



-What are you proud of?

I'd say I'm most proud of two things.

First of all, having a rewarding internship during these six months, i.e.:

- being on good terms with my co-workers and employers (working and non-working hours)
- being able to deal with the tasks assigned to me during this period
- apply my knowledge to software offered for professional use
- meet new people and learn a lot about different cultures

Additionally, I'm happy that I succeeded in combining a full-time job with the rest of everyday responsibilities and make some time to do other things that I enjoy.

-What surprised you most at work in Switzerland?

I hadn't really worked officially in a company so my expectations were not a product of any previous experiences but more of a general guess. I expected the working environment to be more of the strict and impersonal type. In contrast, the working environment was really friendly; of course we were all committed to work during working hours but there was eagerness to cooperate and help if needed. Also, the schedule could adapt to any needs or emergencies that arose so each worker could tend to any responsibilities they had. Last but not least, there weren't constant checks on progress and effort and the whole working model was based on mutual trust which I found really interesting and made me want to give it my all to offer the best result I could.

-What was the most difficult thing to get used to?

The absence of English in all signs and public transport. From store and street signs to all public transport signs and announcements everything was in German (with the exception of the airport). Eventually, that doesn't remain much of a problem as a lot of people speak English and can help you and there is always the Internet to help (however each time you hear an announcement in a train or a tram you hope nothing happened :) ) I tried to learn the German language but unfortunately 6 months of staying combined with an internship is too short a time to learn German (would need to learn it though sometime). Essentially, most things in Zurich can be adapted to (even the prices somehow after you receive your salary)



-What were the advantages of doing an internship through our exchange organization?

First of all, the first contact with the companies. Sure, you can search in the internet for multiple job offers but by choosing a company that has applied with the IAESTE program one can be more certain about the credibility of the company they apply to work for, especially since IAESTE cooperates with multiple universities and well known companies.

Additionally, the information provided before arriving in Switzerland was crucial in order to make the appropriate preparations before flying, learn the usual procedures for staying in the country as well as useful information for the country to have as smooth a stay as possible.

Finally, being in a foreign country one has a lot of new experiences. Being able to rely on IAESTE members for information about these experiences is a great plus in deciding to take the step to working abroad.