

My Internship at the University of Sharjah United Arab Emirates



Duration	5 th of February 2017 – 4 th of May 2017
Employer	University of Sharjah (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates) Research Institute for Medical and Health Sciences
Trainee	Carole Marxer (University of Basel, Switzerland)
Supervisor	Associate Professor Dr. Hany Omar
Research Group	Drug Design and Discovery

Local Committee

The local committee was amazing and I am very thankful that we could spend such a nice time together. The local committee was like a group of friends and we spent a lot of time together and we could learn a lot from each other. I could learn about Arabic culture, about their traditions and about Arabic. They were very open minded and I am happy that I could meet them all. We went to different places in the Emirates for hiking, BBQ, sightseeing, swimming, cycling, poetry slam, concerts, restaurants and more. Once, we went to the desert in the emirate of Abu Dhabi for star gazing. We spent there the whole night and in the next morning we could see the beauty of the desert, where we saw high sand dunes and a lot



of camels. Another time, we had a traditional BBQ in the desert where some of us played the guitar and sang Arabic songs. Also the evening at the Arabic concert was amazing. Furthermore, we met a lot for *Karak* (black tea with condensed milk, spices and sugar) and spend great evenings together. We went to several restaurants where I could try different dishes from Arabic countries. When my friends visited me, the local committee was very welcoming and they could spend a great time with all of us. I won't forget that! The local committee made my stay in the United Arab Emirates to a very special experience!

Work

During my internship, I worked in the Drug Design and Discovery group where we worked in the field of cancer. I worked with different methods and I had the possibility to learn how to manage them by my own (e.g. MTT assay, western blotting). People at the institute were very friendly and were here for me if I needed help. I really appreciated that. Besides, I had the possibility to have a look in other research



groups. Sometimes I followed the work of a researcher in the microbiology lab where I could profit a lot. I liked the environment and to make contacts with people from different fields. Every week for example we had a one hour seminar, where people from the university or from abroad presented their research. That was very interesting. I appreciate the high standard of research there and I totally recommend the research groups to other students who want to do an internship there.

Life in the Emirates

People in the United Arab Emirates are very welcoming and friendly. I felt very accepted by all people I met. I chose a good time to go there, because it wasn't too hot (February until the beginning of May). That's why we could do many



activities outdoor. Fortunately, I lived close to the university, so that I didn't have to spend a long time in the traffic. The second intern and I shared the apartment where we had everything we needed. Our apartment was located in a building for university staff and every morning, a bus from university picked us up. Also in the evening, we had a bus back to our apartment. Close to our apartment, there were many shops and supermarkets. There was for example a very nice place for Hommos and Falafel where we got our breakfast. The public transportation is limited but it was no problem to reach the places we wanted to by taxi or our friends from the local committee or university.

