

IAESTE Trainee at ETH Zurich

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In my retrospect, four months technical and cultural experience in Switzerland made an indelible impact on my life. It is my great honor and privilege to share my story with next in-coming students from all around the world.

I can vividly remember the moment I read an email from IAESTE office, informing that I am the last man who will be offered the internship at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. I felt my heart pounding in my chest and began hyperventilating. I had dreamed of being accepted to ETH Zurich as an IAESTE trainee and collaborating with PhD students who are highly intelligent as well as insightful. Nobody could have imagined how I felt at that moment and how much I appreciated this opportunity unless one would have measured the levels of *dopamine* in my brain.



The internship generated a positive effect not only on the research area of my interest but also the selection of the grad school for my advanced degree. The gentle waves of stimulating lab meetings and educational seminars during my stay at ETH opened my eyes to a new field of research that I had not discovered. As of now, I am really into this field, carbon capture and storage technology, and started drawing up some constructive plans for further study. Furthermore, I realized that Europe is the very place based on solid academic-industrial collaboration together with world-class research facilities, leading me to

put Swiss federal institute of technology as my first preference of grad school for the next level of my study.

There is no doubt that *you*, next in-coming trainee, will have a fruitful and invaluable time in the most fascinating country that I have ever been, Switzerland. I have never met any in-coming student who was disgruntled with their Swiss life other than the cost of living, truly eye-wateringly expensive. Do not hesitate to apply an internship in Switzerland. It can be your academic milestone in your career like mine.

Lastly, I was particularly happy to answer and satisfy IAESTE trainees' questions about the relationship between North and South Korea. It was an unexpected, but wonderful chance to hear unbiased opinion on the issue from all of you. Since we have been exposed to endless and countless debates between North and South, few South Koreans including me eventually became mentally immune to this political situation and underestimated the importance of this national affair. It was a great lesson to clearly remind me of the thing I must not forget.

Best Regards,

Byeongho Ahn