

# STUDYING IN SALZBURG

Read the article. Some sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

## Anne Cleveland talks about her experience of fulfilling an ambition to study overseas



I had often dreamt of the possibility of spending a year away from my hometown of Leeds in England, living in a foreign country. By the time I was old enough, however, I thought that my severe lack of talent for languages was going to hold me back.

When you don't speak another language, it can be quite difficult to follow a course of study abroad. (1) I was studying at Leeds University which offers its students the chance to participate in this scheme, so I was able to apply.

ERASMUS did all the hard work, organizing the whole transfer for me, and before I knew it I was boarding a plane bound for Salzburg, Austria.

(2) As it turned out, I soon realized that my year abroad was going to involve a lot more than just sitting in cafes sipping decent coffee. For one thing, there was a lot of bureaucracy and no central office to sort everything out.

As for the university, it is quite small but the classes are large. Also, on average Austrian students take five years to complete their courses and therefore the pace of studying is somewhat more relaxed than at home.

The students tend to go home quite often for home cooked schnitzels, too. (3) As a consequence, the foreign students tended to socialize with each other quite a lot, which didn't help our language skills.

Salzburg itself is a picture-postcard Austrian city, full of Baroque architecture and surrounded

by mountains and lakes. It is also famous for being the birthplace of Mozart and the setting for *The Sound of Music*. As a result of all this, it is usually very busy with tourists. I also found that it doesn't have a lot going on for young people, in comparison to Leeds.

There were, all the same, numerous advantages to living in Salzburg. For example, its central location in Europe makes it very convenient for travelling. (4) By the end of my year in Salzburg, I had visited eight other countries, including places I had wanted to visit for a long time, such as Slovenia and Croatia.

I also joined a theater group where I finally made lots of Austrian friends. (5) I started to appreciate the outdoor life, too; in Austria you can ski in the winter and cycle or hike around the lakes in the summer. I really fell in love with the beauty of the Austrian countryside.

Spending a year overseas meant that the people I had started university with had graduated by the time I returned. However, I went back to my course in Leeds much more focused on what I wanted to get out of my last year and more appreciative of the opportunities university provides. (6) It showed me that you get a lot more out of a place when you live there compared to when you are just travelling through. I'd thoroughly recommend all students to spend a year studying abroad if they can.

A I wasn't entirely sure what to expect of the experience ahead of me but I was ready to embrace the challenge.

B It was very similar to Leeds in many ways.

C The year in Salzburg really broadened my horizons.

D This helped my German to progress from almost non-existent to quite an acceptable level, and towards the end of the year I noticed that even the waiters stopped frowning when I ordered my coffee!

E Hop on a train and you can be in Prague, Krakow or Rome within a matter of hours.

F Therefore, although I lived in the halls of residence, it took time to meet many of the Austrian students.

G However, luckily for me, an international student organization called ERASMUS makes it possible for any student, even a monolingualist like myself.