

# My time in Canada

This year, I spent three months in Canada. My exchange partner lives in Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. During this exchange, I was able to gather different experiences and improve my English skills.

In my host family, I felt welcome and accepted.

My normal day started at 7:00 AM, when I woke and dressed up. Furthermore, I made myself breakfast and went back to my room to put all my school material together. Subsequently I went into the bath and made me ready for school. Moreover, I only had a 2 min walk to the bus station. I usually took the bus at 7:51 AM and I was at school at about 8:30 AM. School ended at 3:20 PM, and I took the bus after school in common. When we left the bus, I headed back home within 10 min with my exchange partner. At home, I sometimes played some boardgames or videogames with my exchange partner. My family ate dinner very early. Sometimes I helped in the kitchen or cooked some German food by myself. Dinner was at about 5 PM. After dinner, we started doing homework and when we finished, we played boardgames with the whole family. After that, we went to bed.

I was integrated into the family and I often helped with re- and unloading the dishwasher or I supported cooking. But when I offered my help, it often got declined.

With my family I did a few nice activities.

On one weekend we slept a night in Canmore and one in Banff. I was able to experience the Canadian Rockies and we did a beautiful hike at Lake Louise.

On the next day we visited the famous city Banff. After our return we were just on time, to enjoy traditional thanksgiving feast.

On Halloween we visited a horror house, while it was funny, to get scared. The house was designed well and I enjoyed going there.

In Canada, it was pretty easy to connect and find friends. In every of my classes, I found some friends, but especially in my sports class I found the best and most of them, as we did a lot of activities together. I still have a lot of contact to friends from Canada.

I didn't have much contact to the other exchange students from Germany during my stay in Canada. We only met each other at Peaks campus, where we had a great time. We had a lot of fun together. Besides we also wrote a few messages at the end of our journey, because everybody got confused, that our flight got cancelled.

Especially the Canadian school system was very exciting for me. It is quite different from my German system. I think the educational system is very good for a student exchange, because you can choose only the classes you like. Therefore it is easy to understand the content during the lessons, when you have subjects, you enjoy and understand better.

My first days at school were very impressing and stressful. It was a big school, and I struggled to find all my classrooms. All my teachers were nice, but I especially liked my physical education class. All my classmates were open and kind. It felt easy to connect



with the others, and I made many new friends. Even a month after my exchange, I still keep in touch with the friends, I made there. Canadian Sports class was quite different to German sports. My school had a big variety of topics, which were changing every week. We had sport-activities like ice-skating, ice- hockey and American football. I never had these topics in my sports class in Germany, so it was fun and exciting for me. I liked that my group was always friendly and that fun was always standing on focus. In the Canadian educational system there are a lot more options of classes you can choose.

I took Math 20 I AP, Englisch 20 II, Physical Education 20, Drama 20 and Foods 20. I can recommend every of these classes, as it was very interesting and funny. However, I noticed another difference during the lessons. One example is how the lessons are structured in Canada. The teachers talk a lot more, and the lessons are not very interactive for the students.

In Germany, the teacher often wants to know our answers and checks our homework. On the opposite in Canada, only test grades count, no matter what you do during the lessons.

In my opinion, the biggest difference between Germany and Canada was the extreme weather in the second half of my exchange. In Germany, we also have snowfall, but in Canada, we had temperatures near -30 degrees Celsius, and it was always snowing.

To sum everything up, I really enjoyed my time in Canada, Edmonton.

The time was amazing, so I was able to improve my English skills. I am very proud to be a part of this exchange. For me it was one of my best experiences and I recommend everybody, to try this program. Especially my pronunciation in English got better, and I feel more confident and fluently in my English class.

I think, if somebody wants to join this exchange program, they only need a few English skill, to be openminded and the will to collect amazing experiences.

