

The
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Issue

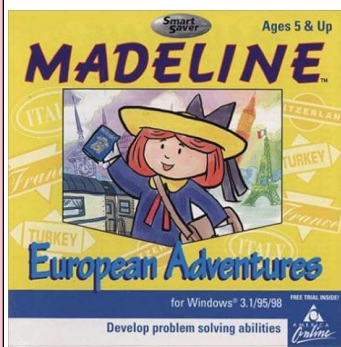


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Keika Girls Adventures Abroad!

“She may be teeny-tiny...

Diminutive, petite

But that has never stopped her

From being pretty neat!”

-Madeline TV Theme Song



Have you ever heard of the famous children's book character named **Madeline** (マドレーヌ)? Ludwig Bemelmans wrote the first book about her in 1939. She is a very little but very **brave** girl who goes to **boarding school** in **Paris**, France.

When I was a child in Washington D.C., I loved the classic Madeline books, **cartoon** TV show, and even had the special CD-ROM computer game! The 1996 game was called “**Madeline European Adventures.**” In the game, Madeline must take a train all by herself to many cities in **Europe** to save a **genie** in a magic **lamp**. Ever since then, I have always wanted to go on my own European train **adventure!**

In fact, a very special Keika girl just went on her own adventure **abroad**. She was in the first class that I watched from 中1 all the way to 高3. She was always so bright, **cheerful**, and **clever**. She sometimes visited **English & International Exchange Club** but truly was a top member of the Keika **Brass Band**. She sometimes did dance performances as well. She studied abroad in New Zealand when in high school and had an amazing time. I am so **proud** of her! She **inspires** me now. I'm so happy to show her interview and pictures. <3

Miyu's European Adventures

Let's listen to Miyu T's story & see her wonderful pictures!

Self-Introduction

Hi, everyone! So first, let me introduce myself quickly. My name is Miyu T. I am currently 19 and I graduated from Keika Girls' School last year (2025).

My Career Path

For my **career**, just after graduation, I chose to take a **gap year** in Germany. So, I didn't go straight to **university**. For those who don't know what a gap year is for, here is a quick explanation. A gap year is a certain period of time off around university age to think about one's career. Some people take it as a **pause** between graduation and university.

I learned that there is not only one path after graduation from my German friends that I met on my Keika study abroad in New Zealand. They also decided to take gap years. I chose to live in **Germany** for one year, **earning** money for traveling around Europe, to **figure out** what I really want to do.

It is the beginning of my adventure.

My Life in Europe

I spent a wonderful time in Germany.

Most everything that happened to me was a good thing... as I remember now. However, while it was happening, there were so many **struggles**. Like living in an **unfamiliar** environment, **communicating** in my third **language**, making friends ...

Even the smallest things like buying **groceries** felt challenging when I had to do them in **German**. However, as I **gradually** got used to it, I gained **confidence**, and my world began to **expand**. There were certainly difficult times, but beyond those **challenges**, I discovered many wonderful **experiences** and **opportunities**.

Speaking of **working**, I was there with a one-year working holiday **visa**, so I had to work. I started searching for a job right after I arrived in Germany. The first time I found a job was 1 month later. Even though I made a **resume** and handed it to over 10 **restaurants** and **cafes**, at the time, only one restaurant accepted me to work there. I guess my German skill was still not good but at least I finally got **hired**! I was super excited and **relieved**.

After one month working there, I could feel that my German skill got so much better. I was very excited to get money for the first time in Germany. However, even after two months, they had not given me the **salary**! So, I **quit** the job. I was in **sorrow** with **anxiety** for a while. But one day, my friend told me that one restaurant was hiring staff! So immediately, I wrote an email and I was hired. Since then, for almost one year I worked at the second restaurant.

I learned so many things, not only language.

Solo Traveling

Thanks to the restaurant where I earned money, I managed to pay all by myself for such things as **rent**, groceries and even for **traveling** around European countries.

I visited 7 countries during my gap year!

Paris & Strasbourg in **France**

Copenhagen & Sønderborg in **Denmark**

Basel in **Switzerland**

Marrakech in **Morocco**

Barcelona in **Spain**

Rome in **Italy**

And of course, **Germany**!

I visited Berlin, Hamburg, Lubeck, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Dusseldorf. And I lived and worked in Heidelberg in southern Germany.

I took a bus to France and took a train to Switzerland

but for those other countries I took **flights**. It was not too expensive because all the countries (except Morocco) belong to the **European Union (E.U.)** so you don't need a visa.

Each country has different **cultures**, people, **architecture**, and **history**. That made me feel so **thrilled** and inspired me. While traveling, I tried to write down what I felt from the trip and things I want to remember for my future career so that I could remember what really

matters in my **life**.

From those experiences abroad, I kind of figured out what I want to be and how I want to **live** my only life. Before those experiences, I didn't have confidence in myself... but now I think I have more confidence than ever before. I would say the most important thing is to:

believe in yourself & face yourself!

In my case, that is how I **succeeded** in doing a gap year in Europe. Thank you so much to all who read until the end. I really appreciate it!

Everything will be ok, let's just do our best.

The Keika Chronicle **BONUS!**₅

2026 Kiwi Keika Girls

In 2026, four of our Keika high school girls went to **New Zealand** for a few months for study abroad! Let's look at their pictures from **Aotearoa**, the beautiful **Māori** name for New Zealand! <3



XOXO,
Cherry, Momo, Tama & Nana