

## FROM PRAGUE TO LAUSANNE

I study at University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, Czech republic and after finishing my bachelor degree I have decided to spend the summer in Switzerland, by doing an IAESTE internship.

My internship took place at EPFL university, which is located right in Lausanne, just next to the Lake Geneva. It is about 20 minutes away from the city centre by metro.

Lausanne is beautiful city in the french part of Switzerland, that is quite large but it is composed from small villages so you do not feel like living in the big town. The Lake Geneva (Lac Lemman) is the most impressive place there where every citizen spends its free time. Another place that is worth visiting is the magnificent cathedral close to the city centre. In fact it is very calm city but it has also its party street and a lot of events - at least during the summer.



Switzerland itself is quite small and actually it is possible to get to the other side of the country in 4 hours. So you can make trips everywhere. If you are fun of sightseeing you should definitely go to Bern, Geneva, Neuchâtel or to Zürich. If you like hiking (and you will after arriving to Switzerland), the closest beautiful place to hike is Creux du vin in Jura mountains. So do not forget to bring good hiking shoes and sleeping bag!

And finally I would definitely recommend going to Zermatt to see Matterhorn and enjoy beautiful views from the top of its mountains.



As for the culture, during the summer there are a lot of festivals in every city. Nice thing is also the day of museums for free - every first Saturday of month. Furthermore, cheese fondue and raclette are definitely worth tasting. And with the Swiss wine it makes a perfect combination.



During my internship, I worked in the lab of materials science, namely in laboratory of powder technologies. I was working with supervisor in collaboration with the head professor of the lab. Everyone was very nice, smart and helpful. My task consisted of toxicology experiments with nanoparticles and their behaviour in cell culture environment. Although I have never worked with cells before, they taught me everything and I was able to work alone soon.

Since I worked at the university I was eligible for asking for the dormitory. Luckily it was free during the summer so I was accommodated there. The price was around 540 CHF/month (what is one of the lowest prices of accommodation in Lausanne). Looking for the accommodation was provided by IAESTE Lausanne, so I did not have to do anything, just sign the papers that came to my e-mail.

I had been in touch with one member of IAESTE even before I came there. Luckily he was a Slovak so it was much easier to discuss all the things about accommodation and arrival. Afterwards he picked me up at the station and took at the dormitory. He also showed me some places around and the way how to get to the university. After that it was up to me.



Every week there was a weekly meeting organised by IAESTE for trainees and members from Lausanne. This way we got to know Lausanne's bars and enjoyed time together at the lake. For weekends there was always a trip somewhere to Switzerland organised by different Swiss LCs. These trips were paid but always well organised and through that I got to know a lot of different places in there. A great benefit of these activities was meeting new people and becoming friends with different nationalities and having a lot of invites to different countries ;)

All I can say is: go to Switzerland for the longest time you can! Believe me, you will fall in love with that place the first time you arrive ;)

