

My Semester Abroad at Glenstal Abbey School in Ireland

I spent one semester abroad at Glenstal Abbey School in Ireland, and it was a very special time in my life. The school is in the countryside, surrounded by green hills and old trees. It is also a monastery, so it has a peaceful and quiet atmosphere. When I first arrived, I was a little nervous because everything was new — the country, the people, the school system, and the language. But after some time, I felt more comfortable and started to enjoy it a lot.

At Glenstal, the daily routine was different from my school at home. Every day had a clear structure: classes, meals, free time, and sometimes prayer or quiet moments. This helped me to organize my time. I learned how to be independent and responsible. For example, I had to do my laundry, clean my room, and be on time for everything.

In school, I had many interesting subjects. Some were the same as at home, but others were new e.g. Business and Classics. All the teachers were friendly and helpful. At first, it was hard for me to speak and write in English all the time. I was afraid to make mistakes. But step by step I gained a lot of confidence in talking. My vocabulary grew a bit, my grammar got better, and I started to speak more fluently. I also learned how to take part in discussions in class.

Outside of class, I joined sports and other activities. I played a lot of football, and I also tried to learn how to play the Guitar a bit. These activities helped me to meet other students and make new friends. We spent time together in the evenings, played games, and talked about our lives. I really enjoyed living in the boarding house because we were like a small family. Together with 10 other boys from my year, I shared one room. Every night was short but very fun.

One of the hardest things for me was missing my home and family. Even though I got close to the Germans quickly I couldn't forget my family and friends from Linz. But after a few weeks, I got used to the new life and found ways to stay in touch with my family while still being part of the school community. I grew stronger and more open. I learned how to deal with challenges and how to enjoy new experiences.

In the end, my time at Glenstal Abbey School helped me grow in many ways. I improved my English, learned new skills, and became more confident. I also learned a lot about myself and about life in another country. I now see the world from a different and better perspective, and I feel ready for more adventures in the future.

This semester abroad was a big step for me, and I'm very thankful I had the chance to do it.