

## Personal Experience Report

Intern: Hanseul Ju, South Korea

Company: Leidescher Architekten, Zürich, Switzerland

Internship dates: 06/2019 – 02/2020

### 1. Experience of being abroad

- How did your traineeship influence your personal development?

I am very satisfied with my internship here. What was the most important thing during this internship? For what did I want to do internship here? What kind of experience am I doing? Why? I used to ask this question myself a lot while I was doing internship, and I thought it is because I'm already satisfied with the city a lot. In my internship, I could not say that I had no difficulties, but I wanted to do internship in Switzerland for personal reasons, and it was an excellent country in architecture, so I was able to overcome some awkward situations and finish my internship perfectly. I can also say that while meeting a lot of good people in the middle, I was able to do things that I couldn't do alone and that I was satisfied with my internship here because I received a lot of help. For many students who are interested in doing internships abroad, and for those who want to do internships, I want to tell you to challenge yourself to a city. It goes without saying that sometimes there are difficulties even you don't expect. But, if you take those things into full consideration and challenge yourself in a city, I think that it will give you a lot of strength and a good experience.

Looking back, I have been so lucky last year even though something bad happened to me sometimes. I love city and I like people there. Through internship period, I can say I've learned a lot not only about the field I'm studying but also about life. And I would like to say great thank to people who have helped me a lot.

### 2. Experience at work

- How did your traineeship influence your professional development?

My main task in this Architects' office was to develop projects for competitions. I supported other coworkers while I was managing two projects for the period. The

process of the competitions' development was from the site analysis of the project to the final output to be submitted and to design the building for projects. I managed and performed all process when we participated in the competition. Compared to my previous internship in Korea, I have done a lot in this office for 8 months, I could improve myself at work. I can say I could develop myself in architecture not only while I was working in the office but also visiting many architectures in Switzerland. There are well-known architects and architecture in Switzerland. During weekend and my holidays, I visited several architecture sites to see and study.

### **3. Cultural differences**

- What did you miss most during your stay?

I think the most thing I missed are Korean dishes. At that time, I had lived in Europe already for half of year because of an exchange program in Spain. Therefore, I miss Korean dishes a lot and eating out (eating culture in Korea).

Now, I miss typical Switzerland dishes such as Raclette and Älplermagronen!!

### **4. IAESTE**

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

There are many programs from IAESTE Switzerland. As I know, it is held all over Switzerland, so people can travel through this program and get some relationships with other trainees. I couldn't manage time to be part in it, however, so I don't know exactly what they do. But once, I had a meeting with other trainees with my mentor from IAESTE. This time I met many friends from other countries and my successor for my accommodation as well.

Before I was in Spain as an exchange student, I was planning an internship before I started living in Europe. I remember being a little anxious because I had no offer for the first two months even though I had prepared beforehand. And then, luckily, I got an internship offer from the country I wanted, and I also have good relationships with Swiss friends in Zurich who I could rely on, and I moved from Spain to Zurich. IAESTE Switzerland has helped me a lot, specially my coordinator Ms. Hilpertshauser, and the mentor has also helped me with many things, such as finding an accommodation, finding the next person to live where I used to live when I left Zurich.