

Participant: Max Dittmann from Dresden
Duration of his stay: one school year
Place: Vigo / Galicia



I have been in beautiful Galicia, in Vigo to be precise, for almost eight months now. I can assure you that you have rarely seen such beautiful scenery. From mountains, endless eucalyptus forests to the fjord-like "Rías Baixas" you can find everything.

I had searched a little on the Internet before my arrival and I was a little insecure at the beginning, as Galicia was

described as a rainy region with stubborn people.

The last eight months have convinced me of the opposite. Apart from the weather, which has been phenomenal so far, in other words, it has rained for perhaps ten days, **the people are so warm, so obliging, simply wonderful.** I was helped in my first weeks and afterwards with everything I needed help with. My classmates went with me to buy schoolbooks, helped me to enrol in a football club and much more.

I am incredibly lucky with my family. I had settled in very well after only a few weeks and I feel like at home. I have three host brothers and a host sister with whom I do quite a lot. For example, we go sailing or to a bar at night. My family and I also travel a lot, in November we were in Madrid, and a month ago in Paris. We also make weekend trips so that I can see Galicia and Spain.

Even if I want to go out with my friends in the evening it is not a problem.

You probably know about bilingualism in Galicia, that is, the everyday combination of Castellano and Gallego. **But don't worry, most of the lessons are held in Gallego, but after a few weeks you will be able to follow the lessons just as well as those in Castellano or German.**

In general, it can be said that Gallego is in principle not too different from Castellano. What I can recommend, however, is that you go to the headmaster in the first week of school and ask for a document that will exempt you from any examinations in the subject "Lingua e Literatura Gallega". Moreover, if you ask the teachers, they will also give you the exams in Castellano. Also, you are not expected to respond to Gallego in class. **The teachers are very understanding, and they also give you the exams in Castellano.**



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The school system here is not as demanding as in Germany. I only have 32 periods a week, divided into ten subjects.

Don't be afraid of the Gallego, it's not so difficult. **No one will expect you to speak it, and in everyday life Castellano is much more spoken.** I also had some concerns before coming to Spain concerning bilingualism, and today I understand both languages perfectly and I speak Gallego quite well.

Don't be shy, it has a very nice "side effect", you will understand the people in the Portuguese-speaking countries easily. Your language spectrum would thus be extended to include some countries in Africa, Brazil and Portugal!!