

## Kate - University of Liège, Belgium and Placement in Italy

When I first arrived I had to find my confidence with speaking the language. I found that when I first arrived there wasn't much culture shock but you do feel a bit vulnerable because you are in a completely new country and have to get used to their way of living. I feel like my French has improved a lot and even my Italian a little bit. I can now confidently and easily switch between English, French and Italian without my brain feeling too overwhelmed.

Working in Italy has been completely different from when I studied in Belgium. First of all, I got to experience teaching for the first time. Second of all, I lived with host families instead of living with other fellow foreign students. Thirdly, I was staying in a tiny city with not much to do which is a lot different from living



in Liège. I felt like I had a true Italian immersion in the families and I was lucky enough to live with three different welcoming host families and during this time I learned a lot more about the Italian culture that I never would have learned in lessons. I feel like my language skills have improved a lot. My language level in June 2018 in Italian was B2 (according to the Erasmus test). After this stay it is C1. By the end of this year abroad I can easily and spontaneously change between languages.

