

Participante: Nicolas Meder
Duración de la estancia: un curso escolar
Lugar: Auckland / Nueva Zelanda

Hi my name is Nicolas. In 2018, I went with the help of Openmind to New Zealand for over a year.

It was the best experience I ever had in my life.

New Zealand is such an amazing country full of super friendly people. My host family was very kind and made my stay even better. I never had the feeling like I wasn't wanted there. My family introduced me to the NZ lifestyle and even showed me a lot of parts of the country. I lived in Auckland, which is the biggest city over there, and since I'm still in school I went to college there as well.

As already mentioned **Kiwis (that's how people in NZ are called) are very nice people so it was quite easy for me to make new friends in school.**

There I also met quite a few other international students from all over the world which was great as well. Overall, I really enjoyed my time in New Zealand and will definitely come back one day.



I can highly recommend an exchange student year to New Zealand to everyone that is interested in traveling, meeting people from other countries/cultures or learning English.

When I look back at this year, I can only say that it helped me so much: Firstly, I was able to improve my English significantly, especially my vocabulary and talking more freely. This is probably the main reason for most people to do an academic year abroad. But that's not all, I made lots of new friends, not just in NZ but also in other countries. Additionally, **I gained more self-confidence and got more independent, as I managed to "start a new life" from scratch.**

Travelling itself is a big part, too. Being able to explore a country where not everyone has been yet was very exciting for me and makes you want to travel even more!!

To sum it up, New Zealand is the best country for an academic year abroad. The people are very nice and supportive, you gain a lot of experience and confidence in different aspects of life, you can travel one of the most amazing countries in the world and at the same time improve your English!

But all of this would not have been possible for me without Openmind.

Openmind organized my school and supported me throughout the year. They made the trip as easy as possible for me and I didn't need to worry about anything.

So again, a big THANK YOU to Openmind for making this trip possible for me.

