

## Exchange program

For me it was only a dream, but one day my English teacher said to my class. She has 3 tickets for the exchange program to the Spain. I couldn't believe it.... After the lesson I talked with my friends about this exchange. I was scared because the Spain is very far away. When I was at home I talked with my parents about the Spain, exchange program. Parents said yes! Next day I went to my English teacher and applied for an exchange program. Days went fast... Soon I found out where I will live. I stayed at Carla's house.

That day came. We all went to the airport, boarded in the plane and flew to the Spain. It was awesome!! The view outside the window, the feelings. I can't express it in words. Finally I met my Catalan friend Carla. She was very sweet and little nervous, too because it was the first time to her, too.

Adventures what we experienced in Spain I will never forget! I enjoyed the Mediterranean Sea's cold water, I met new friends, I got to know my friends better, I improved my English, found out history about Lleida, Catalonia and another Catalonia's cities. Of course I ate a lot of fruits. My favorite fruits were oranges because they were very sweet.

I really liked their school because they have playground where you can play basketball, football or you can sit and talk with your friends and eat your sandwich. And they don't have a special ring when the lesson starts like we have, they put a song from radio and then all students go to their lessons.

The Catalan people were very friendly and sweet. There I felt like at home! I had sunburn ;) I found out how to be in another country where is warm. I love Spain, Lleida and I will definitely go to the Lleida in summer!!!

*Viktorija Krustovska,  
Talsi, Latvia*

Vendiza Libergo

## My exchange experience

I have always dreamed about going to Spain, but I never thought it would happen. Until this year when my dreams come true and I went to Spain in exchange program.

I will always remember how happy I was when our teacher said that we are going to Spain. After some months I was on the plane flying to Spain. In Spain I went to a lot of different places and met a lot of different people. We learned how to make our environment better. I have learned to say "yes" to the opportunities that are presented to you. As I have always said going out of your comfort zone is the only way to know yourself the best and appreciate new experiences. I will definitely have friendship with my host family. And going to Spain again is definitely in my plans.

I don't know what the future holds on, but one thing I'm sure is that I have learned something of every single person I met, and those are valuable lessons I'm so grateful for and I'll remember forever.

### A happy ending.

A few months ago, a couple of my classmates and I went on an exchange trip to Lleida, Spain. Before flying there I had a lot of mixed emotions. I felt excited, nervous and even a little worried. The day of us leaving was fastly approaching and the worries started to grow. This was by far the furthest I have ever been from my parents. Lleida, whose population is five times bigger than our towns, looked beautiful but also a little scary and confusing. I was also nervous about meeting my host family.

Everything changed for me the day we arrived. My host family was very welcoming and fun. They offered to show me around town, and I realized it wasn't as big and scary as I initially thought. Paula, who I was staying with, told me a lot of interesting things about Catalonia. For example, she told me that the catalan language is a mix between spanish, german and french. My fears and worries started to fade and I got more comfortable. I even started to make friends and got closer with my classmates .

These days, I feel like the experience was completely worth it. I have met amazing people who I can call my second family ,and friends I will never forget. I realized that if I hadn't flown to Spain, my life would have been so much more boring. I hope to do another exchange project in the future and also hope that every student who has an oppertunity to do something like this, does it.

## Erasmus project.

I want to tell about Erasmus project. It was amazing and interesting. Although I didn't go to Spain, one Spanish girl stayed in my house. Her name was Alba. I was eager to meet the Spanish girl and hoped we would be good friends.

These nine days passed very quickly. We went on excursions together with my Spanish friend and other participants. When we returned home, we went for walks, I showed her our school too. It's a pity, I didn't attend classes. I had to entertain Alba, therefore I missed some days from school.

We had problems with food. It turned out that Alba was partly a vegetarian and a vegan. She loved pancakes and pizzas the best.

On family days we went to the zoo, to the sea, went paragliding. She liked it very much, it was nice and amazing and for me too.

The project was interesting and fun. I got new knowledge, found out many facts about Spain, visited many places in Latvia I had never been before. It was really a good possibility to improve my English skills to be used them in real life. It's a pity the girl wasn't too communicable. I would like to take part in this project next time. I am looking forward to visit Spain in October to see my Spanish friends again.

Rebeka Rozenšteine  
Talsu 2. VSK.

## Life changing experience

What started as an offer to participate in a new exchange project with Catalan students, ended up as a truly life changing experience meeting new friends, ~~being~~ living in different environments, learning new things, and most of all learning how to be yourself.

In September of 2018, our English teacher asked our class a question "Which one of you want to participate in a new exchange project with Catalan student?" I signed up for it because I thought that would be very interesting to visit Catalonia once again.

I was accepted into the project ~~in~~ November, and ~~we had~~ the project start was only given in March, when we had to go to Catalonia. These 5 or 6 months went by so quick, that I was in Catalonia in no time. We arrived at Barcelona airport on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March and my life changing experience began.

My host family was the Martinez family, and my partner was Kevin which has a brother Dani, ~~and~~ 2 sisters named Ana and Diana and parents Edu and Angel. I loved staying with the Martinez family, because I felt that they treated me as a family member. They were so kind, helpful and

generous, that I called them my 2<sup>nd</sup> family, and ~~in~~  
am proud of that.

Those 10 days in Catalonia were unforgettable,  
I lived there, learned how to communicate with  
other native people, learned that they aren't any  
different from us, learned ~~some~~ a lot from them,  
because they're more happier and kinder, ~~than us~~  
they're more open than us, so that's why they are a  
really successful nation and anybody could learn  
from successful people in my opinion. I visited  
2 beautiful cities Tarragona and Barcelona, learned  
the history of Catalonia, had a lot of fun  
swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, going shopping  
and ~~enjoy~~ enjoying Catalonia with Catalan and  
also Latvian students.

~~Quite~~ A life changing experience, new friends,  
new knowledges, and a new family. It was sad  
telling my 2<sup>nd</sup> family and my Catalan friends "bye",  
having to go home to Latvia, instead staying  
in sunny Catalonia, but I said that I'll come back  
in summer.

Can't wait to see them!!

Patricis Reinans 8.6 May 19, 2019.