

„I still remember how warmly they welcomed me and that they had prepared a feast for me. From the very beginning I just loved the girls, they are so funny, energetic and active and they immediately started to talk with me about everything. So it was very easy for me to fit in in my new home. The first weekend was full of fun, they showed me around and we went to see a movie together. When my host mum told me at the end of my first weekend, that the girls just love me, I was so happy. Everything was just perfect and it stayed like this for my whole stay.“



My Chinese also improved quite a lot. When I arrived in Beijing I couldn't say anything except „Ni hao“ or „xie xie“. But due to my Chinese lessons I gradually improved and by the end of the Semester I took HSK 3 and I even got a prize from the university.





**M**y Name is Julia and I am nineteen years old. My gap year in China started at march 2016 and I stayed there for half a year. I always thought that Chi-na is an unbelievably exciting country and that the chinese culture is a very interesting one, but China always seemed to be too far away for me to visit. Until I discovered that it is pretty easy to go to China with the help of Mandarin School. As soon as I found this possibility I was sure: I wanted to go to China. So I applied for the programm and soon got an invitation of a Chinese family with three girls. When my own family brought me to the airport I felt excited because my great adventure finally started, yet at the same time I felt sad to leave my home and of course I was scared. I was quite overwhelmed by all those feelings. When I arrived at the airport in Beijing Yuxinne picked me up and brought me to the training camp, where I stayed the first couple of days. And then it was time to meet my new host family: I still remem-

ber how warmly they welcomed me and that they had prepared a feast for me. From the very beginning I just loved the girls, they are so funny, energetic and active and they immediately started to talk with me about everything. So it was very easy for me to fit in in my new home. The first weekend was full of fun, they showed me around and we went to see a movie together. When my host mum told me at the end of my first weekend, that the girls just love me, I was so happy. Everything was just perfect and it stayed like this for my whole stay. Then I visited the university, which is just about twenty minutes with the bike away from my Beijing home, for the first time. When I first saw the university I couldn't believe how big it is, and I was frightened to get lost since I couldn't speak any Chinese. However in my class was only one other student, which had advantages but also disadvantages. From then I went to university every day from eight o'clock to twelve o'clock. Since all three girls have school until four in the afternoon I also had some free time till then. Most times I ate lunch at the cafeteria in school and afterwards met with friends

or did my homework. At four o'clock I went to pick up the girls at the bus station, then we ate supper together. Afterwards we usually learned English for around one hour and played or I accompanied them to activities like dancing or drawing. I didn't need to do any house work except keeping my room tidy, what was really cool.

I also really enjoyed my free time in Beijing, which I spent together with friends I got to know at the university. I was lucky because there were two other Au Pairs living near me, but I also got to know a lot of foreign students and chinese people, who were very helpful. I visited the most famous places in Beijing, like the Forbidden City and the Beihai Park, went sometimes clubbing or for dinner with them. I really enjoyed discovering this humongous and fascinating city.

My host family also took me to a lot of trips with them. We visited a national parc in Hunan Province, we made vacations on Hainan and in America and we made a trip to the grasland in the north of Beijing. I also met many friends of my host family and we had lots of dinners together with them, what I really enjoyed. I tried so many dishes from seefruit to frog and even dog, which I would have never eaten in

Germany. And necessarily I learned during my stay here how to eat with chopsticks;) My chinese also improved quite a lot. When I arrived in Beijing I couldn't say anything except „Ni hao“ or „xie xie“. But due to my chinese lessons I gradually improved and by the end of the Semester I took HSK 3 and I even got a price from the university.

All in all I had an absolutely perfect Au Pair experience in Beijing and I really fell in love with my three girls. I already know that I will miss them a lot when I return back to Germany, especially their kisses and hugs and the moments when they took my hand or when we laughed together about the most ridiculous things. I had a great time with them and by now they feel like sisters to me. I will also miss my friends from all over the world and all the other people I met here. I am so thankful towards my host family for this great experience and I hope I will see them again soon!

