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Najeeb Aqel, Palestine
Internet at PXL Vision, Zurich, Switzerland
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I have already secured two internship positions in both Belgium and Australia, with high-tech companies working in the field of Computer Vision, but one of my professors convinced me to apply with IAESTE as well, just a backup plan, it ended up being the master plan.

After I had been searching at the IAESTE Platform for something that would suit my skills, an ad in the field of Computer Vision caught my attention. It was a young ETH-spinoff start-up called PXL-Vision based in Switzerland. I started doing my own research around the company and its products. I was drawn into their Digital Identity product at the time, its main purpose is to verify and authenticate user's identity through its pipeline of machine-learning based products such as Face Verification and Liveness Detection. Three months later I found myself in the city of Zurich.

Definitely leaving my home country and living abroad was really appealing for me, I had the chance to live abroad for a while but never got the chance to live in the same place for more than a whole year away from my family and friends, though it ended up being one of the most life-changing experiences.



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It's really interesting for me to learn about other cultures, and definitely living in Switzerland had been a great opportunity to learn about the Swiss culture, the Swiss alps, fondue, chocolate and cheese it's all interesting. Probably these are the things that first come to your mind when you think about Switzerland, but for me, I got to learn about different aspects of the Swiss culture, how humble and simple people are, yet reliable, independent and very practical. People in Switzerland are always active, even in big cities, on weekends people do lots of sports such as hiking and skiing.

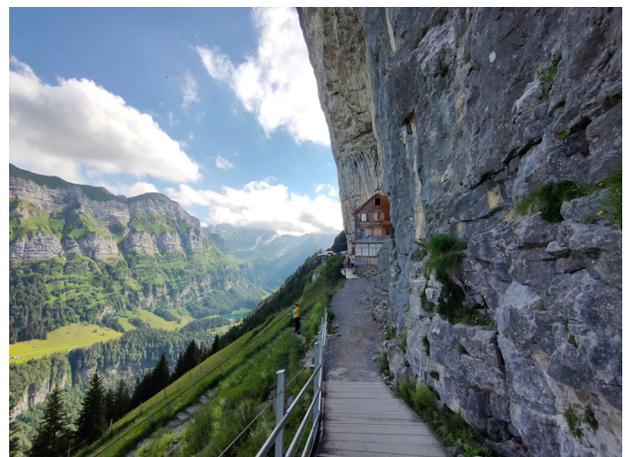
Coming to Switzerland and joining PXL, was one of the most fruitful decisions I made. It taught me a lot, especially when it comes to critical and design thinking. At PXL I was always encouraged to think big and ahead, not be afraid of mistakes, and always get out of my comfort zone, yet always appreciate others and help them unleash their potentials.

Being with an ambitious team definitely changed the way I think about problems/challenges, that almost anything can be doable, you need to immerse yourself in the process and take one step at a time, yet get things done.

My time in Switzerland wasn't all about work, I was lucky that the company's office was a couple of minutes away from the beautiful Lake of Zurich, me and my colleagues took this opportunity to go swimming and running by the lake at lunchtime, it was a very nice refresh in the middle of the day.

Plus being in Switzerland you are surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, and it's a great opportunity to go hiking/ skiing. The public transportation is extremely reliable within hours from the main station you can reach many hiking destinations.

I also enjoyed all the business trips that I had for work, I traveled with my company to Athens and had the chance to meet all of our partners from different countries, also attending



conferences such as the Swiss Cyber Security days and Tech Crunch in Berlin.

Four months into my internship I have been offered a full-time position as a Core Tech Engineer at PXL Vision. By end of my time in Switzerland, I ended up moving to Germany to join the company's office in Berlin. It's exciting to see how my company grew up, I still remember the



small office we had at the beginning, it barely fit 10 people in it. Now we are a team of more than 60 people, spread across 4 different countries.

During this journey, IAESTE has been there for me, helping me to find a place in Zurich, picking me up from the airport, showing me the city, the community it offered, for all of this I'm always grateful.

PXL Vision Team





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