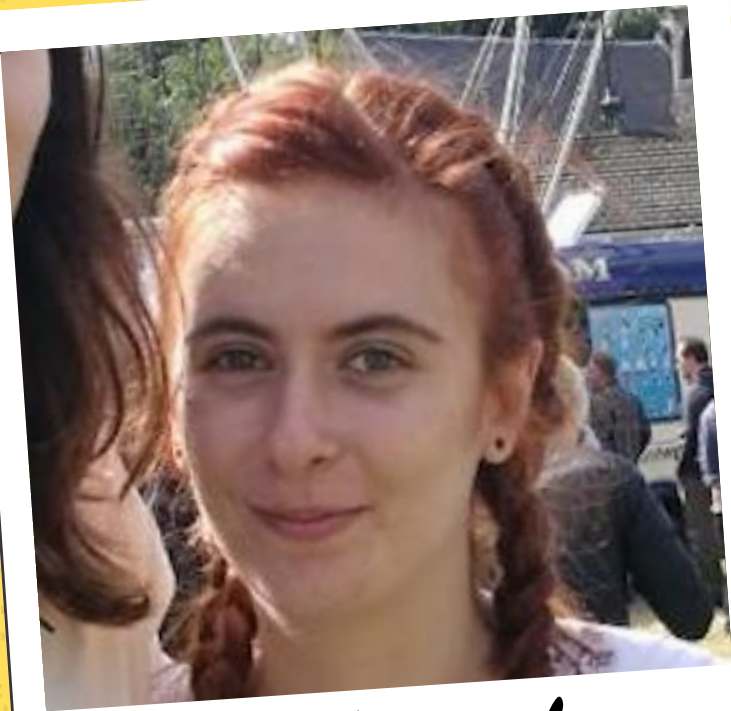




Andrada

ANDRADA LILBURN

Andra is originally from Romania and moved to Aberdeen eight years ago to pursue her studies. After completing her Bachelor's degree, she stayed on to begin a Master's in Ethnology and Folklore at the Elphinstone Institute. She currently works as a relief Museum Assistant and a Research Assistant for Aberlans.



Romanian is my first language, and English is my second; however, I feel like it's the exact opposite. I started learning English when I was about 4 years old. When I was older, around 6 or 7 years old, my parents took me to private English after-school classes. Once I moved to Aberdeen, I stopped speaking Romanian as much and English became the language I spoke in all spaces and I'd only speak Romanian on the phone with my family; so, I lost that deep connection with the language and I consider myself to be a really awkward Romanian speaker now, as silly as that may sound.

In terms of my identity, there definitely was a bit of confusion at times due to losing touch with my heritage; but, whenever I go back to visit my family, I feel part of the culture and everything comes back naturally. When I'm in Scotland, I feel included and accepted within the culture and traditions so there's definitely a bit of duality going on, but I cherish and love both cultures equally.



When I first came to Aberdeen, there definitely was a culture shock. The English I learnt back in Romania was not the English people spoke here... I didn't make many friends at first because I was too scared to speak in case I'd pronounce something wrong, and I preferred to just 'stand aside and observe' the language and how Aberdonians pronounce words. I think this helped me a lot in the long run.

I also dream in English. I rarely have dreams in Romanian and, when I do, the conversations in the dream are not that complex compared to my dreams in which everyone speaks English or Doric.

