



Another exchange year during pandemic times

We started the year 2021 quite optimistic at our annual conference which was held completely remotely for the first time in IAESTE history. Not being able to greet our friends in a personal way and only being able to wave to them via a screen took some time getting used to, but we all quickly adapted, and the conference turned out to be very successful. In fact, with over 750 participants worldwide (incl. guests & keynote speakers), this annual conference had the largest attendance ever.

After successfully exchanging our Swiss offers, we received a total of 104 internships for students studying at Swiss universities, an optimistic number considering the challenging year we had. Unfortunately, the global COVID situation took another turn for the worse and our exchanges, particularly the Outgoing, suffered a lot due to the ongoing worldwide restrictions. Borders to many countries remained closed and numerous universities decided early in the new year that they will stay closed to foreign students and interns during summer. Additionally, many IAESTE offices in Asia and America maintained limited operations.

In light of all these obstacles, we were very relieved to see the situation in Switzerland improve; governmental restrictions were moderate compared to many other countries and the Swiss economy remained strong and stable enough to allow internships to take place. We managed to raise our Incoming numbers, coming very close to 100 exchanges – 99 to be exact. Considering our Incoming team still struggles with travel restrictions and quarantines, we are very proud of this outcome.

We are indeed very happy that we managed to increase our exchange numbers with a total of 99 incoming students and 51 outgoing students, in comparison to 2020 (INC: 79; OUT: 28). We must point out nevertheless that we are still far away from the pre-pandemic numbers which were on average 120-130 students each year. Unfortunately, the visa service has not recovered as fast as we hoped either and, as it is a part of our work that we are unable to influence, we simply must accept the income loss in this area also.

Despite all these challenges, there remain many silver linings: success stories for example, from both our interns' and

employers' experiences, which we invite you to read about in this report. Or the arrival of new team members such as Katie Leishman who joined IAESTE Switzerland last year; Katie operates the Romandie office with much professionalism and is as passionate for our international organisation as the rest of us. We also welcome Hannah Riemann, who took over the position as Outgoing Exchange Coordinator in September 2021 from Ina Keilwerth, whom we warmly thank for her wonderful work during these hard times.

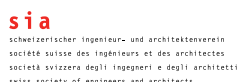
And last, but certainly not least, we are extremely fortunate and grateful about the support and understanding we receive from our partners and cooperating institutions. We are also happy to count on the ongoing funding of Hasler Stiftung for each Student from ICT study fields who we successfully send abroad. We are very thankful for these collaborations and look forward to further success in 2022.

Andreas Hugli,
President of IAESTE Switzerland

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Collaboration success story – O.Rochat Architectes sàrl

For IAESTE Switzerland, successful collaborations with employers make successful internships for our students. Our collaboration with the Lausanne-based architecture office, O. Rochat Architectes sàrl, is one of many successful IAESTE-employer relations. M. Rochat, the founder of the firm, reached out to us back in 2019 when he was struggling to find a suitable intern. His office was still young back then and it was difficult to attract students who were often applying to larger companies that had been established for longer. Recruiting through IAESTE was a good opportunity to reach students and present O. Rochat Architectes sàrl to them.

Though they eventually received some very interesting candidates outside of the IAESTE pool of students, M. Rochat was inspired by our vision and work. Having benefitted from an international experience himself, he fully grasps the advantages

both for the student and as an employer:

“It is not only a cultural immersion for the student who is discovering a new country, but it also creates a cultural diversity within the team, bringing new perspectives and ideas.”

This is an opinion we naturally strongly share as it is at the heart of what we do. For some employers, the prospect of visa procedures can seem daunting especially in addition to current travel restrictions, but at IAESTE we strive to make the process as smooth as possible, alleviating these hurdles. We aim to ensure employers reap the benefits of hiring international students without enduring the administrative hassles.

O. Rochat Architectes sàrl, which has grown significantly both in size and reputation, now receives many direct applications, but M. Rochat continues to recruit



Katie Leishman, responsible Suisse Romande visiting the architecture office.
F.I.t.r.: L. Bally, M. Rochat, intern Alina K. and Katie L.

through IAESTE to maintain the unique culture mix brought on by foreign students (and not to forget to support our exchange, giving a Swiss student the opportunity to go abroad also).

We have indeed had the chance to welcome two interns at O. Rochat since the start of the pandemic, Alina and Amani, and we look forward to continuing to support diversity at O. Rochat Architectes sàrl through our exchange programme in the future.

The ever-popular IAESTE internships at EMPA

Thanks to the top-notch research institute EMPA, we were very fortunate to have 16 IAESTE students accepted during the second challenging year of COVID. EMPA has always remained open for students from all different parts of the world despite the uncertainties and complications, such as postponements and quarantines, caused by the pandemic.

We are extremely grateful for their commitment. Everyone involved in the recruitment and supervision of IAESTE students should be proud that in the end not only students from EU/EFTA countries arrived, but also interns from Russia, Nigeria, Brazil, Argentina, India, Iran and UK. All of them very eager to gain practical experi-

ence in this renowned institute which conducts cutting-edge materials and technology research. Being part of a team that creates the necessary scientific basis to ensure a more sustainable future for us all is very gratifying to everyone.

On a sunny day in July, Gaby Hilperts-hauser, Incoming Exchange Coordinator, suggested meeting the interns for a sandwich lunch on one of EMPA's rooftops. Ten IAESTE students were able to join and enjoyed the time to network, exchange experiences, ask questions and even plan their next volleyball game and BBQ. It was also a great opportunity for us to learn about their experience at EMPA.



Sandwich lunchbreak on EMPA's rooftop terrace



Eslam, Tunisia, doing a dual degree in Sustainable Material engineering in Belgium and Italy

«An IAESTE internship in Zurich has far exceeded my expectations in terms of the variety of activities that could be done, the efficiency by which the system works and how beautiful Switzerland is. Regarding my workplace at EMPA, in my opinion, it is a living example of how being autonomous with proper guidance and communication can bring the best out of you, I couldn't ask for more. I am sincerely grateful for this experience that has helped me build up my knowledge and research expertise and helped me understand more what suits me and which routes to pursue in my future career. I am really grateful to IAESTE for making this happen.»



Ingibjörg, studying Chemical engineer in Iceland

«The environment for interns at EMPA is very pleasant and I think that this is the reason that it was easy for me to adjust to living here so quickly. I have been working on a few projects here for the past few months and I have gained a great deal of experience and above that I have had a lot of support from my supervisors who have been willing to give me responsibilities that have helped me grow in this field of research. My biggest highlight at work is being part of such a great team and seeing how I have advanced

The IAESTE Formula 1:1 = 2

The IAESTE exchange is always based on a reciprocal basis, which means when receiving students from a certain country we can send students abroad as well. This enabled Nosakhare from Nigeria doing an internship in Switzerland and Elias to go to Nigeria for his work experience.

NOSAKHARE DANIEL AHANOR, Nigeria,
Incoming intern at Institute of Interactive
Technologies (IIT), of FHNW in Windisch,
Switzerland



ELIAS HUBER, Switzerland,
Outgoing intern at Complete Computers
and Technology LTD, Benin City, Nigeria

Completing an internship abroad has improved my career as a software developer in ways I would not have imagined. Working with Professors and senior software developers has enormously increased both my theoretical and practical knowledge of software development.

In addition, having colleagues that are supportive and open minded has increased my confidence level, helping me to adapt quickly to Swiss values and work practices. In the process I have become a highly dependable, highly appreciated and well performing member of my team.

In terms of culture, Switzerland is very different in comparison to Nigeria especially with regards to time and food. Concerning the time, the Swiss are very time conscious, and I realized this as soon as I entered Switzerland, as my arrival schedule was strictly followed according to the time stated, as well as the effectiveness of the train service.

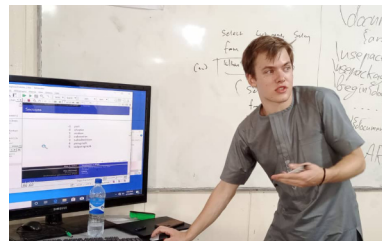
Swiss Food... hmmm... during my first weeks I missed the spicy Nigerian food but after I tasted fondue (a Swiss melted cheese dish) eaten with bread, I fell in love with it. I also fell in love with „Rahmspinat“. Once I cooked a Nigerian dish called Egusi for dinner, with assistance from my flatmate I was able to get the ingredients I needed for the meal. We had wonderful moments; we ate with our hands which is a kind of Nigerian local way of eating. To me this was a special moment as I felt at home.

Furthermore, I am quite fascinated about the German language, I often get along with locals as they are always willing to speak English with me, and this gave me the opportunity to pick up some German phrases along the way. Although I thought it was German at first, I later got to realize it was Swiss German.

I will say, during my stay in Switzerland, there was never a dull moment. I felt loved and welcomed. What I will miss the most about Switzerland apart from the food and its unpredictable weather, are wonderful colleagues, flatmates that later became family and of course my friends at IAESTE Switzerland. Danke!



Arriving in Lagos, Nigeria at the end of February felt like coming to a different world. As soon as I left the international airport, the pandemic which had dominated my last year and long loomed over my travel plans faded into the background while we made our way through the crazy traffic of this bustling megacity. A few hours of sometimes bumpy roads and many security checkpoints later, I was warmly welcomed in Benin-City, a large hub in the south of Nigeria with a rich history and culture. Here I would go



on to teach programming languages to local students at a company called Complete Computers and Technology.

No matter where in Benin-City I went, I was

met by outstanding hospitality. People were curious of where I came from and how I liked Nigeria and wanted to take pictures together. A few weeks after my arrival I had already seen multiple Nigerian birthday parties and weddings. There were also challenges in the beginning, like access to internet, rationed electricity supply and outages of water as well as safety concerns preventing me from going out and exploring on my own.

However, the local IAESTE committee and students were always there to help me along and show me how things work. Furthermore, experiencing just a glimpse of the challenges which many Nigerians face every day is eye-opening and makes one admire how the locals thrive despite these challenges and treat a spoiled foreign student like me with warmth instead of resentment.

For me, my IAESTE internship in Nigeria was a time of countless experiences that shaped the way I look at things. Nigeria is fascinating and indeed different to Switzerland in many ways, but after a few months there I also started to realize that there is a lot we have in common.



Mobility during Corona times

IAESTE exchange is still possible for Swiss outgoing students thanks to the great cooperation between IAESTE Switzerland and its university partners.



„Although the mobilities in 2020/21 have been strongly affected by the Corona crisis, IAESTE did its best taking advantage of the remaining opportunities. This meant increased flexibility on the part of students, IAESTE and employers to realize opportunities available. We would also like to thank the IAESTE team for their work on behalf of the students.“

Wolfgang Kickmaier
Head International Relations, School of Engineering, ZHAW

Student experience videos – scan and watch!



Tibor Döme interning at
Sepentrio, Leuven, Belgium



Elia Betschen interning at the
University of Bergen, Norway



Adelboden Sledding event organized by LC Basel

The main activities of the local committees of IAESTE Switzerland is to organize events, social gatherings or trips all over the country for the incoming trainees from abroad. As we could not organize a lot during pandemic times, we have been more than happy that the sledding day to Adelboden could take place. Luckily our chosen day for this trip was a beautiful and sunny Sunday. So, the brave IAESTE members woke up early to catch the train leaving Basel. They got treated with a scenic train ride to Frutigen, a bus then took them all the way up to Adelboden in the canton of Bern.

After a brief walk along the snowy village and a five-minute cable car ride, we reached Tschenten Alp at 1960 m above sea level. 14 km of perfectly groomed slopes awaited us greenhorns with our old "Davoser" sleds. But before that, a twenty-minute hike separated us from the mountain top, where paragliders prepared to take off.

We all had to concur that Schwanfeldspitz (2025 m) was a beautiful mountain top, especially for our group picture. Thanks to the wonderful weather we were able to enjoy our lunch break outside in the sun, using our sledges as benches. In small groups we sledded down the many different runs to Möser several times and went back up with the chairlift. There were always spectacular falls into the soft snow and especially wet gloves and shoes. A gigantic swing and the open bar made it easy for the not-so-ambitious sledders to wait for the fired-up ones.

In the late afternoon, a few of us took the colourful cable car back to Adelboden. The rest took the approximately 30 minutes long, deserted, and beautiful hiking-/ sledding route down towards Ausserschwand, a village next to Adelboden. Here we caught a bus that took us to the popular and only shopping street in Adelboden where we met up with the others. After a visit to one of the best bakeries in Switzerland, we could proudly call it a day. Happy and sun kissed, we returned to Basel.



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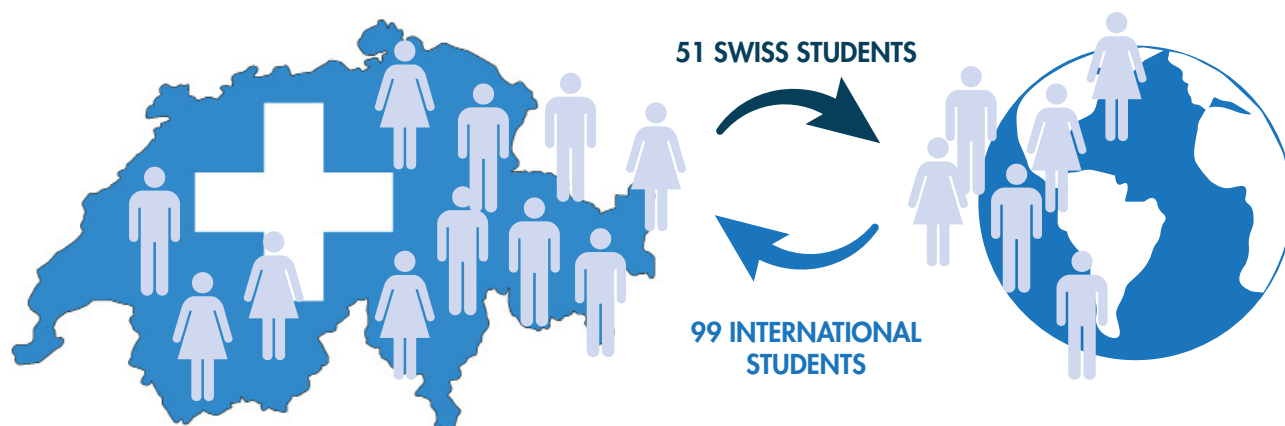
Exchange Figures 2021

IN: 99

2020: 79

OUT: 51

2020: 28



Countries

Students sent & received

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0
Argentina	2	4	0	4
Australia	0	3	0	1
Austria	3	1	1	4
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0	1
Belgium	1	2	1	2
Bolivia	1	3	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	1	0
Brazil	0	4	1	5
Canada	0	3	0	1
Chile	1	0	0	0
China incl. HK & MO	1	0	0	0
Colombia	1	1	0	0
Croatia	1	0	1	1
Cyprus	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	3	3	0
Denmark	0	0	0	1
Ecuador	0	3	2	2
Egypt	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	2
Gambia	0	0	0	0
Germany	3	4	3	6
Ghana	0	1	0	1
Greece	0	4	0	8
Hungary	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0	1	0	0
India	0	3	0	5
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Iran	0	0	2	2
Iraq	0	0	0	0

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0
Japan	3	0	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Kenya	0	0	1	1
Korea, DPRK	0	0	0	0
Korea, Republic of	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0
Malta	1	0	3	2
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Nepal	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	1	2	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	3	2
North Macedonia	0	0	0	1
Norway	1	1	3	1
Oman	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	1	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	0
Poland	1	0	3	4
Portugal	0	1	2	3
Qatar	0	0	0	0

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Romania	0	2	0	0
Russia	0	0	1	2
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	0	0	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	2
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	0	0	0
Spain	2	2	8	5
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	4	1	2
Syria	0	0	0	0
Tajikistan	1	1	0	1
Tanzania	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	2	1
Turkey	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	2	0	0
United Arab Emirates	0	1	3	0
United Kingdom	0	8	1	6
United States	3	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	0	0	0	0
Yemen	0	0	0	0
Non-Member Country	0	4	0	0
TOTAL	28	79	51	99

Study Fields

Students sent & received

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Aeronautical Engineering	1	0	1	0
Agriculture	0	3	0	7
Architecture	0	10	0	15
Biochemistry	1	0	3	0
Bioengineering	0	1	0	4
Biology	2	2	4	2
Biomedical Science	1	0	3	1
Biotechnology	0	0	0	1
Chemical Engineering	1	9	0	12
Chemistry	0	6	5	5
Civil Engineering	1	1	1	0
Computer Science	3	20	4	17

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Economics & Managem.	1	1	0	3
Electrical Engineering	6	4	3	9
Energy Engineering	0	0	0	0
Electronics	0	1	0	1
Environmental Engineer.	1	1	0	0
Environmental Science	0	0	4	3
Food Tech./Science	2	2	2	1
Forestry	0	0	0	0
Geography	0	0	0	0
Geology/Geoscience	0	1	2	1
Health Sci. & Technology	0	0	4	0
Industrial Engineering	0	3	1	2
Material Science	0	0	1	2

	2020		2021	
	sent	received	sent	received
Mathematics	0	0	4	0
Mechanical Engineering	5	8	5	7
Media and Marketing	0	0	0	0
Mechatronics	0	2	0	2
Microbiology	0	0	0	0
Nanoscience	0	0	1	0
Pharmaceutical Studies	0	0	0	0
Physics	3	3	2	2
Power Engineering	0	0	0	1
Process Engineering	0	1	0	0
Telecommunications	0	0	0	1
Other	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	28	79	51	99

Swiss Employers offering Internships in 2021

A A.I.A. GmbH Zurich
ABB Schweiz AG Turgi
Agroscope Zurich/Nyon
atelier ww Architekten SIA AG Zurich
Attolight Lausanne
Atus AG Neerach

B Bachema AG Schlieren
BFH – University of applied Science Berne,
Engineering and Information Technology Burgdorf
BFH – Photovoltaik Laboratory Burgdorf
Biognosys AG Schlieren
Burckhardt+Partner AG
Basel/Berne/Lausanne/Zurich

C CAScination AG Berne
CERN Geneva
Creoptix AG Wädenswil
CyQuant AG Zurich

D digitalSTROM AG Schlieren

E Embotech GmbH Zurich
Empa – Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials
Science and Technology Dübendorf/St. Gallen
EPFL – École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,
Laboratory of Construction Materials Lausanne
Ericsson AG Berne
ETHZ – Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule
Zürich, Institute of Energy and Process Engineering
Zurich
ETHZ, Institute
of Agricultural Sciences, Crop Science
Lindau-Eschikon
ETHZ, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Grassland
Sciences Zurich
ETHZ, Institute for integrative Biology Zurich

F FAIRTIQ AG Berne
FHNW – University of Applied Sciences
Northwestern Switzerland, Institute of Polymer
Engineering Brugg-Windisch
FHNW, Institute for Data Science Brugg-Windisch
FHNW, Institute for Interactive Technologies
Brugg-Windisch
FKH Fachkommission für Hochspannungsfragen
Zurich-Oerlikon

G Geoprofile GmbH Adligenswil
Greenfish St. Gallen

H HEIG - Haute École d'Ingénierie et de Gestion,
Institut for Information and Communication
Technology Yverdon-les-Bains
HHF Architects Basel
Hitachi Energy Ltd Baden-Daetwil
Hochstrasser Glaus & Partner Cons. AG Zurich

I intelliCard Solutions AG Rapperswil-Jona

J Julien Dubois Architects SA La Chaux-de-Fonds

K Kardex Remstar Zurich
Kunz Architekten AG Basel

L Leclanché SA Yverdon-les-Bains
Lichtkompetenz GmbH Zurich
Loepfe Brothers Ltd. Wetzikon
Lumiphase AG Kilchberg

M matti ragaz hitz architekten ag Liebfeld-Berne
Maurus Schifferli Landschaftsarchitekten AG
Berne
Mercury Mission Systems International SA
Geneva
moser wegenstein architekten ag Zurich
Mungo Befestigungstechnik AG Olten
mvt architectes Geneva

N Novartis Pharma AG Basel

O O. Rochat Architectes sàrl Lausanne
OST - Eastern Switzerland University of Applied
Sciences, Institut for Microtechnology and
Photonics Buchs

P PSI - Paul Scherrer Institut Villigen

Q QualySense AG Glattbrugg

R Rapp Architekten AG Muenchenstein
ROSTA AG Hunzenschwil

S Schaublin Architekten AG Zurich
Siloxene AG Wetzikon
Société des Produits Nestlé SA Konolfingen/Orbe
Stücheli Architekten AG Zurich
SYNICS AG Regensdorf

T TreaTech Sàrl Lausanne

U u-blox AG Thalwil
University of Basel, Biocenter Basel
University of Berne, ARTORG Center for
Biomedical Engineering Berne
University Hospital Zurich, Institut of
Pathology and Molecular Pathology Zurich
University Hospital Berne, Department
Neurosurgery Berne

Z ZHAW – Zurich University of Applied
Sciences, Institute of Energy Systems
and Fluid Engineering Winterthur
ZHAW, Institute of Computational Physics
Winterthur
ZHAW, Institute of Mechatronic Systems
Winterthur
ZHAW, Institute of Applied Information
Technology Winterthur
ZHAW, Centre for Product and Process
Development Winterthur
Zulauf AG Schinznach-Dorf
Zweifel Pomy-Chips AG Spreitenbach

3Brain AG, Wädenswil



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