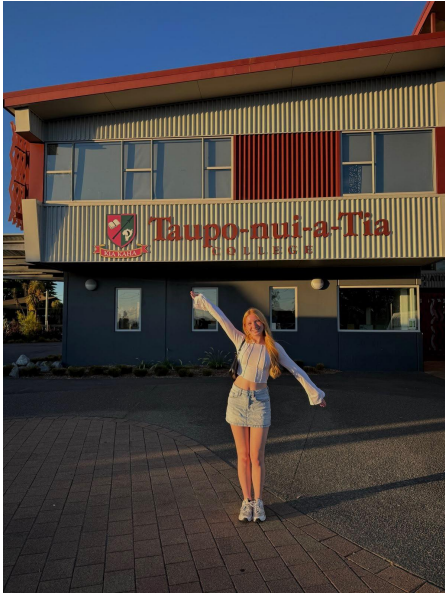


Anna Volz



Age: 16 years

Sex: Female

Length of stay: 2 terms

From: Frankfurt - Germany

Wise words

If you're thinking about doing your exchange year at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, stop thinking and do it!!

I'm Anna, 17 years old and I spent my exchange year in Taupo. My experience started in July 2025 and lasted until December 2025. It was the best half year of my life!! Taupo is a small town located at the biggest lake you'll ever see!! I've loved to spend my free afternoons with exploring this beautiful town and enjoying the view of the lake. With my friends we had a lot of opportunities to go shopping (our favourite was cotton on!!) and to try out all the food spots. But what made my exchange year so special was not only this great town but more importantly the people.

Support at school

Starting off with the international team at the college. They supported me in every way possible and planned a lot of things for us internationals. My highlight was the summer program in November with a surfcamp, hiking, culture days and a lot more. They are all doing their job with a lot of effort and love. And you can really feel and see that everyday! No matter if I had an issue with friends, school or just wanted to talk to somebody, they've always been there for me.

Homestay family!

But who made my exchange year mostly special was my host family. I couldn't have asked for a better one. They not only made me feel like a part of their family but they showed me everything in and around Taupo. Taupo is pretty much located in the middle of the north island of New Zealand which I personally think is very practical to see more and travel around. My host family took me to the mountains on the other side of the lake (where we also went skiing with the school!!), to a rugby game in Hamilton, to the sea and beach for whole weekends and to so many hikes. I am so thankful for that because I really saw a lot of the north island with my host family and I started to love hiking!! This is a very popular thing to do in NZ and with the magnificent nature and new things you can see it is really the best thing you can do on your exchange year. To see the South Island as well I did a South Island tour in my two week holiday. This is a very good opportunity for international students because you get to see more of NZ and meet so many new people!!!

Subjects

My highlight in school were my subjects dance and fashion design. With my dance class I even had a performance on stage and in fashion design I made a bag I'm still using today and a skirt for my sister. In Taupo even school becomes so much fun!!

To conclude

For me it was the best decision ever to do my exchange year in Taupo and I would always go back there. It gave me experiences and people I'll cherish for life!!!