



*'Really looking forward to going abroad'*

As I sit here (currently in my room in Newbridge), my emotions run a bit wild when I think about spending my year abroad in Neu Ulm, a small town in Germany. My name is Albina Haliti and as part of my degree I will be moving to Germany this year to work as an English Language Assistant in Schubart-Gymnasium. I am currently a German and History third-year student in Maynooth University and German is my great passion!

27 September will be my first official day of teaching at the school and I am genuinely so excited. I wish to pursue a career in teaching in the future, so it will be amazing to have this opportunity and I hope it will help prepare me for my future career. As the days fly by the nerves slowly but surely creep in, I'm not fully sure what to expect, will the students like me? Will I fit in? Will I perhaps get homesick?... I'm nervous but I'm also pretty confident that no matter what happens, it will surely be an unforgettable experience.

Even though I'm slightly anxious about the cultural difference and I'm a bit nervous that I may not understand everything 100% of the time, I know –with time-- I will adjust and learn. The nerves and fear is easily forgotten as I also have so much to look forward to. I'll be meeting lots of new people, immersing myself fully into the German language, teaching people about Irish life and culture, tasting Swabian cuisine and, most importantly for me, getting a feel of what teaching is like.

Packing and finding accommodation has felt a little stressful, but booking the flights and getting new stationery has brought me great excitement haha! As I come to the end of my first blog, I massively look forward to sharing my experience this year with you as I go abroad as a English Language assistant in Germany.

*Kindest regards~ Albina Haliti*

