

Annika's Internship on Karpathos

In October 2025, I completed a four-week internship on the Greek island of Karpathos. My internship took place at the General Lyceum Aperi, an upper secondary school located in the mountain village of Aperi, about ten minutes away from the island's capital, Pigadia.

Even before my arrival, the headmistress was very helpful and supportive. She organized accommodation for me and provided a bus ticket for the entire duration of my stay. During my time there, she always made sure that I felt comfortable and well taken care of. She was also very welcoming outside of school and spent time with me beyond the school environment, for example by going out for meals together, which made my stay even more pleasant and personal.

Communication at the school was mainly in English, which worked very well for me, as both teachers and students had good English skills. I was also able to communicate in German with the German teacher. In addition, I had the opportunity to learn a little Greek.

The lyceum is a relatively small school with around 100 students and about 18 teachers. This manageable size created a very familiar and welcoming atmosphere. Every morning, I travelled to school together with the students on the school bus. Both teachers and students were open, friendly, and interested from the very beginning. I particularly enjoyed the many conversations about life on Karpathos, the Greek school system, and comparisons with everyday school life in Germany.

Lessons were mainly taught in Greek, which was a small challenge at first, as I had no prior knowledge of the language. However, both teachers and students regularly supported me by explaining or translating the content. The subjects I study are mathematics and biology, which is why I attended these classes most frequently. Thanks to universal symbols, illustrations, and formulas, I was able to understand a lot despite the language barrier. In addition, I attended German, English, and physics classes. All teachers were very pleased about my visit.

Outside of school, I also felt very welcome. In Pigadia, where I lived, I often met students who recognized me and greeted me in a friendly manner. Due to the small class sizes and close-knit community, the relationship between teachers and students was much more personal than I am used to in Germany. This created a pleasant and relaxed learning atmosphere.

During my stay, I also had the opportunity to experience a Greek national holiday, Ochi Day. It was very interesting to observe how this day is traditionally celebrated and to gain insight into Greek culture and history.

Karpathos itself is a quiet and beautiful island with many beaches, excellent food, sunny weather, and very friendly people. Overall, my internship was a very enriching experience, both culturally and personally, and I look back on this time with many positive memories.

