

My name is Jenna. I am a 20 year old Logistics Science student at the German Jordanian University in Madaba Jordan

Last semester I took an English course as part of my studies. In the first lecture, our instructor gave us the headlines of our project for the course; it was a German-Jordanian exchange project. I got excited to know I am going to get in touch with a German student and find out more about the German culture.

My partner Stella contacted me by E-mail at the beginning of November 2014. I replied to her Email and we started to get to know more about each other. After a couple of emails we found it more convenient to chat on Whatsapp. We started to speak about our families, fields of study, hobbies and so on. As time passed by we started to get to know each other better, and our conversations got deeper. We discussed differences in our cultures, religions, and lifestyles. Regarding studying, I asked a few things about her program, how it works and which courses are offered. In return, I explained to her the life of a typical Jordanian student.

Day by day Stella became a friend to me, not just a partner in a project. We shared personal stories and funny pictures. Although we were thousands of miles apart and we didn't personally know each other, but we had a lot of things in common.

At the end of December, I was planning a short trip to visit a friend in Germany. I asked Stella if we could meet and so we did. It was such pleasure to meet her in person for the first time. In return, I invited Stella to visit me in my home country, Jordan. Two months later, we were actually planning a mini tour around the Middle East.

I was excited to show her around my country and other neighboring countries. After her arrival in Jordan, we visited together a lot of Jordanian sights, starting with the Dead Sea and ending with Petra. We also took the risk and decided to visit Palestine. It was risky because it is considered to be a war zone. Many obstacles faced us on the way and at the border; nevertheless we overcame them together and enjoyed our trip to Jerusalem and Ramallah. Our next stop was the United Arab Emirates, particularly the city of Dubai. With this spectacular city visit, Stella ended her trip to the Middle East. By that time also the semester was over and we had submitted our reports and presentations.

I would be lying if I said we did not face any problems working together, however they were minor issues we easily solved by being open-minded and listening to each other's opinions.

I am thankful to have gotten the chance to be part of such a collaboration. Personally, this project has influenced me to a great extent. Not only did I gain a new friend, but I gained a new understanding of other cultures. It is important that students from all over the world get involved in such exchange programs. It helps youth to respect other cultures, races, ethnicities and religions. More importantly, it shows us that despite all those differences we still share a lot of common interests. And at the end of the day we are all human beings and we should work collaboratively to make the world a better place for the next generations.

Jenna