

Report on my Scholarship Experience in Germany

Elena Bleß Foundation Scholarship – Summer 2026

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I decided to apply for this scholarship because it gave me the opportunity to take part in a work experience programme in Germany organised by my school. I wanted to participate in this program because I was interested in German culture and their day to day life, which can be quite different from the Spanish one. In addition, I wanted to continue improving my German language skills and gain valuable work experience that will benefit me in the near future.

During my stay in Germany, I attended the Friedrich-Spee-Gymnasium in Rüthen, where I participated in many classes. My timetable mainly consisted of two classes, with the opportunity to attend several others as well. The two main classes were English and Spanish, in which one of my classmates, who also came to the work experience, and I worked as teaching assistants, helping the teachers and students whenever we could. In addition, we were given the opportunity to attend other lessons, such as Mathematics and Physics, allowing us to experience classes taught entirely in German. One thing that surprised me about school life in Germany was that lessons finished at 1:00 p.m. This was very unusual for me, as classes at my school normally finish at 4:00 p.m.



Friedrich-Spee-Gymnasium Ruthen

German culture was also quite different from what I expected. First of all, we Spaniards usually eat our meals much later and in larger portions, on the other hand Germans tend to eat earlier and have smaller meals. Another difference was the food. German cuisine is quite different from Spanish cuisine, although there are still some similarities. I especially enjoyed eating Wurst, and I discovered a new sauce called Curry Ketchup, which I liked so much that I even brought some back to Spain. The family who hosted us during our stay in Germany was kind and friendly and did everything they could to make us feel comfortable in their home. Whenever we were not at school, they organised different activities for us, such as visiting R then, which I really enjoyed because of its beautiful landscape. They also took us to Fort Fun Adventure Land, where we all had a great time together in all the different rides. In the evenings, we often watched the FIFA World Cup matches with the family, as they enjoyed football just as much as we do in Spain.



**A picture with the family
in Lippstadt**

**The garden of the house
where we stayed at**



The biggest challenge I encountered during my stay in Germany was speaking the language. I could understand most conversations, but replying in German was often much more difficult. Although this was challenging, I believe my stay in Germany helped me improve my confidence and skills in the language. Another challenge was adapting to a different daily routine. People generally woke up earlier, ate meals at different times, and followed different schedules from those I was used to in Spain. It took me a few days to adapt to these changes. Finally, although it may sound surprising, one of the biggest challenges was surviving the heat during the first two days of my stay. Fortunately, after those first days, the temperatures became much more comfortable.

During my stay in R  then, I learned to become more independent because I often had to manage on my own in classes taught entirely in German. This helped me build confidence in my language skills and encouraged me to communicate more with local people, improving my speaking ability. The experience also allowed me to explore different career opportunities and gave me a better understanding of what working in an international environment is like. Overall, this experience has broadened my perspective and opened my mind to future opportunities abroad.



The house where they used to kill witches →

In conclusion, I believe that my stay in

← A picture of the landscape in R  then



Rüthen and at the Friedrich-Spee-Gymnasium was a wonderful experience. It helped me improve my German, gain confidence, and better understand another culture and its way of life. I would strongly recommend this programme to anyone who wants to improve their German, gain real work experience, and become more independent. Experiencing all of this in another country also allows you to learn about different cultures, traditions, and lifestyles in a way that cannot be achieved in a classroom. Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Elena Bleß Foundation for making this incredible opportunity possible.



**One of the churches in
Rüthen**