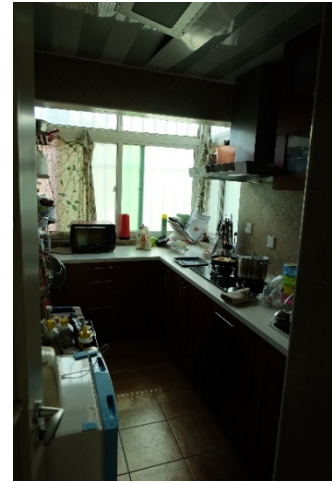


My Homestay Experience

Until I arrived in Beijing in late of August I hadn't really contact to my host family. I had their application form but I didn't know how to use WeChat to contact them earlier and the email traffic between Germany and China didn't work very well either. So the surprise the first day we met was even bigger. My host family were Rui, a single-mom and her seven years old son Franklin. At first go, I liked them instantly. They are living in Shuangjing district close to the CBD of Beijing, almost the perfect location to live and the next shopping mall is just around the corner. Even for western people it's a very nice location because Sanlitun with all its coffee shops and bars is only 20 minutes by subway. The only disadvantage of staying there was the long way in the morning to BFSU during the rush



hour. But definitely worth it. They have a 3-room apartment with a very cute kitchen. I had a room for myself with a big bed, some shelves but unfortunately no desk. But I was able to do my work for university in the big living room. Also the internet worked well.

We agreed on 4 hours of English per week and I taught every Wednesday and Thursday. Most of the time it was fun to teach my host son who quickly made efforts. If I was too busy with university on the weekdays it was also possible to make-up classes on the weekend. I really appreciate their flexibility! My host mother's English is perfect and we always had nice conversations. Normally we tried to spend time together in the evening and on the weekends. But she also accepted the time I wanted to spend with other international students in Beijing city. Reflected it was a lot of fun. My host mom offered me a lot and was always active. I am really thankful for that. Especially the day in the Japanese embassy was fun where they organized a Karate show. Sometimes we also cooked together, German food as well as Chinese dishes. I was fully integrated in their daily life.

It's a lovely family and I really loved the time with them. It was the best decision I had make.