

Personal Experience Report



Name and Home Country: Jiaying Zhang, China

Country of Placement: Zurich, Switzerland

Company: Mettler Toledo

Duration of Placement: 14/7/2018-30/4/2019

Experience Abroad

When it comes to the life in Switzerland, IAESTE helped me to find a very lovely place close to my office, which was located in the suburb of canton Zurich, about twenty minutes driving distance away from downtown. The transportation here, especially for the railway system was quite convenient and developed which allowed me to enjoy the real beauty of rural area and modern urban life at the same time.

Before came to Switzerland, I had been to several places of Europe, but nowhere else could provide you with such unique landscape and amazing experience. I used to spend most of my time stay indoors, now the lifestyle here also transformed me to become totally outdoor enthusiast, whenever I got the time, I would like to go hiking in different mountains, cycling along the lakes or go skiing in the winter season. Apart from the beautiful views, the people I met here was also friendly and easy-going, who's willing to share their lifestyle and present their country to you.



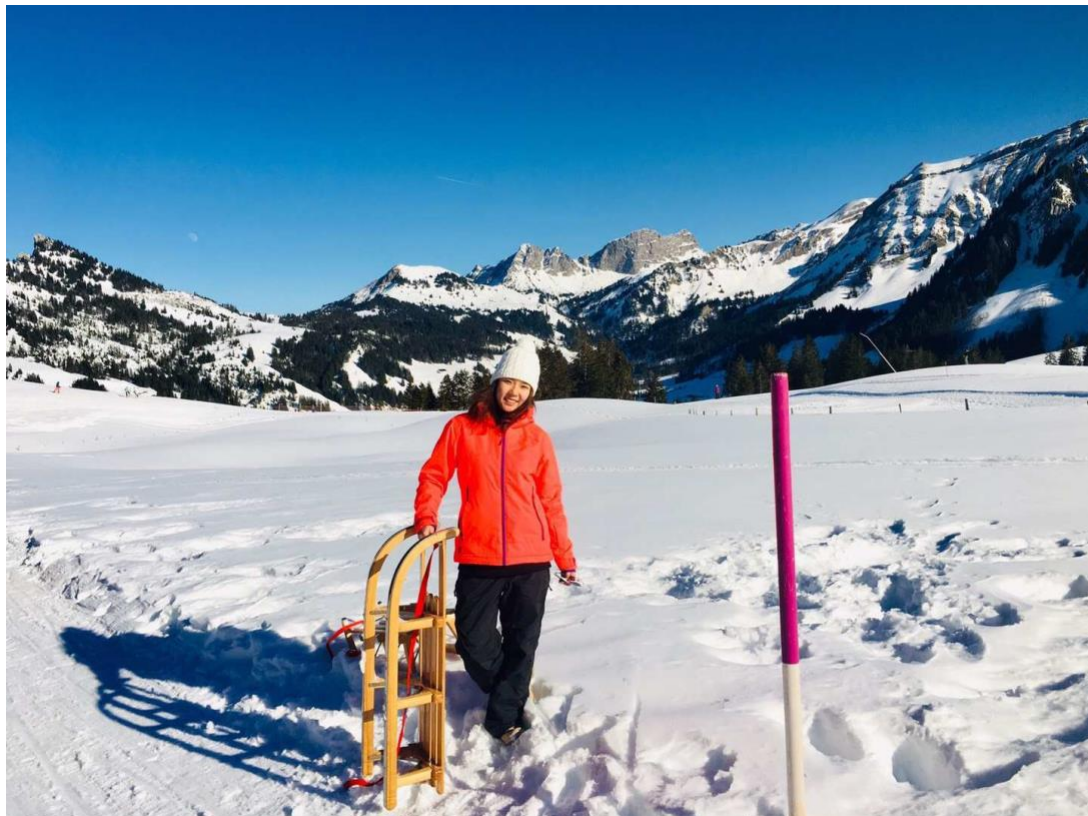
Hiking camp in Matterhorn

Experience at work

I was really lucky to be able to take my internship via IAESTE in Switzerland for nearly ten months. During my stay here, I worked as a data analyst in global service of Metter Toledo, which is one of the most famous manufacturer of precision instruments and services provider around the world.

My main responsibility was to support my team to dig into big data world, including processing, visualizing and analyzing data, especially for Asia Pacific region. Although it was quite a big challenge for me at the beginning, as I had never worked in a job relevant to my field of study independently, all of my colleagues were willing to help and being so patience to guide me step by step. It turned out to be one of the best opportunities to enable me to put what I had learnt from university into practice, finding my current limitations, and rethinking the way approach to my future career.

The other thing which impressed me deeply was the working vibe, it was really relaxing to work there, with friendly co-workers and approachable supervisors, everybody just made their efforts to make you feel integrated in the team and engaged in the work. What's more, we often celebrated small parties together after work, skiing camp over weekend and annual dinner party. And one thing I didn't expect before was that I even got the chance to take my first business trip during the internship and traveled back to my hometown.



Skiing Camp in Flumserberg organized by company

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On the top of that, my experience with IAESTE was fantastic and I was really impressed by their enthusiasm. They helped me at the very first steps from providing exchange opportunities abroad, sending my resume to company, summiting my visa and arranging my accommodation in Switzerland and support continue to the end of the internship. There were weekly meetings as well as monthly trips organized for IAESTE members. By these ways, I could get to know many friends from various countries.

I think the best part of this whole experience was the people you meet along the way. You get to meet new people from countries around the world whom you would have never met in your daily life , you're exposed to different cultures, you see different landscapes and views, you experience new things you learn the world is diverse and it helps you understand people that are different from you. I believe that what IAESTE would bring to you is not only the chance to work abroad, but also the great opportunity to see the world, to leave your own comfort zone and to be able to think out of the box.



Weekend trip in Zermatt organized by IAESTE