



Hi, I'm Tabea from Germany, and since August 2024, I've been spending my year abroad in Ireland.

If you're considering doing a year abroad but feel unsure about being away from your family and their support, maybe my story will help ease some of those doubts.

Leaving home wasn't easy. During my time here, a very dear and beloved family member of mine fell seriously ill at a young age. Being so far away, I couldn't do anything to help or even visit. Enjoying my time abroad often felt wrong knowing what my loved ones were going through back home. It was incredibly difficult, and I felt miserable, to say the least.

Still, I was lucky. My friends here did everything they could to support me, and so did Rachelle. I'm really thankful for their kindness and encouragement. Rachelle has been especially helpful throughout this year—always checking in at school and offering genuine support whenever I needed it.

Are you worried about not getting along with your host family? That's okay, too. Changing host families isn't uncommon either, but you will get a lot of support for that as well. I actually parted ways with my first host family on pretty good terms I'd say and, with Rachelle's help, was able to find a better fit within just a day. She took my situation seriously and made the change smooth and stress-free.

The host family I've been with for the past seven months is absolutely wonderful. They've welcomed me into every aspect of their lives—whether it's whale watching, spontaneous weekend drives, or simple trips to the shop. I truly feel like part of the family.

Their warmth and hospitality have meant the world to me. Their food is incredible, and I've even had fun baking crumbles and pancakes with my host brothers—which, I have to say, turned out pretty great! I know how special it is to form such a close bond, and I'll always be grateful for the experience.

I hope everyone considering a year abroad gets to experience something as meaningful and memorable as I have:)