

## **Living with a German Family**

I have been in Germany for three weeks and it is still such a surreal experience. Naturally like every other person I had mixed emotions. I was excited to leave home but scared to go to a new place. For someone who has always had her family around and has never left her small town this was a big step. We arrived here on the 7 of January and felt the chill of Tübingen's winter. We met the organizers of the program and got to know them a little bit; then it was time to meet our host families. The idea of living with people you do not know was nerve wrecking. At first, I was apprehensive about living with a family in a different country, I thought living on my own would have been better but I was wrong. The Hellster Family is amazing. Living with them was like having a home away from home. I woke up every to a laid table and breakfast made for me, my laundry was done and when they would go out I, was always invited. I never felt excluded or treated differently in any way. The Hellsters are incredible. Their character speaks volumes they had allowed someone they did not know into their home, this shows how hospitable and loving they are. They opened their heart and home to me and for that I will be eternally grateful. Although I lived with a host family I still had a lot of freedom. From this you learn how to be independent and step out of your comfort zone. When you live with a German family you get immersed in their culture from food, people and conversation you learn about everything. I found it different – but in a good way. I am so glad that I got to spend my Tübingen experience with the Hellster Family. It has definitely been one of the highlights of my trip. This experience has thought me to live, laugh and love and to always embrace every moment.

(Nadine Perumal)