

Amelie Marseille, Germany

My Story



“Whilst exploring international overseas study experiences to improve my English, I also looked for the chance to continue my passion for sailing. I was already competing in national and international sailing regattas in Germany. When Wentworth College in New Zealand offered me the chance to study, and join the

school’s sailing academy, I knew I could combine the two and this helped me make my decision to come to New Zealand for almost a year.” *Amelie Marseille, Germany*



Wentworth College

Situated at the end of the beautiful Whangaparaoa Peninsula, just 40 minutes north of Auckland, Wentworth College & Primary School is located in Gulf Harbour, a truly beautiful part of New Zealand. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the community is extremely safe, and residents enjoy a high standard of living.

Wentworth College is a leading co-educational independent school offering the Cambridge Assessment International Examinations. Wentworth College has been awarded the status of a Cambridge Centre of Excellence, which places us in the top 1% of 10,000 Cambridge schools worldwide.

Wentworth College also offers a Sailing Academy, and Marine Studies, taking full advantage of the unique position of the school in the beautiful Hauraki Gulf. For more information go to www.wentworth.school.nz

Amelie’s New Zealand Experience

Wentworth College has been able to support all of Amelie’s passions – not only does she love sailing, but she also loves music and dancing. At Wentworth, she was able to continue with her solo singing lessons, join the choir and perform in the school’s music festival and assembly. She also joined the school orchestra playing the harp, as well as doing ballet. Amelie went on the outdoor education camp and explored much of New Zealand through her sailing competitions, school trips, trips organised by her agent, and independent travel when her parents visited her over the summer break.

As well as sailing with the Wentworth sailing academy, Amelie also joined the Russell Coutts sailing club in Manly, just 5 minutes from her homestay home, and competed in many sailing regattas whilst in New Zealand favouring O’pen Bic and Feva sailing.”



CONTACT

For further information
Rachel Vaudrey

International Student Director

09 424 3273

rvaudrey@wentworth.school.nz

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Amelie's Studies

Amelie's main focus was to improve her English, but as well as English, Amelie also studied AS Level Marine Science, Economics and Mathematics whilst at Wentworth, following the Cambridge Assessment International Education curriculum.

About Wentworth's sailing programme

Wentworth's sailing academy welcomes new students to the sport, as well as coaching and supporting students who wish to compete nationally and internationally. Two evenings a week, in Term 1 and 4, our students sail from Manly Sailing Club under the watchful eye of the teacher in charge of sailing, Miss Amy Fisher, with support from the Russell Coutts Sailing Academy top coaches. Students can sail 420's, Topaz dinghies, O'Pen Bic's, 29ers and Optimists. Students get to learn new sailing skills and techniques required for demanding team work in boat handling as well as getting the chance to compete in regional and local regattas. Our sailors witness the stunning local marine environment, encountering diving gannets, dolphins, orca, little blue penguins as well as interaction with other water users. As a small school, we frequently punch above our weight, coming first in many team racing events. Our team racing squad were recently crowned the champions in Team Racing in all the schools in Australia and New Zealand.



Amy Fisher (Teacher in Charge of Sailing)



Wentworth College Sailing Academy Students

More Photos of Amelie



Interview with Amelie



Where are you from?

I am from Aachen in Germany.

What brought you to New Zealand, and specifically to Wentworth College?

Some friends told me about their exchange to New Zealand and I was impressed. It sounded like the ideal country for me. They told me about the beautiful nature and New Zealand lifestyle and culture, and a place that would give me the perfect opportunity to carry on with my sailing which made my decision even more certain. I chose Wentworth College because it was recommended to me by my education agent in Germany as a school that offered support for sailing students.

Describe how you adjusted to life at Wentworth and the support networks available to you as an international student.

I really tried not to make too many judgements of how it was going to be before I came here because I knew that it was going to be way different to anything I could imagine, so I came with no expectations. When I first arrived here, I was really positively surprised. Everyone was so kind and nice and there was so much support from everyone. I was very thankful for that because at the beginning it was really hard for me as I struggled with homesickness. I will be forever thankful to my lovely homestay family, especially my homestay sister and Jahna Graver, Wentworth College's International Student Support person, the teachers and students. Also, the sailing community from Manly Sailing Club took me under their wing and looked after me and always took time to check on me and listen when I needed to talk.

How did Wentworth compare with your school back home?

Wentworth is really different in comparison to my school in Germany. Firstly, it is much smaller! Where my school in Germany has about 3000 students, Wentworth College has about 250. That is a huge difference. At first I found it a bit strange, but soon I saw the advantages. Smaller classes! The teacher can support you more as an individual. There was more silence in the classes, so you could concentrate and focus better in lessons. It might be small but Wentworth is a big community because everyone knows each other. The relationships between all students and teachers is much closer. There was no bullying and no fights. Secondly, I felt like the expectations of German schools and level that you study at is high but Wentworth follows the British Cambridge curriculum and studying my Cambridge AS Levels in Year 12, so it was an easy transition.

Did you stay with a host family or in a boarding house? What was the experience like?

Yes, I stayed with a homestay family, and it really was the best homestay I could have wished for. Adjusting to any homestay is going to be hard though. My host Dad for example is a really funny person, so he was teasing me, but my English wasn't good enough to understand his jokes correctly, especially when he did some ironic jokes, I took everything he was saying so seriously! So it was tense at first! You have to get used to a different style of living too, as Kiwi homes and German homes can be quite different.

What would you like to do in the future – at University or as a career?

I probably want to be a Doctor, like my Mum, but I am not sure, as I never really wanted to have the same job as my parents... who knows! I want to carry on sailing, and I am heading straight to Italy after this to compete.

What will you miss most about Wentworth?

I miss the very close community of Wentworth most of all. Everyone you meet has a smile on his or her face, and everyone is so open and kind here.

What has been your favourite thing about life in New Zealand and your favourite memory?

That new people like me are so welcomed by everyone and that the nature is sooooo amazing. My favourite memory was I had just finished a sailing race, and we had come first, and whilst we were just resting, a small pod of dolphins surfaced arms reach from our boat and played around us for a while. It was incredible being so close to them and a real example of how beautiful New Zealand is.

What encouragement or advice would you give to a student considering international study at a private school in New Zealand?

Go for it, and be open to everything!