

My life at WBHS as an International student by Leo Sidiropoulos

First of all I have to say that I really enjoyed being part of the school. I studied for three terms and it was a great experience. I had different subjects than in Germany where I can't choose my subjects like here in New Zealand. It was a really good experience to be at a Boy's school. It is different than in Germany where I go to a Co-Ed school.

Lockdown

I stayed in New Zealand during lockdown and I wasn't too happy about it at first - But my host family and I really made the best out of the strange COVID situation. We played Mini-golf in the garden, played with our cats, went for walks every night, did some gardening and all sorts of other different lockdown activities to keep ourselves busy. Every day I had at least one online class of school which was nice and motivated me a bit more to do some work at home.

Hockey

I played hockey for the First IV and we had a great season together. We went to two tournaments. One was in the South Island and it was a great opportunity to travel with the school. I played in the premier men's competition. I improved my hockey during my time in New Zealand a lot and I made some great friends.

Table tennis

I got to play table tennis again after my math's teacher asked me to come to the training session, which I did and then I got to play in the novice championship- and I won. I then qualified for the secondary school championship in Northland and I actually won again!! I never played professional table tennis before just occasionally with my friends and my dad for fun. I really enjoyed playing table tennis again!

Outdoor Education

Outdoor education is a subject that we don't have in Germany and I got to choose it for one of my subjects. I really enjoyed this and especially the trips we went on which included a surfing trip, a caving trip, a rock climbing trip, an abseiling trip and an orienteering trip. All of them were a lot of fun.

Football

During my time at boys high I also got to play for the Second IV Football team. We came second in our competition in Northland. I improved my football a lot during my time here. I used to play football every day in lockdown and I was really happy to have a football that I could play with. I also played football with friends most lunchtimes.

How is it to be International student?

When I came here on my first day I got picked up from my host mom and two hockey players that became two of my most important friends in New Zealand. I played summer

hockey nearly every day and got to know many people through sport. I got much support from the international office at school and got used to go to New Zealand school.

In my first few weeks I used to only hang out with my German international friends but through football and hockey I got to know many people so that I could hang out with them during the breaks.

I still kept in contact with the other internationals and we did some great trips together. My highlight trip with the internationals was the overnight trip to Rotorua. This was so much fun.



