

An once-in-a-lifetime experience

Foreign experience, interacting with strangers and speaking in another language – school weeks abroad play an important part in every student’s education. While at first it might seem difficult to adapt to cultural differences, there are many ways one can benefit from these unique travels. Therefore, in my opinion, language weeks provide an amazing opportunity to shape cultural and international understanding for one another.

This also is a unique chance for young people to get an authentic impression of the world they live in. There are no parents to constantly take care of them – the students have to gather experience themselves. As a result, they get a whole new perspective of the country they stay in and the way people in other cultures live, which might even lead to a boost in confidence and willingness to socialize with strangers – both of which are very important characteristics for growing up.

For some, going far away from home might seem difficult at first. Finding oneself in a completely different setting may result in a phenomenon called “culture shock” – being overwhelmed by the grave differences, which even may occur between industrialized countries. This involves factors such as food, architecture and climate, but also the way people talk, act and what their standards are. Furthermore, looking after oneself and managing one’s own timetable can be quite challenging, especially if it is the first time being on vacation without adults. But in the end, mastering this obstacle is something that you can highly benefit from.

Not only are these experiences of great importance for determining your personality, they also come in handy at school. Being able to manage your time is crucial for coping with all the tests, presentations and papers that come your way throughout the year. After being confronted with this challenge on a language week, one might find it easier to apply the gained experience to one’s daily school life. Additionally, being more open towards other people can have an immense impact on who you spend your time with in class and the way you see the world. Pairing this with your newly-gained confidence will make you a better speaker and lecturer, which not only allows you to present yourself in an optimal way, but also improves your chances of finding a job.

Overall, language weeks are an once-in-a-lifetime experience, that can greatly impact your life and the way you approach people. Do not miss out on this opportunity to gain new

experience and make contact with different people and cultures. There is a whole world out there waiting to be explored, as many put it – you might as well start while you are young!

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