

KINDER- UND JUGENDARBEIT

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SCHOTTLAND



STEFANIE FALLER

I had always wanted to experience some time abroad, but unfortunately was not able to until I went to university to study social work. I heard about the opportunity to do a work placement abroad there. I

was interested in how social work is carried out in other countries and I wanted to improve my English skills. Furthermore I wanted to make new contacts and gain a lot of new experiences.

I attended a ZIK information event and heard about yipworld.com in Scotland. Immediately many clichés came to my mind: men in kilts, bagpipes, whiskey and loads of mountains and castles – I thought that this sounded like good fun.

When I finally started to work in Scotland, I was most impressed by the abundance of different services yipworld.com offers. I gained insight into the “Inspiring Scotland” program focused on young people





that have problems with school. Some of the students skip school or lack self-confidence or are involved in bullying. The young people have to work in different workshops with topics like “what will I be in 5 years time” or “what a home means”. There is also a radio project delivered at one school where the young people produce their own radio show and I was involved in this project. I really enjoyed working in the school and therefore consider getting some work experience in social work at schools in Germany. Also I worked with children aged 6 to 12, playing popular German games with them or explaining how the German school system works. I also worked with young people aged 13 to 18 a couple of

times and even cooked a German meal with them. One difference between working in Germany and Scotland is the way people dress for work. The Scot-people are dressed very formal, for example they wear black trousers and a nice shirt regardless of their occupation. I was able to attend a Ceilidh (a traditional Scottish dance) and enjoyed a Burns supper (a traditional Scottish meal) which was really fun. I also went to a theatre and visited the ‘Brownies’ in a town called Kilmaurs where we decorated heart shaped biscuits for the Valentine’s Day. I also travelled to a village called Wanlockhead. This is the village with the highest elevation in Scotland. I was really impressed by the

gorgeous landscape. There is so much to see and do in Scotland and the people there are so open and friendly.

The opportunity to work and live in Scotland was a great experience for me. I feel like I now have a better understanding of the difficulties associated with working and living in a foreign country, which also allows me to relate better to the situation of immigrants in Germany.