

### My exchange year in Spain:

Hi, I'm Julia, I'm 15 years old and I spent an unforgettable time (half a year) in Segovia, a beautiful city in the centre of Spain.

When I arrived in Barcelona I was very excited and also a little bit worried about my exchange year, but spending two awesome days with other students, which were in the same situation like me and some **incredible kind coordinators (Carmen & Kristin) of OPENMIND made me forget all my worries and I felt better prepared.**



After two days came already the probably most exciting day of the whole time, I passed abroad – the first get-to-know with my host family. I still can remember, that I was unbelievably excited. When I arrived in Segovia my marvelous host family and my lovely coordinator Alejandra were already waiting. I got off the bus and they welcomed me friendly and very Spanish with **BESOS Y ABRAZOS.**

After some first hard days I could really settle down and I gained unforgettable experiences. Segovia, the city I lived in is a wonderful city for an exchange year. I could go walking to school, supermarkets, to visit my friends and everywhere else I wanted to go to. Moreover it's a beautiful city with many sights.

On the day I went to school in Spain the first time, I was excited again, but the teachers and the students in my class welcomed and integrated me friendly. I quickly made new friends because



of the open-minded and hospitable Spanish people. I have met my friends almost every weekend and I spent such a great time with them-that I'm never going to forget it. I'm still in contact with them and now planning how to see them again.



I really hope this friendships I made, during my time in Spain will last forever, because now at home I miss my friends a lot and I often remember them.

I also had an awesome host family. I got along incredible well with my three siblings Paula, Marta and Javi and also with my hostmum Mar and my hostdad Nacho. I laughed with them a lot and could talk with them about everything. They gave me the feeling of being part of their family-like another family member and I really enjoyed this. I keep in contact with all of them.



**Participant: Julia Hennig from Frechen/Germany**  
**Duration of stay: one School Semester**  
**Place: Segovia**



German exchange students from OPENMIND.

Furthermore my sister Paula visited me one month ago and we both were really happy to see each other again. We passed a fantastic week together!

Thanks to OPENMIND, in autumn, I had the chance to do an Andalusia-Trip, and I took the opportunity. I spent great 4 days, seeing another part of Spain, traveling through Malaga, Sevilla, Granada and Ronda and exchanging experiences with French, Icelandic and

**I want to emphasize that my wonderful organisation OPENMIND supported me during my whole stay in Spain a lot and whenever I required their help or needed something- they always were ready to give everything to sustain my wellbeing.**

Alejandra - the coordinator in my region, was the best coordinator I could imagine. She's so lovely and kind and during my whole stay I was in contact with her. She gave me a feeling of safety during my stay and of always having a person to talk to. I felt unbelievable comfortable with her and really in good hands. We often met and talked about new experiences and problems, me and two other German girls, which stayed in Segovia the same time like me, had to deal with. No matter when we met, we always had a funny and unforgettable time. My personal highlight was the day we baked German-Christmas-cookies with her. We laughed so much, that we almost didn't notice that some of our cookies burned down in the oven. The result at the end of the day: Some really delicious cookies, a memorable day and clothes full of flour.



Other great days we spent together were her birthday and the birthday of one of the German exchange students. We had so much fun celebrating their birthdays, that I'm almost sad my birthday is in June - and because of this not during the time I spent in Spain.

Before I came to Segovia, I couldn't imagine, that I afterwards would have a second home, second family, so many new friends and even find a friend in my coordinator Alejandra.

**To sum up I can say, that due to OPENMIND, the organisation, which made my unforgettable, unbelievable and awesome stay possible, I gained a lot of life**

**experience and I also became more mature and self-confident. I can recommend everyone to do an exchange year and according to the people who still have doubts about whether doing it or not: Just do it!!!**

**I only can say THANK YOU to everyone, who made this time possible and was a part of it!!!**

