I went to Kiel with the plan of learning German and studying in a foreign country. I wanted to experience a new culture and a new place. What I got out of it was incredibly impactful. I was fully immersed in the culture and learned how to navigate comfortably in the new country. I made friends and had many enjoyable experiences. I have found that since studying abroad, I am much more confident navigating in any city and have a clearer understanding of how my own cultural experiences have shaped me and those around me. Learning abroad has also made me a more confident and understanding person.

Learning a language in a foreign country was an incredible experience. I was able to talk to and communicate with people in a new language which in itself was fun. It was stressful trying to understand how to work with a foreign language and difficult in those situations. The classes were immersive and instructive. While I am still nowhere near fluent, I have a good grasp of conversational German and reading. I have been able to communicate clearly in German and made a good number of foreign friends and lasting connections. Along with spoken communication, I can much better read German as well.

Transferable Skills:

The most important transferable skill I learned on the exchange was the ability to communicate with people from all backgrounds and nationalities. It gave me the tools to understand the differences in cultures and how those change people's perspectives. With this new perspective, I have been more empathetic and it has helped directly with my school work. I have been able to understand readings better, as well as my fellow classmates. Along with this, I was able to develop a new kind of work ethic. We were in daily classes studying the same thing and that got me to focus on the subject more intensely. Since then, I have been able to study projects even more in depth without straining too much.

“Studying in Kiel gave me a new perspective on how to interact with people in the world regardless of language barriers.”