

# Blog training

# Digital footprint



## Digital footprint

What you post online can have a far and long-lasting reach

It can be hard to fully delete all traces of something you regret posting

You want to produce blogs that you are proud of and that present you in the best possible light

The same applies to all social media – you are presenting an image of yourself which is easily traceable; you need to make sure it is an image of yourself that you want people to see

Private stories should be kept private i.e. emails or letters and consider your Facebook settings

## What makes a good post?

Who are the audience for the blog? Will the content be interesting for them?

Is the tone and language appropriate to the audience?

Is the article well-written? Is the spelling, punctuation and grammar correct?

What do you think of the length? Is it too short to be informative? Does it drag on?

Do the pictures illustrate the story being told?

## What makes a good post?

What representation of YOU is the post giving?

What representation of LLGT is the post giving?

What would your hosts, parents of children you are working with, staff at the school/project or anyone else in-country think if they saw your post?

## What makes a good post?

How could the teacher use the content of this post with the class?

## Examples of bad blogs

A week or two after the colour run we met up with Laura who was one of the girls living in Urumqi that we first became friends with back in October. She was back from Beijing for a night so us three and Gina (the other girl we met in October) went to a bar. It was a laugh to meet up just the four of us again because we hadn't done that in a while. We also went to a Maltese restaurant the next day to get some Pizza which was weird to eat while in China. Seeing as we were going to be seeing Laura just before flying out in Beijing I asked her to take some of my stuff so I wouldn't have to lug it around China while travelling. Packing that first bag was a bit of a jarring experience because it was definitely the beginning of the end of my time in China, I had to think about what I definitely wouldn't need in my last few months.



Hi everyone,

First of all, I'm really sorry about not writing sooner - it's been a few months so we've got a lot to catch up on! Last time I wrote to you I was just about to start working at the school and was also working as an au pair so I'll fill you all in on that now.

So it really didn't work out with the family. Although everything went really well at first sadly it stopped working and I had to leave. The little girl I was taking care of had many behaviour problems and I felt like I wasn't capable of controlling her or being responsible for her when she had a crisis. There was an incident where she scratched me with her nails and threw herself on to the road. I couldn't live or work in those conditions and so I had to leave. It was an amazing experience and it really improved my French skills so it wasn't all bad but I had to think of myself and I wanted to really make the most of my year abroad. I have found an apartment and I am living myself. I am really enjoying the freedom to do what I want, go where I want, eat what I want. Living by myself has been a great experience and I am really looking forward to the rest of my time here.

Now I know I haven't written to much lately about what I have been doing but in all honesty I haven't done much! After a great week we went to the Sesse Islands where I relaxed, walked with Emma and got very drunk, the excitement!! Sadly my camera died when we arrived but I will steal some of Emma's pictures for you to see!

The past two weeks have been incredibly dull, my camera actually had dust on it from how little it was used! I spent a week and a half getting over illness then the rest of my time fighting with the teachers about the fact that they NEVER go to their lessons. I actually had a very heated discussion with our current (crappy) headmaster which ended in me saying, "You do not deserve to be paid at the end of the month, you are a disgrace." ...Last week he attended all of his lessons and even sat with the rest of the teachers, I think the message got through finally! Don't tell him, but he is getting fired anyway without pay seen as he stole 200,000 Ugandan shillings from the school! And he is our headmaster!!

Thats all for now!



My beautiful baby boy!

Arrived back in Glasgow after a week in Greece with my friends and all I wanted to do was sleep, but I have about a million and one things to do. Passport photos, finding out my blood type (because my own mother didn't know), packing my bag with a year worth of clothes, and anyone who knows me will know that I have enough clothes to dress the nation, so choosing what to take was just another battle. I only had 30kg suitcase allowance and a 7kg hand luggage allowance, which might seem a lot but not for your average shopaholic. I also had to go change about £500 into Chinese yuan, where the woman proceeded to tell me that there is scam happening right now around china where taxi drivers and taking your money and swapping it for a fake note and give you it back saying, its fake. I also had to say good bye to all my friends, lucky a boy in my year was having a party so I could say goodbye all at the one time, which made it a lot easier. My mum also had a lovely idea to invite all my family over for a goodbye party, which I could not stop crying at, when they would give me good luck cards I would just ball.

## Examples of good blogs

How could a teacher use my post with learners?





Right now my main focus is sorting out my new French apartment (*un appartement* in French). I am going to live with two French girls who both study in Bordeaux. Maybe you will hear more about them too throughout the year! Our flat has *un salon, trois chambres, deux salles de bains* and *une cuisine*. It is on the *premier étage* of our building. One thing I learned from my experience flat hunting in France is that French advertisements would refer to a four bedroom flat as a 'T4' or a two bedroom flat as a 'T2' which could come in handy for some of you later on!

The only trouble is that my new flat has very little furniture so one of the first things I'll do when I arrive is visit IKEA- very French! I am trying to make a list of all that I need, so far I have:

Un lit (bien sûr)

Une lumière

Une plante d'appartement

Une porte-vêtements

Un miroir

Des couverts

Do you have any more suggestions? What would be in your dream French bedroom?

Can't wait to write to you all again soon once I'm all settled in my new home for the year!



- A. Cuaderno
- B. Mapa
- C. Libro (de viaje)
- D. Pasaporte
- E. Diccionario
- F. Vestidos/Ropa

I'll start you off with E matching number 4. Maybe you could practise using Spanish dictionaries to work out the rest? You can also see clues in the words for their meaning, some words in Spanish are written similarly to their English translations.

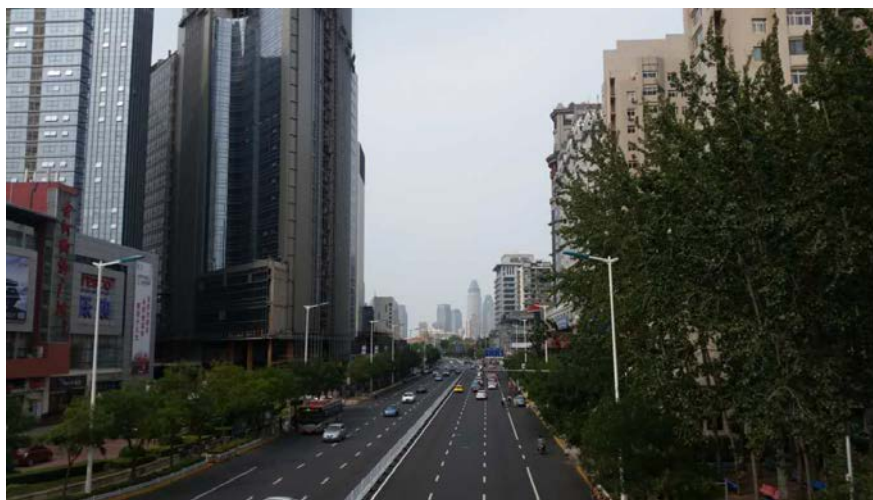
# Greetings from China! Hello everyone!

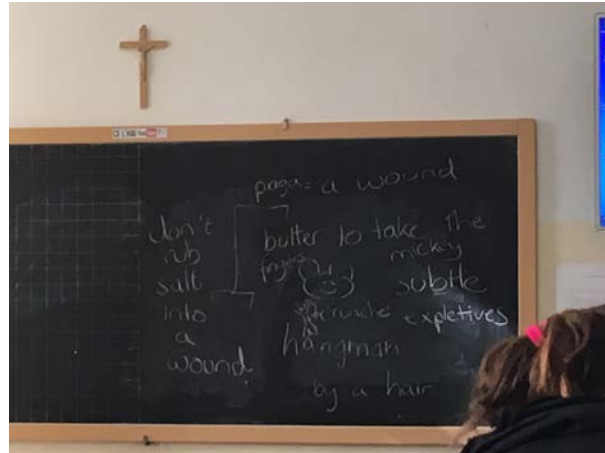
I have begun to miss home and the familiarity of 苏格兰 but its normal and to be expected and I won't let it get in my way. It's time to really step up to the plate! I'll be updating my blog near the end of every month to let you enjoy everything I've experienced! Until next time, 再见我朋友们!

来自中国的问候! 大家好!

It has been almost a full month since I left the tartan lands of Scotland 苏格兰 to live here in the 3rd largest country on Earth; China 中国! As soon as the 飞机 landed in 北京 everything began to change. The first thing I noticed was the heat! 太热了! The temperature in 中国 can reach as high as 38°C - 40°C in the Summer. Very different to what we're used to back in 苏格兰。

Once we arrived in 天津 it was time to settle in and become a 大学生 at Tianjin Foreign Studies University 天津外国语大学! We were assigned our rooms (2 scholars in 1 room) and for those of us who were part of the immersion course in July 2016, we retraced our steps around the campus to re-familiarise ourselves but also discovered new places.





School **inizia** every day at 8am and finishes everyday at 2pm but a **volte** the students have extra academic activities **dopo** school as well. There isn't a lunch **pausa**, instead there are 10-minute breaks every 2 hours or so, so most students eat **pranzo** after school.

All **compiti**, oral exams, written tests etc. that the students do are always marked out of 10. There are no letter grades like 'A' or 'A+' and there is never a percentage **voto** either like '68%', it is always '7' or '8.5', **ad esempio**.

Lastly, the school structure is quite different. All **ragazzi italiani** have to go to school from the age of five and a half or six and this is for five years in a '**Scuola Primaria**' or '**Scuola Elementare**' (they mean the same thing). Before this, they are allowed to go to '**Scuola Materna**' from the age of three, but this is optional. When they are eleven, children go to a '**Scuola Media**' for three years and then they have to choose which secondary school to go to. Here there are three options, a '**liceo**', an '**istituto tecnico**' or an '**istituto professionale**'.

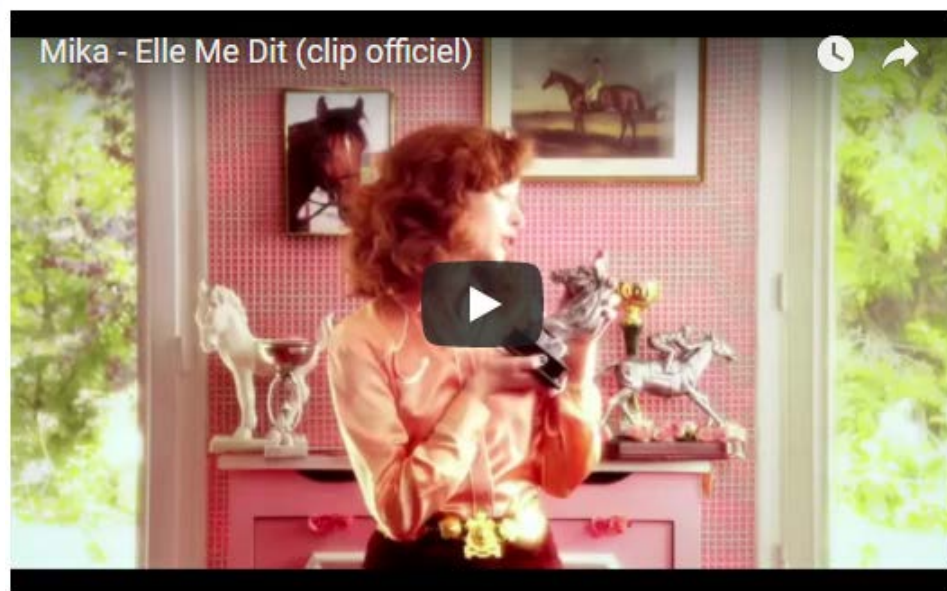


## Stromae : Alors on Danse



Stromae is one of the most popular singers in France – and this song became very popular in Scotland a few years ago too. Does anyone recognise this?

## Mika : Elle Me Dit



Mika is usually more well known for singing in English, and was really famous in Scotland about 10 years ago. But he also speaks French! French people either love or HATE this song – I think it's quite catchy!

Part of settling in means making friends, living in the international students dorms means you meet tonnes of people from tonnes of different countries. Being from Scotland has proven to be quite intriguing to all the other international students here, mostly because the majority of them haven't heard of it before! I have made a list of all the countries my new friends are from, you can try to match them with the English translation.

韩国	America
法国	Japan
英国	Thailand
俄国	South Korea
泰国	France
日本	China
中国	Britain
美国	Russia



We've been talking about Halloween a lot this week, I learned some new words for Halloween that I would like to share with you!

Recently in Spain they started to celebrate Halloween, but my friend told me that 10 years ago the main celebration was the day after, the 1<sup>st</sup> November. It was called the Día de los Santos and it's still a national holiday now! People get the day off from work and school to visit cemeteries and pay their respects to dead relatives.

Nowadays kids in Spain **se disfrazan** in costumes like a **vampiro**, **fantasma**, **bruja** o **esqueletos**. Do you know what these words mean?

Disfrazarse is a verb which means to dress up.

Can you use your dictionaries to figure out what the popular costumes are?

Kids go out and ask their neighbours for **truco o trato** and get **caramelos**.

You can also buy **calabazas** in supermarkets to carve into Jack-o-lanterns but not many people do that here.

**What do you think the words in bold mean? Do they look similar to the English versions of them?**

Older kids don't often go out to **truco o trato** but they do go to **fiestas** with friends or they watch scary films.





Posted on 21 November 2017 16:42 by meldrum

Hallo Caroline!

Gestern haben wir dein Blog gelesen! Sorry for the delay!

We were very interested to find out about the city and some of the stories that you were telling us. The one about the ghost got a few oohs! The pupils were also intrigued by the story about having to marry a Freibürger if you step in the gutters, they want to know what happens to those who don't marry a Freibürger after doing so!

We would also like to find out a bit more about the Black Forest as well!

Some questions that the pupils would like to ask:

Is university in Germany the same as back here in Scotland?  
Do you prefer life in Freiburg or life back in Aberdeen? Is life in Germany better than here?  
Could you tell us more about the food, what are some of the iconic dishes?

Wir hoffen dass, alles gut geht!

Viele Grüße,

Die 3E und Herr Mearns



Since our last contact, I've written an essay in German -- *sehr schwer!* -- as well as been to four different *Weihnachtsmärkte*, so in this blog I'll answer your questions and then talk a little about this Christmas markets!

- What happens if you step in one of the gutters and don't marry a Freibürger/inn?

Firstly, I remembered the name of them at last: they're called *Bächler!* I've asked around and nobody seems to have an idea -- most people just repeat it as something they've heard their grandparents say. My best guess would be seven years of bad luck, as that seems to be traditional. I suppose I'll just have to avoid stepping in a Bächler so I don't have to find out!

- Is University the same in Germany as it is in Aberdeen?

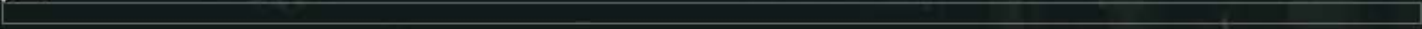
This one is tricky -- yes, and at the same time, not at all! There is a lot more work that is expected of you here in Freiburg: I'm taking 7 classes this semester, instead of just the 3-4 I usually take in Aberdeen. (That's because 1 credit in Aberdeen is worth 0.5 ECTS credits, if anybody is familiar with the system! So a 15 credit course in Scotland is only worth 7 or so here. Additionally, most of my lectures are only worth 3 credits, ergo, I have to take a lot of them.) They also seem to prefer presentations, which they call *ein Referat*, over essays: what you do, is essentially teach a class! You and your group take up the entire 90 minute class with your Referat, and then you're given a mark. It's a bit intimidating at first, I won't lie! But so far mine have gone well, as when you pick a topic that interests you it's possible to go on for as long as you like. Also, outside of how uni works, they're extremely strict about their libraries, in Germany: you have to lock up your coat and bag in a locker with your student ID before they let you in, and you're not allowed to bring any food or drink inside. The first time I tried to go to the UB, or Universitäts Bibliothek, I got scolded for trying to bring a coffee with me! Not what I'm used to at all, but I definitely learned my lesson.

- What's some traditional food?

Well, the archi-traditional food would probably be Currywurst! They have this in the UK as well, so I don't think I need to go into it, but German curry is far from the curry sauce you can get in Scotland. What the Germans call the *feuer* level of spiciness isn't spicy at all! I was quite disappointed. It's also traditional to eat *Pommes mit Mayo*, which you might be able to guess is chips with mayonnaise. I'll stick to vinegar, thanks! In the region of Schwarzwald, besides the



02:30



## Use of images (photos and video)

**ALWAYS** get permission before publishing a photo of someone online (except for crowd shots in public places).

**Images of minors:** Ideally permission from parent or guardian, if not at least from school or project host.

**Schools have rules of publishing images of their children**  
– everyone should check when they arrive.

## **Being safety conscious**

**Contact with partner school and pupils should only be made through the teacher**

**Do not give out your email address or contact details to the pupils**

**Do not accept any friend requests from pupils on Facebook or other social networking sites – pupils should be told this too**

**This protects everyone! It's ok to say no to a request**



# Blogging tools





## Using the SCILT blog

- Blog on SCILT website for each student taking part in LLGT
- Username and password provided
- Teachers able to post comments directly onto your blog
- We facilitate communication by sending reminders and notifications to teacher
- Updates on the LLGT Facebook group



# Language Linking Global Thinking 2017-18

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**Scilt Scotland** 36 mins

In her latest post, [Elise Downie](#) tells her class about some of the places she has visited in France and Spain <https://www.scilt.org.uk/.../12447/Visiting-other-towns.aspx>

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DESCRIPTION  
For students and teachers taking part in Language Linking Global... See more

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# Scholarship Blogs

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Partnered with Fife

Ailsa Brown



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Ariana Hardie



**Happy blogging!**

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