressful, and I think is better having a free Saturday and periods of just 40 minutes. The teacher is always ready to help you if you don't understand something and they treat you like every other student.

One of my biggest worries before starting my experience abroad was to find a nice host family to get along with.

I had the luck to live with a fantastic host family who was also hosting another German student in my same year. Fantastic is nothing to describe the amazing person they are, and my host cousins were grand.

Together we had a lot of fun we also spent an amazing day in Killarney, where we did a walk through a wood, we saw a waterfall, we carved our names on a tree and we pet puppies (piglets are the cutest thing ever).

Irish weather is crazy, but fortunately that day the sun was shining, and it was so warm (strange but true).

It was so good having another student living with me. I'm so grateful to having met her. I arrived 4 months later than the other Exchange Students, so a lot of friendships have already formed, but she helped me a lot and I didn't feel alone.

Kinsale is a very colourful and positive place you will fall in love with this little town since the beginning.

I love Irish cooking especially garlic bread, porridge with bananas and maple syrup.

My experience has been 100% positive. I would do it again and I regret having done the semester and not the year, because I found myself very well.

Ireland will always have a safe place in my heart, and I will visit my host family again.

Annamaria Vandelli

25th May 2019