



## Nykol aus Italien

**Alter bei Ankunft:** 17 Jahre

**Programmlänge:** 10 Monate (August 2025 bis Juni 2026)

**Hobbies:** lesen, tanzen, singen, Klavier spielen, Musik hören

**Allergien:** kein

**Vegetarier:** nein

Hallo!

My name's Nikol and i'm 16 years old

I go to language high school in a near by village where I study French and German (and obviously English).

I grew up in a town near Milan, where I still live, I went to kindergarten, elementary school and middle school there but then, since there aren't any high schools there I had to choose another city, so i chose a language high school in a really small town up in the hills, so everyday i have to wake up at 6am in order to take the bus at 7am, and you can ask "why so early?" — i literally cannot survive without my breakfast, plus i don't like rushing in the morning (since I constantly rush during the day anyway).

At school I study all the basic subjects, such as Italian literature, English, maths, science, physics, etc. and also French (that i actually started learning in middle school) and German. Then I come back home and have lunch, usually a soup cause i love soups and that's what my mother makes for lunch most of the times, or pasta, but only once a week cause i come home at 2.45 on average and i'm usually very hungry and it takes me at least 20minutes to cook pasta.

Then I relax, mostly i watch my phone or nap(i love sleeping, i could sleep all day everyday if I could), if I don't have to study for an incoming test(which i usually do).

In the evening I usually have ballet (3 times i week) and I LOVE it, it's really difficult sometimes(who am I fooling — it's always difficult) but it's also relaxing because it lets you just don't think about anything else other than dancing and just try doing your very best. I also have piano 1 week, which i started only this year but I think i'm making progress! To be honest I played the keyboard in middle school after covid because we could play the flute, for obvious reasons, and i was incredibly happy— i didn't like playing the flute, so i learnt to play some easy songs on the keyboard! I obviously do more difficult things now but I still think they helped. Also once a week i have singing lesson, i've had them for 4 years now, and yet i still can't really sing in public because i'm a bit too scared of criticism BUT i'm working on it. I love singing, listening to a song and singing along and also not sounding bad is one of the best feelings ever.

On Saturday I have four hours of Musical Theatre, which is divided in acting, singing, modern/jazz(dancing) and tip tap, and I like it too, but mostly for the people to be honest.

Touching on other hobbies, I like reading and I read everyday before going to bed. When I was a kid I read ALL the time, but when I got a phone i stopped (unfortunately) but two years ago i started again, in English this time, and it became a habit! I mostly read classics and modern fiction, but also fantasy! I use them like a sweet treat once every 3/4 months of



reading classics since that can be pretty boring or just harder to read. Generally I'd say I read many genres, last year I started reading sci-fi and found one of my favourite books ever— Project Hail Mary, a truly wonderful book and I shed a tear more than once not going to lie— and then The Martian (by the same author) this year (and these books actually gave me the idea to study astrophysics or aerospace engineering in university, although it was already in my options, just not the first).

Connected to reading is languages, because I truly believe that one of the best things when learning a language is reading and understanding (and it also helps getting to know the culture better). I think I've always had a passion for languages, I have three mother tongues (which is nice but also not!): Ukrainian, Russian and Italian, I learnt the first two like every child does, at home, listening to my parents and talking to them. I learnt Italian in kindergarten, plus I thankfully have an older sister (she's 20 now, we have a 4 years difference) so I guess I wasn't completely clueless because she watched TV programmes and movies in Italian, although I cannot be certain because I don't remember any of this. When I started primary school I started learning English (which then became one of my favourite languages) and it was very easy but it did give me strong foundations to start, but being completely honest I didn't reach the level of English I have now thanks to school, I just started to enjoy English content better (and I also started to hate the Italian voice overs in film and TV series) so slowly I learnt English more and more. In middle school I started learning French, and honestly, I hated it, I truly did, looking at back now I can see it was mostly due to the teacher, I didn't like her nor was she good at teaching. So when I understood that in my last year of middle school I decided to continue learning French (with which I still have a love-hate relationship) and went to a language highschool where I also picked up German. I've studied the language for three years and honestly, I've come to really enjoy, which may sound weird cause so many people find it very difficult, but in my opinion French is way more complicated.

I would love to study even more languages in the future, more different from the one I speak but for now I'm ok, two is more than enough.

I also bake a lot, mainly because I love sweet things but also because when I don't want to study but have to find an excuse to do something else I just say I want to bake/cook something (I literally made gnocchi by hand once, it took my 2 hours, but they did end up being good!). My favorite things to bake are chocolate chips cookies and brownies.

Last year I crocheted/knitted a lot, I don't do it anymore but I did manage to make some cute things that I mostly gifted to my friends.

In general I'd say that I'm artistically inclined, which I love and I also love having people around me that have the same passions.

In general I really value my personal space, I need to have my space where I can spend some time in peace and do whatever I want, especially after tiring days.

This is all of me in a pretty short letter! I hope I did my best to explain what kind of person I am!

Bis bald!

Nikol Ilyuk

