

My stay in Cork

Hi there. My name is Dominik and for the past 5 and a half months I have lived in Cork, Ireland. It was a whole new adventure after 6 months in France. In this report I am going to talk about my stay and my experiences that I have had on the green Island.



I live in a small house with my host mother Theresa, her son Eoin and always another exchange student. I have had several exchange students, multiple from Italy and Czech Republic and even an exchange student of Switzerland. The location is amazing for me with multiple Bus lines to get into town and to work.

The first two weeks we had English classes to get used to the English language again, especially after speaking French for 6 months beforehand. After those two weeks we just had school every Friday to prepare ourselves for the CAE exam that we will have. We only had 4 hours a week, however they were very important for me to get a better knowledge of the way the exam will work. During these hours we get preparation exercises or tests in



reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Our teacher now, Este, is excellent. She helps us with whatever we need while always having a laugh with us.

I have just written my final exam, the C1 last week in Dublin. Unfortunately, there wasn't a date in Cork that suited me well. Hopefully I'll get the results as fast as possible.

Even though I need over an hour to work, I enjoy going to work every day. I work at the Cork international airport along with 3 fellow students, jana, Max and Nico. In my opinion the airport was an amazing opportunity for me. I have been able to work in the following departments: Carparks, Customer Service, Security screening, in the Duty-free shop and many more. Since all departments are so different, I have gained working skills which I will hopefully be able to use in my future working career. Just recently we were able to lead a whole project, which shows how much faith and trust they have in us. It was a special but fun experience to take over the lead of a project as an intern at such a big company. I work Monday to Thursday from 10.00 to 15.00. However, I usually work 3 or 4 weekend days either in security or in the duty-free shop.

Whenever we are off work, we try to see as much as possible of Ireland. Even though it isn't always the easiest with the rainy weather, we try to make the most of it. I have been to Kinsale, Ballycotton, rock of Cashel, Midleton, Crosshaven and Cobh with friends. While my parents came to visit, I was able to see a whole lot more of Ireland, especially the south-east parts of Ireland.

Slowly but surely, this wonderful year is coming to an end. I would love for it to continue but then again, I am looking forward to seeing my friends and family again back home. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have taken part of this program in so many ways. I have met new people with whom I would love to stay in contact with. In addition, the experience that I have gotten in this year is priceless. I have made so much progress, not only language wise but also personally. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we will all come back as new people with different personalities. In conclusion, such a year has its ups and its downs. But you have wonderful people around you to help when you need it. Therefore, I would start such an exchange year again straight away.



See ya guys!

