

## Grace

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### *British Council Assistantship, France*



My time abroad was one of the best experiences of my life so far and I've accumulated so many memories that will stay with me forever. Being placed in a small, rural town in Northern France as a language assistant was a daunting prospect and I didn't know what to expect. After eight months, I left following many emotional goodbyes to colleagues and students that I worked with as well as friends I had made, all of them making my time abroad very special.

I could never have predicted how much I would learn about my abilities and what I could achieve; my proficiency in French improved and so did my confidence in speaking to native speakers. From my experience, living in the country where the language you're learning is spoken really is important to your learning. In addition, you learn so much invaluable information about the cultural, social and political background of that country just from talking to people; it's so interesting to hear different perspectives on issues that you have studied.

My time abroad provided me with so many amazing opportunities. I spent a lot of time travelling around Europe and made friends from around the world that I am still in touch with. Not many other experiences will enable you to do this with so much freedom to make it the experience that you want it to be. Should you consider a year abroad? Absolutely. One thing I would recommend is to study or work in a country that you have an interest in, as this will help to make your experience the best it can be.

