

Hello, my name is Julius and I spent half a year in Ireland (from January to the end of May).

When I was on the plane I had some doubts whether it was the right decision to go to Ireland and leave my family for so long. But I can already tell you that it was one of the best decisions I've ever made to come to Ireland.

I actually lived with several host families. My first host family was a relatively large family with three boys with whom I had a lot of fun and the host parents were also super nice. However, I unfortunately had to leave this family and was very upset about it. I then came to live with a wonderful lady. You always imagine that it might be worse if you don't live with a family but with a single woman, but that wasn't the case for me at all - I had an incredibly good time with her, which made my stay so much better. There was also another exchange student living in the house, an Italian girl, and it was good to have someone else with me so that you're not always the one who has to talk.

In short, the school is great. There are so many opportunities at TY to get involved in different projects and just get out of the classroom. For example, I took part in the Wellfast day concert and with our YEA (Young environmentalist award) project we won a total of four awards and raised 11,250 euros for the school. If you want to take part in the school show, which is also incredibly impressive, you should come in September otherwise everything it's already planned. In my opinion, the teachers are also great here. For example, the teacher who was in charge of our project, Mr. Bowen, was probably one of the best teachers I ever had and he always had some amazing stories from his life before his teaching job.

You get involved really quickly, but to make Irish friends you really have to approach them more as the Irish are quite shy. But even I, as a very quiet person, have made great Irish friends and also with the other exchange students.

After school, you're always out with friends and the same goes for the weekend. Kinsale is 30 minutes from Cork City and 20 minutes from the airport by car, which you can get to very easily and cheaply (if you have the Leap Card). There are of course a lot of sporting activities which I can't say much about, but musically there is the KAOS (kinsale amateur orchestra society) and it was just great there. We also had a concert and the rehearsals were always a pleasure. There are mostly older people there, but they are not at all boring or quiet. You always have fun with them and I looked forward to the rehearsal every week. Of course, there is also the beach and it was actually warm enough to go swimming or just relax and play cards there several times.

At the end, I can only say that I had a wonderful time here and can only recommend it to everyone.

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