

On September 26, 2022, I, together with five other girls and two teachers, left for the Erasmus project in the city of Berlin for 20 days.

The mobility chosen included being hosted in various families and following the lessons by going to school together with the German classmates.

When we arrived at Gesumbrunnen station, the families were there to welcome us.

My German partner was Selina Ozcan, a girl of my same age (18 years), friendly and nice. At first I felt a little nervous about speaking English because she was much better than me. When we got home I met her mother, a very kind and helpful person who couldn't wait for me to arrive. Together they showed me the house and my room.

The next day with Selina we took the tram to Berlin to go to school. I spent the morning together with my Italian companions and the two accompanying teachers. We took the school tour together with three pupils from the school. The school was divided into three buildings: A B and F.

After that I took her lessons with her and it was very difficult to follow the teacher as she spoke in German, a language unknown to me. But luckily I had Selina by her side and she was able to translate me into English.

The following days I attended classes with my partner until 11 a.m. and afterwards, together with the other Italian girls, we would get together to have German lessons. After finishing the German lessons we went to have lunch with the teachers and once finished we went out and went to visit monuments / museums / workshops.

Unfortunately, the second week of this experience I tested positive for the corona virus test. Selina and her mother were available to give me the drugs I needed. I can't forget that morning where I woke up with nausea and a headache. It was really difficult to communicate how I felt, but in the end the family managed to understand me and help me. In the afternoons Selina accompanied me for a walk outside the house.

Fortunately I only tested negative after 4 days.

In the last week there was the Festival of Lights in Berlin and it was really a fantastic time.

October 17th was our last day. Selina accompanied me to Gesumbrunnen station and once I had to get on the train, tears came out.

It was a great experience. The beginning was difficult but the family was very kind to me to help me live peacefully in a new city. Berlin is a really big city full of nature. I will miss him very much.

Benedetta Lupo