

MY WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE IN GERMANY

The first thing that came to my mind when I got an email congratulating me on the opportunity to go to Tübingen (Germany) for 3 ½ weeks on a cultural exchange programme was "will I cope?, what if I never make it back home? And, and, and". It all felt too much to a point where I even thought of pulling out, but my parents kept reminding me of how fortunate and privileged I was to be among the two students that were chosen to represent the whole of UJ in the Tübingen South Africa programme 2020. Even so, I was still occupied by negativity and the fear of having to break out of my shell. However, the opportunity turned out to be a step that would



change my whole life for the better. I got the chance to meet new people with different personalities and different ways of doing things. Even so, what made us all common was the willingness to learn another way life. During the stay, we got an opportunity



to visit multiple factors and companies such as The Mercedes Benz; in addition to the adventurous tours we got to visit the great Hohenzollern castle. Above it all, the warmth and love of my host family, Barbara (co-ordinator) and her team made me feel even more welcomed and ready to accept and deal with the adventure of being out of my comfort zone for a month. In all the ups, downs and the in



between; the punctuality, efficient bus system and the level of safety in Germany kept me fascinated. It made me think and re-think what Germany is doing differently compared to South

Africa and how adopting that could help change South Africa for the better. At the end of it all, the most important thing I learned from this trip was to be me and do me at

all times in all the pressures, freedom and desire to fit in. Nonetheless, I had a great adventure and would not trade this opportunity for anything. Lastly, I would like to thank the university and everyone that played a part throughout the whole process for the great opportunity. Thank you.