

Personal Experience Report

Intern: Michal Malinowski, Poland
Company: Rapp Architekten AG, Basel
Internship dates: July 2019 – August 2020



I came to Switzerland to do my first internship and to work for the first time in an architecture office. My internship was just in the suburbs of Basel, in Rapp Architekten AG.

People were very friendly and welcoming. I adapted very quickly thanks to that and to my German language knowledge. I really liked the international and multicultural environment, which was a good opportunity to learn new things.

I was so excited that I was constantly learning new things! I actively became part of the dynamic and intense environment, collaborating with motivated colleagues. I also got to improve my German without even noticing.

The approach of architecture in Switzerland is different. Everything was so organized that I had to balance! Even the fixed time and duration of the lunch break took me a while until I got used to it!

I also realized what I like in architecture and what I don't like, and I learned how to appreciate the importance of working in order to enjoy my free time, and to feel more confident.



Living and working in Basel, was also a major part of the experience. Basel is such a beautiful city, between French, German border. The scale of the city is perfect, and everything is within walking distance, which made my life easy and comfortable. There are super cultural life and beautiful buildings, this everything combined with good quality of life with fondue and raclette. The location to travel everywhere is perfect!

Thanks to IAESTE, I felt very welcome and it was easier to find my new home, settle down, handle registration issues and integrate in the local community. Soon, I participated in the IAESTE trips that were organized. We traveled together to so many beautiful places.

After my internship I was asked if I wanted to stay in the company... I said YES... and since September 2020 I have been working as a Junior Architect and I am pleased.