



BIENVENU EN SUISSE!

In the very beginning I have to say, that the IAESTE traineeship was the first work- and life experience which I gained abroad. I mean that I had never spent a period abroad during my studies, such as an ERASMUS stay. Since there is the possibility to do an IAESTE traineeship even after studies, I applied for an internship in an Architecture office in Lausanne after having obtained my master's degree. My internship, which was initially planned for 6 months, got extended for 5 more months. Fortunately I am still working in the same office now, having a permanent employment contract.

What I am very proud of, is that I spoke French as much as possible. Since I had French at school, I had a good basic knowledge which helped me a lot. Besides attending French classes I met regularly some tandem partners for language exchanges. Thanks to tandem I met a girl from Canada, who is one of my very close friends now.

In our conversations we are usually talking about the differences between Switzerland and our home countries. Concerning the work morale I have to say that I can't see any noticeable differences between Switzerland and Austria. All the employees at my office are motivated, creative and very team-minded. Everyone can give his ideas and make the projects grow. It was a pleasant surprise to see that people with many different nationalities are working in our office.

When it comes to food, I can confirm that cheese is playing a major role in the Swiss cuisine! ☺ Raclette, Cheese fondue, Rösti and a lot of other dishes involving cheese are filling the menus in every traditional Swiss restaurant. As expected Swiss people are also gourmets when it comes to chocolate. I never travelled back home without having a certain amount of chocolate as gifts in my suit case.

Apart from food, I explored many wonderful spots (Lavaux, Crans Montana,..) and cities in Switzerland. I met a lot of interesting and open minded people which are my close friends now.

Honestly I had never expected to stay and live in this country before doing the IAESTE internship.

IAESTE helped me a lot with finding an apartment and with getting settled in the first weeks of my internship. Thanks to a whatsapp group there was always someone available to ask about any question I had. IAESTE also organized weekly meetings and trips, which were helping to get to know new people which were in the same situation.

Since I am working and living in Switzerland now, I am happy to say that IAESTE changed my life.

