

Can you introduce yourself please?

My official name is Luccine, but my actual name is Cali, short for California. But I am from Paris and have not been to the US. I am 23 years old. I have finally finished my studies in political and social sciences in France.

My zodiac sign is Gemini. I identify a lot with my zodiac sign because Gemini are very messy, which applies to me. The songs and poems of The Cure are my passion. Unfortunately, I would also say that I am the stereotype of a typical Parisian girl, with all its good and bad sides.

Why are you in Hildesheim? Can you tell us more about your program?

I applied for a German French volunteer program in higher education offered by the German-French Youth Office (GFYO) abroad. Here it is called "voluntary service". In France, it is called "community service", which is a little different. If you tell a Parisian to "voluntarily" do something a little longer than ten minutes, there is little chance he or she will do it, hahahah. This civil service lasts 10 months, and after that I will look for something else to do here in Germany.

What are the advantages of the volunteer program in the International Office?

A lot of advantages. I cannot even list them all here. First, I already knew that I wanted to work in international relations, and it is very interesting to be immersed in this type of environment. That will definitely be an advantage when I apply for a job later.

Second, I can practice my German here every day. This is very important for my main goal: I want to finish this academic year with a B2 / C1 level in German. I am already at B1. Wish me luck.

Why did you choose Germany and Hildesheim too?

I chose Germany because of the language. It is time to read poetry in German. I chose Hildesheim to break with my city-girl lifestyle and discover life in a smaller city. As of now, I would say I love it. I love walking in the woods. I am also rediscovering the stars and constellations. In Paris, you can only see a few stars with the naked eye.

What surprised you in Germany or different than in Paris?

So so so many things, believe me. Even the way people laugh is different. But I love that. I like to discover other cultures, otherwise I would just stay in Paris. But what surprises me the most is how seriously people take rules, plus this incredible directness and brutal honesty. This is definitely not the case in Paris. In Paris, most of the rules are just rules. They exist in theory,

but we are very aware that in practice we will all find a good reason to circumvent them. In Paris, for example, "Let's meet at 7:00 p.m." means: "Let's meet tonight, let's say 7:00 p.m., I will let you know, but it could also be 7:30 p.m." And an hour before, we push it to 8:00. I am exaggerating a little, but I hope you understand. It also depends on the formality of the meeting.

A very interesting point that I still have to work on is that honesty is not perceived the same way in Germany as it is in Paris. I have the feeling that when German people are direct, they just want to be polite or make things right. In Paris, the only reason to be so direct would be to try to insult the person. So a couple of times I was offended by people who probably did not mean it. In France in general, courtesy is honest, but always a bit glossed over and toned down. We call this "mettre les formes". And you have to "mettre les formes" to be polite, otherwise you are simply rude. We also say "good morning" in the morning and "goodbye" in the evening. In short, the rules of courtesy are not the same! 😊

What do you do in the International Office?

I usually support full-time employees in the International Office. I started working in the International Office in September. First of all, I learned more about the work in an International Office and go to know the different units, e.g. the Incoming-Team, the Outgoing-Team the Intercultural Qualification. At the beginning of the semester I worked with the Incoming -Team, participated in the Welcome Week and helped international students to settle down in Hildesheim.

But I am also working on two won projects. In the winter term, I am helping some students to apply for internships or jobs in France. In the GoOut-Week of the International Office my first workshop will take place. Feel free to join if you are looking for an internship or job in France. The second project next semester would be a trip to Paris or France, I am not quite sure yet.

What are your hobbies?

I love to learn foreign languages. My goal is to speak 10 different languages by the age of 30. Today I am able to speak in 6 languages: French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Lingala and German. I will soon start with Turkish, then certainly Arabic, Korean and maybe Italian or

What plans do you have for the future?

I would like to do a Masters in Psychology, simply out of personal curiosity. I would also like to find a part-time job here in Germany, stay for another 2 to 5 years, then return to France and move south.