

Could you please introduce yourself? And what are your special characteristics?

Hello, my name is Kim Meijer. I am from the Netherlands and I am studying German to become a teacher in order to teach German as a foreign language to young people in the Netherlands.

I grew up in Barendrecht, a small town near Rotterdam. I have been teaching at different schools in Rotterdam since 2019 and it's definitely my passion. For me, teaching is like breathing: teaching young people the German language and helping them to have a successful future. It is awesome! My goal is to teach young people how important the German language is for them as Dutch people. My DaF lessons (German as a foreign language lessons) are always based on skills so that students can use the German language in practice: I think reading, writing, listening and speaking/conversing are the most important things in German lessons. In my view, when you teach a language, you should also teach culture and literature, since language and culture/literature are closely linked. I do this as interactively and attractively as possible during my classes. I teach using many games, films and pictures.

How is your living situation?

I am studying at the University of Hildesheim in the summer semester. I live in a dorm and I think it is great! I met a lot of international people. It is really cool to meet people from different countries because you gain a lot of experience and international knowledge. Now I have friends from all over the world!

Have you ever done voluntary work or participated in a project?

At my home university, I support new teaching students. I make sure that they get off to a good start with their training and I help them when there are difficulties.

In addition to my education, I do a lot of sports. I taught athletics for a while. That was great preparation to be the teacher. I also donate blood regularly and I am a blood donor representative in Rotterdam.

Why did you choose Hildesheim?

My home university in Rotterdam cooperates with various German universities. I chose Hildesheim because standard German is spoken here and I am convinced that this is the best place to learn and understand the German language.

What do you think of Hildesheim or Germany?

Being a German teacher, it's no surprise that I absolutely love Germany and the German language. Germany has great small and large cities and beautiful nature. I think Hildesheim is a very cool city because there are many great cities in the area and the people are very nice.

What do you particularly like about your semester abroad?

I chose to study abroad because it is very good for my personal development. You are forced to be independent and to communicate with people from other countries. Also, for me it is a very good chance to learn fluent German and to make German friends. Finally, my plan is to use my experiences from my semester abroad during my classes. I hope that I can motivate my students to do a semester abroad later.

What plans do you have for the future?

Next year I want to finish my studies in the Netherlands. I hope to become the teacher I've always dreamed of: ambitious, inspiring and energetic!

Thank you for your interview and good luck with your studies. 😊