



No good story begins with I stayed safe and comfy in my safe zone. To live, learn, and experience, we should put ourselves in situations that test and change us for the better. In the end, life is nothing but the stories we can tell. So to be able to say you lived truly, I suggest to pack your bags and contact your local IAESTE, not necessarily in that order.

I started my internship at Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology-Empa in August 2019. I worked on a project titled “Organic field-effect transistors (FETs) fabrication,” which translates to using different methods and materials to fabricate FETs, characterize the fabricated samples, interpret the results after calculations and find the optimized version. I was working in a department under the supervision of Professor Frank Nüesch. The work environment was friendly and welcoming. We had daily foosball tournaments on our coffee breaks, Pizza lunch days, and Croissant brunch days! My team had a weekly meeting that we discussed different projects, progress, and brainstormed ideas. My supervisor gave me a high level of autonomy to move in different directions to reach the end goal that allowed me to have the power of strategizing the project. All members of the team were eager to introduce diverse topics and their expertise to me. I learned to work with several types of equipment and material that have an essential impact on my lab experience. I improved my time management, presentation, and teamwork skills as well. Empa is a reputable research institute, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to work there.

The other side of this internship was the opportunity to live, work, and travel with people from all over the world. IAESTE Switzerland has friendly and affordable weekend events planned. Besides being able to enjoy the breathtaking mountain views, we got the chance to meet other trainees from other LCs. Embracing the full IAESTE spirit, we hiked beautiful mountains, chilled at lakes with crystal clear water, skied at the Swiss Alps, and all the time getting our Fondou on! We planned trips all over the country, maybe the continent, enjoying the invisible borders of Europe. I met so many generous people and got the chance to experience Christmas, Italian style, and New Year's the Dutch way. We had Canadian Thanksgiving, Australia Day, and Arabian Nights. The trainees who lived in Zurich had weekly gatherings arranged by Zurich LC. In these Weeklys, we hung out and shaped friendships that I cherish.



I will always enjoy going through my memories of these months living in Zurich. I treasure my friendships and connections, as well as all the work experience. Switzerland is going to make you addicted to cheese and chocolate; I strongly recommend visiting this magical land even if it is just for getting a fix.

In the end, I like to thank the IAESTE committee for providing this opportunity for students to work, experience, and discover.

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