

My name is Caelum, I attended the ISG for one year in 2016. I live in Christchurch, New Zealand. Due to Coronavirus, my university went online eight weeks ago, and the country went into lockdown. I am lucky enough to have a holiday home in Akaroa, a small, seaside town in the Bank's Peninsula, an hour from home, which is where I stayed for this period. The Akaroa Harbour is the crater from an extinct volcano, with bushland and native birds on one side of our house and farmland on the other – a beautiful part of the world.

I was in lockdown with my younger sister and my Mum. My Dad is working in the United States and so hasn't been able to come home, or have us go visit. The rest of us have been playing cards each evening, which is a nice addition to our routine.

I spent the time studying mechanical engineering through online lectures and assessment, and getting outside before winter fully kicks in (our seasons are the opposite). I found online learning to work well for me, and somehow managed to avoid procrastination.

I am a keen mountain biker, and so I spent a lot of time exploring the town and surrounding hills (crater rim) and bays by bike, which I never would have before. The region is very hilly and getting anywhere requires climbing up several of them. Having no cars on the road was bliss, and the streets of Akaroa were so quiet compared to the usual busyness caused by visiting cruise ships. The hills were also great for walking and running, so our dog had a great time too. I have been attempting to learn some new skills, like handstands and wheelies, which serves as some fun motivation.

New Zealand has recently come out of lockdown, so I am spending more time with friends. I consider myself very fortunate and hope my friends from the around the world are doing okay through Covid.

