

Dear all!

My name is Isa, I am 17 years old and I am from the north-west of Germany. I am currently a junior in the German equivalent to high school.

I live with my parents and my 14-year-old brother, and my family owns a dog. I have my own room in our house which is merely a five minutes walk away from fields and the outdoors, but I can also easily take the subway and get to the downtown area in 20 minutes.

I learn English, French, and Latin at school, and those languages are also among my favorite subjects. I have always been very interested in the English language in particular. Other subjects I enjoy are German, Biology and political studies, especially the latter because it allows for interesting and sometimes controversial discussions in class.

You have probably heard of IB, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program which is taught entirely in English. I am currently in my first year in IB, and it has been challenging, yet very fun! I am pursuing not only IB, but also the German high school diploma, the "Abitur", which means that I will (if everything goes according to plan) graduate with two diplomas.

I usually bike to school, which takes about 20 minutes, and I quite like it because it allows me to get some fresh air before and after school. I am currently involved in a school project together with two of my friends and a couple of other students from all grades. We meet once a week and design and build important elements of the stage and props for this year's school musical, "The Addams Family". I really enjoy participating in the project because I can spend time with my friends and let my creativity run wild at the same time!

I have always liked being creative, and this is why I still try to make time to draw or read a good book whenever I have the chance to. I also like singing and playing the guitar, and it is even more fun doing that together with friends! I am lucky to have friends that I can trust and that I can completely be myself with, and I always enjoy meeting up with them to have sleepovers, go to the movies or simply talk and laugh

for hours.

I have lots of favorite books, movies and tv shows, and I would love to name all of them here, but I will leave it to my favorites: Regarding books, I adore the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins and the Divergent series by Veronica Roth, and of course their screen adaptations! My favorite tv shows are Pretty Little Liars, Friends (even though I have only just finished watching the first season), How I Met Your Mother and Dance Moms.

There are lots of great movies I have enjoyed watching, for example The Spectacular Now and Room, and I am a big fan of the Ellen Show. I simply love listening to music because it has something calming, yet invigorating to it, and I like a great variety of artists, including Taylor Swift, Sara Bareilles, Ed Sheeran and Coldplay.

I am interested in numerous fields of study, namely psychology, linguistics and anthropology, but I could also see myself working as a journalist later on, given that I have always enjoyed writing.

At any rate, I would like to work in an international and multi-lingual environment because I am keen on learning about foreign countries, their languages and their cultures.

This is why I have used every opportunity to travel that has been available to me over the past few years: When I was a freshman, I took part in two school exchanges to Spain and the Netherlands that were each a week long. In late 2015, I spent three months in France, where I stayed with a lovely host family and also attended school, and in early 2016, my host family's daughter came to stay with my family for three months as well.

I also quite recently traveled to Japan with a group of German teenagers. The program that enabled us to go there aimed at improving the intercultural relations between Germany and Japan, and I had a blast learning about the Japanese culture that had previously been completely unknown to me!

The positive experiences I have had as an exchange student are very dear to me, and I hope to gain even more of them by participating in a Lions Youth Exchange! I am grateful and excited to have this opportunity and I thank my host family in advance for making this

possible!

I am looking forward to embarking on this journey!

Isa