



**IAESTE**  
SWITZERLAND

## Experience Report

Intern: Igor Prates Neves Fagundes Simões  
Employer: Burckhardt+Partner SA  
City: Lausanne  
Period: October 2019 - November 2020



I can straightaway say that going through this internship was a great life changing experience.

Arriving in Lausanne and starting working while having no previous knowledge of French language might have been scary, but with effort and the help of others I was able to adjust to the local environment.

Since I have never worked in an office with more than 6 people, the big office atmosphere in Lausanne was a whole new experience for me. Despite its size, the interaction inside the office is huge and I was lucky to work in a place surrounded by very friendly people. I was able to work in a variety of projects and learn from colleagues with different backgrounds. I was pleased to see the swiss approach to architecture and its work process. The internship that should have lasted 12 months, was later extended to 14 months and I am glad to say that, in the end, I got a permanent employment contract.

Although very important, life is not only about work. At first, it wasn't easy to meet people, but with time and proactiveness I ended up making great friends. Lausanne is a small, but great and beautiful city with plenty to do. IAESTE events were also very nice to both explore Switzerland and meet people from all over the world.



Being able to enjoy my free time in this country is definitely a privilege. Switzerland is a beautiful country. I cannot stress this enough. Even on the shortest train rides, I would have my face pressed against the window so that I wouldn't miss a single detail in these magnificent landscapes. The small villages, the cities and the natural landscapes, in each season of the year. Everything seems like it came out from a painting. Some moments might seem meaningless to some, but coming from a tropical country like mine and walking in fresh snow in a silent cold night while new snowflakes slowly fall in my head is a sensorial experience that I can only describe as magical.



I am thankful to IAESTE for providing me this opportunity. Most of the documentation process was dealt by both IAESTE and my company, which helped a lot with the tension of moving to a different country. Once I arrived, I was able to do all of the arrival bureaucracy in just one day. I had other experiences abroad and I have never seen so many things be resolved so quickly. I was impressed. The “Swiss efficiency” is not a myth.

It is true that this period was marked by the pandemic, which definitely made a negative impact in this experience, however, as the name pandemic already estates, it was (is) a worldwide problem and, all things considered, there is no other place in the world that I would rather be during all of this.

