

# Personal Report

by Ioannis Magkanaris



*View from Bahnhofbrücke, Zurich Center*

A picture equals to a thousand words and because of the fact that I am not sure I can contain my experience in a simple report, I will try to transfer to everyone that reads this report my feelings with pictures I took. My name is Ioannis Magkanaris, I am 22 years old, I come from Greece and I worked in the Seminar of Applied Mathematics in ETH Zurich for one and a half month as a programmer. I always wanted to have the experience of living abroad and due to the fact that this summer I finish my studies and want to start doing a Master abroad I thought that taking a taste of how is living in a different country would help me decide if that was what I really wanted to do and if I could stand it.

To begin with, it was the first time I had to live all by myself, without having my parents helping me, as in Greece. This made me very independent and a lot more organized in certain areas, as I not only should care for many things by myself but I should familiarize myself with a different environment with different rules and lifestyle. Finding a place to stay in Zurich was very hard but fortunately IEAESTE has found me a shared apartment. The place where I lived was in Wallisellen, which is a city around 40' minutes away with public transport from Zurich center, where my work was. The bit long commute for work was overviewed as the public means are always on time, the city was beautiful and quiet and I had great time with my roommates, who were also IEAESTE trainees. The fact that I was alone in a new country and I had to interact the whole day with people has made me a lot more extrovert than I originally was and that opened my horizons to get to know people from numerous other countries and try to understand their way of thought and behavior. Of course, the multicultural environment of Zurich, the fact that I worked in a university and being part of IEAESTE community helped massively in getting to know as many people as I could,

which changed me as a person, made me a lot more open minded and maybe made me see some things differently.



*Wallisellen, View from house balcony*

The experiences I acquired from the work environment were also very valuable. All of my colleagues were very dedicated to their work, very productive and worked long hours every day. While everybody was looking at their own job, every time I needed some help there was somebody there to provide me with answers. That was what surprised me the most, how willing everyone in the university were to assist others if needed, every time politely and respecting others. The ethics of ETH and the people there made me feel like I was at home and this is what inspired me to perform my best and try to become even better, acquiring new knowledge and applying the best practices in everything I did. I have not only walked away with more knowledge but also the best behavior I could have. The best feeling is knowing that I responded to the challenge and my supervisors were pleased with my work.



*View from Polyterrasse, ETH Zurich*

The thing that surprised me most during my stay is how organized and respectful every resident in Switzerland is. It's not a mistake that Zurich is one of the best cities to live in the world and that can easily be seen, as everyone you encounter seems happy and like he has any aspect of his life sorted out. This is something that makes the everyday better for everyone else. Except of the beautiful people in Switzerland there are also wonderful places to see. Zurich is very picturesque city with its small stone roads and the lake. Moreover, outside of Zurich, other cities like Bern, Lausanne, Geneva, Basel and Luzern are worth visiting, as well as many places up in the mountain with exquisite view, like Oeschinen Lake, Mountain Pilatus and generally places near Interlagen.



*Oeschinen Lake*

Finally, my experience with IAESTE was great in all areas. To begin with, the local committee in Greece was very open and helpful so I can find the opportunity that fitted me the best and one that I was very interested in. The committee of Switzerland has also helped me very much when needed, finding me a place to stay while I couldn't, organizing how to get there when I landed in Switzerland and generally helping me with all the chores I had to do for staying in the country for the first time. My tutor was a very friendly person and I really enjoyed hanging out and talking to her even for things not related to my internship. It would be an honor and I would be very pleased if in the future I can participate again in a program of IAESTE as the experience was mega.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone in the organization for making this internship possible, not only for me but for numerous people across the globe to travel and be productive in an area they love.



*Uetliberg, Zurich*