

## **General information about the exchange**

During my student exchange, I lived with a host family. At the beginning, everything was new for me and I had to get used to many things. I did not know the house or the area well, and the language was sometimes still difficult for me to understand. That is why I was a little nervous and unsure on the first day. But my host family was very friendly and welcomed me kindly, so after a short time I already felt more comfortable and a bit more relaxed.

In our free time, we did many different things together. It was almost never boring, because we were often outside or busy doing something. I especially liked a trip to an amusement park. There were many different attractions, like rollercoasters, carousels, and other fun rides. At first, I was a bit scared of the fast rollercoasters, because they looked very high and fast, but I still tried them. In the end, it was really worth it, because it was a lot of fun and I even rode them several times.

In between, we took breaks to relax. We bought ice cream and sat down somewhere nice. We talked and laughed a lot, and you could get to know each other better in these moments. These were actually the moments that made the exchange special, because you did not only see things, but also spent real time together and became closer.

We also did many smaller and simple things. For example, we went for walks or explored the area around the house. I saw many new places that I had never seen before. Sometimes we just walked through the city, looked at shop windows, or went into small shops and looked around. Even these simple things were fun and interesting for me.

In the evenings, we often ate together as a family. We talked about the day and what we had done. At first, this was a bit difficult for me, because I did not understand everything and I was shy to speak. But over time it got better, and I felt more confident to speak and join the conversations.

During this time, I noticed that I became more confident and more open. Overall, the time with the host family was very nice, and in the end I really felt comfortable and almost like a part of the family.

## **Trip day in Cambridge**

One very exciting and interesting day during the exchange was our trip to Cambridge. This city is very famous for its many colleges and its long and important history. Many famous people studied there, and the city has a very special and unique atmosphere.

When we arrived, you could already see that the city is different from other cities. There are many old buildings that look very impressive and beautiful. The colleges look a bit like small castles, with big gates, towers, and quiet courtyards. It really felt like going back in time.

We had a guided tour through the city and got a lot of information from the guide. They explained how old some colleges are and how important they are for history and education. It was very interesting to hear that students have been studying there for many, many years.

The weather that day was not very good, which was a bit unlucky. It rained a lot, and it was also quite cold and windy. Still, we walked outside the whole time and continued the tour. Sometimes it was a bit tiring and wet, but we did not let it ruin our day. In fact, the rain even fit the old and special atmosphere of the city.

A real highlight was a big hall that we visited during the tour. This hall is very famous because scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed there. When we stood there, many people recognized the place immediately. It was a strange but cool feeling to stand in a place that you normally only see in movies. The hall was very big and impressive, with long tables, high ceilings, and a special atmosphere.

Another interesting thing was a special golden clock. This clock was not like a normal clock that we see every day. On top of it sat an animal, a gecko. We were told that this animal shows that time is "eaten". That means time always goes on, and you cannot stop it or get it back. Many of us thought this idea was very interesting, but also a bit strange and unusual.

During the tour, we saw and learned many more things. For example, we learned about the history of the city and about student life there. It was interesting to see how old some buildings are and how well they are still kept and used today.

After the tour, we had some free time, which was really nice. For many, this was one of the best parts of the day, because we could move around the city on our own without a guide. We went in small groups and looked at the city again calmly.

We walked through the streets, looked at souvenirs, and just enjoyed the time together. It was nice to be without a guide and decide where to go by ourselves.

At the end of the day, we went to McDonald's. There we ate something warm and sat down to relax, because it was still cold outside. It was a calm and nice end to the day. We could sit together, talk, laugh, and think about the day again.

Overall, the trip to Cambridge was a very special and unforgettable experience. Even with the bad weather, it was one of the best and most interesting days during the exchange.

### **Personal conclusion**

The student exchange was a very important and valuable experience for me. At the beginning, I was unsure and did not know what to expect, which made me a bit nervous. But over time, I felt more and more comfortable and confident.

I experienced many new things and got many new impressions. I especially liked the trips and the time with other students and my host family. The visit to Cambridge and the day in the amusement park were the highlights for me and I will remember them for a long time.

I also noticed that I became more independent during this time. I often had to manage things on my own and learned to deal with new and sometimes difficult situations better. I also improved my language skills a lot, because I had to speak and listen every day.

Of course, I sometimes missed my home and my family. But that is part of such an experience and it showed me how important my family is to me.

In the end, I can say that the exchange was definitely worth it. I not only learned a lot, but also made many nice and unforgettable memories.

I would definitely recommend such an exchange to others, because you can learn a lot about other countries, new cultures, and also about yourself.

## Pictures



King's College



Clock in Cambridge

Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colleges\\_of\\_the\\_University\\_of\\_Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colleges_of_the_University_of_Cambridge)