

D45 Alba / Spain / Engineering Studies

Interaction partner(s): German students
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Relationships to parents

A Spanish student, Alba, is spending a semester abroad at a German university, as part of her studies. In Germany, she is living apart from her family in a dorm for the first time in her life. It surprises her how many German students don't live with their parents even though their parents live near the university or university town. Most of her German fellow students are either sharing an apartment or live in their own small apartment. In Spain, that would be impossible.

1. Why is the Spanish girl amazed that German students don't live with their parents?
2. What might explain that young Germans prefer to move away from home once they start their university studies?