

People in Liechtenstein

“Three times the size of Liechtenstein”

Visit: Next semester, the principality will be home for the Australian Todd Read. The architecture student is one of the first two exchange students from “down under”.

For Todd Read, the adventure of a semester abroad in Liechtenstein began in a most unusual way. During the summer holidays, the 24-year-old burst an eardrum while attending a music festival, leaving him unable to work for several weeks. Yet the architecture student made use of the time off to get a few things done at his home university in Adelaide. He happened to call in at the International Office and seized the chance that presented itself. “Everything was organized within five minutes, and my exchange trip to Liechtenstein was a done deal,” explains Read. The exchange was only recently made possible thanks to the signing of an agreement between the University of Liechtenstein and the Australian university.

Size of the principality

After making this quick decision, the first thing Read and his friends and family had to do was find out where exactly he would be going. “To be honest, I thought Liechtenstein was part of Germany,” the 24-year-old candidly admits. While researching his future home, Read discovered another fascinating fact concerning the size of the principality. “My grandfather used to have a farm in the outback. It was three times the size of Liechtenstein.” Now he has arrived, Todd Read is full of enthusiasm for his new temporary home: “The landscape and the mountains are remarkable.” As one of the first Australian students in the country, Read naturally wants to pass on some of his own culture, seeing room for improvement especially where sport is concerned. “Rugby, football and cricket are almost completely unknown here. Maybe we can do something to change that.”

Umbrella, no thanks!

There is one thing about the country that the student from somewhat warmer climes has been particularly looking forward to: “I have never in my life really seen snow before and am particularly looking forward to going snowboarding,” says the athletic young man. He will have more of a problem with the likelihood of rain in Liechtenstein, as umbrellas are really not his thing. “I’m quite tall, and when it rains I have other people’s umbrellas at eye level, so they’re right in my face the whole time,” says Read by way of explanation.

To school by kangaroo?

Finally, the Australian wants to clear up one misconception about his home country. “Just recently I was asked whether we ride kangaroos to school. No, we don’t,” explains the student, unable to resist a small smile.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Todd Read

Date of birth: 26 February 1989

What I do: architecture student

What I like: rugby, football, cricket, fishing, music

Not my thing: mushrooms, umbrellas

Where I am at home: Adelaide, Vaduz

Goal in life: to be a successful architect

What I like about Liechtenstein: the beautiful views and the opportunities for hiking