

My exchange year in Ireland

I can start by saying that coming here was the best decision of my life. I can't believe how quickly this year has passed. Now I'll tell you a little about my year in Ireland.

Now let's start at the very beginning. My parents sent me to Ireland because my English was, without any exaggeration, a disaster. On top of that, I was completely overwhelmed after 10th grade in Germany, and I needed a break from the everyday school life in Germany. When my parents suggested that I go to Ireland, I thought to myself?! I had never given Ireland a second thought, but my parents did some research and found a program in Ireland that was a perfect fit for me. They decided that I should complete the TY in Ireland because it's not just about academic performance but also about developing your talents and interests.

At first, I was worried about what kind of host family I would get. I was scared of living with strangers, but this was the best thing that could have happened to me. I got such a great and nice host family who supported me a lot, gave me love and made delicious food. I also became a lot more independent. I did my own laundry because the family composition was a lot more different than my family, I learned a lot because I was the only child there and that was the complete opposite because I have a big family in Germany, which was an interesting experience.

I met so many nice people and made a lot of good friends. When I came to Ireland, I didn't really expect to meet so many good friends, but it turned out differently. The school was a great place to meet a lot of friends. At the beginning I had the feeling that a lot of the Irish were too shy to talk to me so it's best if you take the first step yourself. That's how I made a lot of good friends. Because I had so much freedom in the TY, I was able to live out my talents. We were told there was going to be a school show and several singing and action auditions to see if I was suitable for the respective role. As soon as I heard this, I started practicing straight away and signed up for the casting. I made it through to the next round and the next one too. I made it into the main cast and, as an exchange student, was given a small lead role. This was one of the best things that could have happened to me this year because it allowed me to live out my dream of singing. The show was a lot of work, but in the end, it was worth it because it was really good. The show showed me that I want to do something with music later. After the show they gave me another gig for a school concert because they liked my singing that made me very happy.

I am so grateful for the good friends I made for life. I am coming back in August to visit them. This year was by far the best year of my life. When I think about it all coming to an end I just want to cry, I don't want that it's over. Finally, I would like to say that the organization was a great meeting place. Rachelle is the best coordinator I could imagine for this job. She did a lot of things with us, looked after us, she helped us all in the group whenever we needed help. Without her, the year abroad would have been only half as good.

Martina Sauer 15th May 2025

