

Report on mid-term-seminar in Cologne 5th-7th December 2018

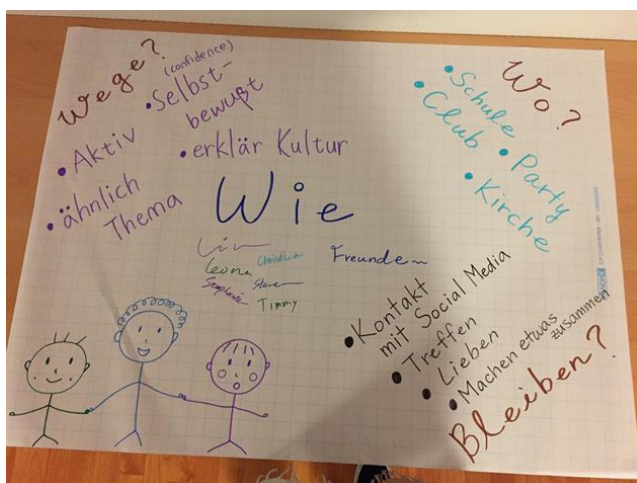
From 5th to 7th December 2018, our mid-term seminar for exchange students from Taiwan and Mexico, who stay in Germany for one scholar year, took place in Cologne.

Thirty-two students arrived on Wednesday afternoon and Cologne central station to discuss their past months, their experiences and challenges regarding school, family, friends and social activities in Germany.

After checking-in in our lovely hotel in the city center of Cologne, we headed off to the seminar starting with their own expectations for the seminar and their own important topics they wanted to talk about. In doing so, we had the chance to support our students in the best way possible. Following by a presentation of the students' current picture of Germany. What changed so far and how do they see Germany now being a part of it. This was a great start for the upcoming days and we had dinner altogether.



The next day was all about a successful integration. Before starting with discussing certain topics in working groups, expectations & questions from the day before have been answered. Especially questions about visa extension have been important for our students.



We then asked the students to think about the way they integrated in their host family, their school, their clubs and made new friends and what are the difficulties about it. The next step was to find out more on how they integrated in their host family and school, how they made new friends and how they have found some leisure activities and the challenges they faced. It was great to see how they dealt with these topics in-group work, shared their experiences made and gave tips to each other how to solve problematic solutions. Those solutions and typical challenging situations presented in

short theater sequences.

The days has been finalized by thinking about the goals reached already and what the students still want to reach. Nearly all of them want to have a good relation with their host family and improve their German a lot more during the upcoming months. Again, we had dinner altogether and went to the Christmas market next to the Cologne Cathedral. It was a great evening for all the students.

On Friday, it was all about the upcoming time: Christmas and the time ahead in Germany. We talked a lot about the different ways to celebrate Christmas and what the students have to expect. After this, all of them wrote a letter to their host families to say thank you. This letter will be sent to each host family as a Christmas gift.

The last task then was to write little cards about what they wish the other participants during the upcoming time.

All in all, the mid-term seminar was very successful! Everyone was involved and shared their experiences and was thankful for tips of the others. Of course, they were really happy to see the others again!



During these days, we spoke to every exchange student one-on-one. This gave us the possibility to talk about specific topics with them and the students had the chance to ask us important questions. It was great seeing everyone again and we wish all of them to have a great time in Germany!

