

**1. How did your traineeship influence your personal development?**

This traineeship cemented and reassured my engineering knowledge in the field of HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air-conditioning). It reminded me why I enjoyed the study of this field in the first place. At the same time, I am also glad that the field which I enjoyed so much studying, I have also enjoyed working in.

**2. What was the most valuable thing you learned from a Swiss colleague at work?**

I believe I have learned many valuable and interesting things from my colleagues in general. Some of which are of greater importance and relevance than others. These include remarks from them such as "hard work always pays off, but harder work pays better" as well as "work hard now, so you can work even harder later". However, the most valuable thing I have learnt during my stay began with a short and ignorant sentence said by myself during a coffee break at work. During a casual conversation with my colleagues about the adventures I have had the prior weekend, something along the lines of "chocolate is just chocolate" slipped out of my mouth.

If you have ever experienced true silence in your life, then this was it. I genuinely believe that at least half the occupants in the room considered jail time for man slaughter at that moment. Luckily my supervisor kindly explained to me that chocolate is not just chocolate and we all laughed together about this strange and uncomfortable situation I have dug myself into.

Thanks to my quick thinking I have later cleared my name by stating "I like cows with bells around their necks" at a public presentation, which now that I'm writing about it, I realise how awful creepy it must have sounded. Luckily my colleagues agreed and only saw the funny side of the comment. Obviously, this story was exaggerated for entertainment purposes, please don't take it seriously, but it did happen.

**3. What did you miss most during your stay?**

Particularly towards entering the colder months of the year (by that I mean two days after August), I had begun to loath the weather in Basel. At an average of 10 degrees Celsius, with strongly marching winds and cold rain it didn't exactly win any awards from my lightly tanned and soft Australian skin. However, this is just nit-picking compared to other things.

I have met two types of people during my stay in Switzerland. One is very friendly and doesn't hesitate (okay maybe a little) to offer help when he sees that you're in need – but still doesn't tolerate when you say, "chocolate is just chocolate" -, the other is a bit rude, arrogant and would rather stand behind you on the tram at a kidnapper's distance until you realise that he wants to get off, than to say, "Excuse me".

In general, I find the Swiss a little closed and perhaps afraid to change their habits, whereas I believe that Australians are more open to others and willing, but this is just my opinion. I guess to clearly answer the question I would have to say I miss the people of Australia. This is not to say the Swiss are bad people, they are simply different.

**4. What were the advantages of doing an internship through our exchange organisation?**

Completing an internship through IAESTE, greatly simplified the process of attaining my work experience requirements for my university studies, and my craving to explore and travel. This internship has always offered and presented much more than just experience in the field of engineering. I have made memories and experiences which I will cherish for a lifetime. I have nothing even remotely negative to say about my stay in Switzerland and I am nothing but grateful for having lived with this opportunity. Thank you again IAESTE.