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Whilst my primary ambition was always to better my German whilst abroad, I am surprised with the level to which I have achieved this. Most importantly, I now feel comfortable and able to hold a conversation in German, which I am most pleased with.

Language skills aside, I have had an incredible year. I have had the opportunity to travel and visit many different places both in Germany and around Europe (Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic). Moreover, as an international student, I met and made friends with people from all over the world. It was interesting to meet people from different cultures to my own and I feel this has really broadened my horizons.

Furthermore, whilst it has been difficult at times, as the level of academic support is not the same as in York, I have adapted to this and learnt to become more independent and self-reliant in my learning, something which can only benefit me in my subsequent studies. Overall, this has been a hugely worthwhile experience. I now feel as though I am a more independent and rounded-individual better placed to understand people from different cultures and circumstances.

I would definitely advise students considering studying abroad to do so. Whilst the academic support may not be what we’re used to and the bureaucracy is at times infuriating, on the whole the positives of this experience far outweigh the negatives.