



Student Ambassadors

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-Germany



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**Howe
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I heard a lot about Canada from my brother who was in the French part of Canada for an exchange, so I decided to arrange an exchange year myself. I had several provinces that I could choose from. Since I am not a big city fan, I chose to come to Squamish!

I really love how open Squamish is and how nice the people are. I got to be myself for the first time in my life without getting judged! If I could choose to stay at one place for the rest of my life it would be Squamish.

School in Canada is not too hard. It might be for some people, but the classes are social. You get a lot of time besides school and study to enjoy other activities. The classes are not just about education; it is also fun, entertaining and active. Everyone participates. Also you get to socialize, connect and bond with a lot of people!

You can do a lot in Squamish such as Basketball, Badminton, Music and a lot of other stuff. I chose to try out the badminton club which was a little disappointing for me personally but that's just because I've already been in a Badminton club for many years. Otherwise I think it would have been a great thing. I also started to take piano lessons, which came out to be a really great experience. I got to express my feelings with the most precious thing in my life: music! Skiing in Whistler, the neighbouring town, was a lot of fun as well. I recommend that everyone go there and have fun with friends on the trails. Hiking with friends is a great pleasure; you get to exercise, chat with your friends and to enjoy the view. Should you ever come to Squamish you should try out the Chief, it is a great experience!

I loved going out with my friends and doing things I cannot do in my hometown, such as hiking the Chief, buying stuff at Roots (a Canadian store for clothes), or just simply going out with my international and local friends from Canada, mostly to Tim Horton's, a Canadian version of Starbucks. Going to Vancouver, biking along the coast and bowling with friends was more fun than expected! Fright Night in October was a lot of fun but I just recommend it to people who don't get easily scared! My first friends and I used to go ice skating a lot and we really loved it! There is also a swimming pool with a springboard, a hot tub and a steam room.

At home I enjoyed playing piano, playing card games with my host family and jumping on the trampoline with my sisters. In the beginning I struggled a little at the host home, especially with the kids because I didn't know how to work with younger siblings since I am the youngest in my family, but I soon realized that it doesn't take a lot of effort to get along with them. They are not strangers anymore; they are a second family to me. My (host-) Family is not just a family to me they are also my best friends. My family here gave me a lot of confidence, by letting me be a part of their family. My (host-) Mom, sometimes my (host-) sisters too, and I love to chat about how the day worked out for us, we like cooking Chinese and sometimes Canadian food and play different card- games with each other. We also like doing big projects like planting a garden in the yard and replacing the old one with grass!

I have to admit that I miss my family in Switzerland, but I will miss my family in Canada, too. This now sounds weird since they are not my real family, but just one year can change people

and bond them with others. I had such a great year here not just with my (host-) family but also with my friends. Canada showed a lot of different perspectives on myself and what living life means.

Canada is a great and wonderful place that I will miss. I recommend it to anyone who feels like they need a change, because Canada does change you. It is not just the country that changes you it's also the people. I have never felt more accepted than in Canada. But should you ever come here you shouldn't just lock yourself in your room, but do things you cannot do in your country. There are so many things you can discover, not just in Canada but also in yourself. You might need to step out of your comfort zone a few times but it gives you more strength in being confident.

