

My personal experience

My name is Ioanna Makri and I come from Athens, Greece. I graduated last year 2020 from the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Agricultural University of Athens. I first came to Zurich, Switzerland, in April 2019 as an intern. I applied for a position via IAESTE Greece at a start-up company and so I was given the opportunity to work in Switzerland.

Theoretical knowledge, patience and diligence have been the key factors that have enhanced my performance. I am proud of myself as I have managed to adjust and perform successfully in the tasks I have been assigned. I was also lucky to meet Pascal was my first employee at the start-up company whom I always remember as a friend and colleague; helping me to overcome the difficulties, we had to face and my lack of experience. He stood by me and encouraged me even when the situation was out of control. I want to believe that Pascal has also created a pleasant picture of our cooperation and me.



Gaby, my contact from IAESTE Switzerland has been of great help as she managed to find a new position available during Corona quarantine at a much bigger company this time. Since May 2020 I have been working at Zweifel Pomy Chips and I have already signed a new contract with them as a lab assistant.



Of course, the first months of my stay were difficult as I had to adjust to a new way of life, a different culture but eventually I got to grips with this new environment that I now consider to be my second home. We Greeks have a different mentality, which Swiss might find extreme in some ways, but I have not encountered any serious cultural barriers. I miss my home, my family and friends; however, I have opened the door to other people and new experiences.

I really appreciate all the support and trust IAESTE Switzerland has shown to my person. After 2 years, I feel accomplished and satisfied not only with the experience I got from my work but also from a more personal aspect, as I have met so many interesting people and been to so many wonderful places... and that I owe to IAESTE Switzerland!!

