



IAESTE  
SWITZERLAND

# Annual Report 2022

## Getting back on the right track

...would be for sure the sentence which describes the past exchange year 2022 at its best. After two years heavily impacted by the Corona pandemic, we are finally heading back in the right direction. Although our exchange count is still not at the same level as before, we are pleased to see a rise in our numbers in both incoming (113 compared to 99 in 2021) and outgoing (70 compared to 51 in 2021).

This positive trend could already be felt at our Annual Conference in January, which took place in a hybrid format in Vienna, Austria. Even though it was quite challenging to manage the exchange partly in person, partly online, we were excited to participate onsite, meeting with old friends, making new ones and discussing the further development of our international association.

The considerable disparity between our exchange numbers (incoming vs. outgoing) is primarily due to the lingering instability of many of our partner countries' economy, where Covid is still interrupting daily business and making internships difficult to realize.

In addition to there being a limited number of available internships for our Swiss students, they have further obstacles to

overcome associated to our own education system. For many students it is becoming increasingly difficult to integrate an internship in their study programme. There are various reasons for this, for example: their exam periods often fall during the summer, or their study plans are inflexible which limits time available to intern, or when they are willing to suspend their studies to accommodate an internship semester, they are not granted permission to do so.

As a result, many students are simply not able to do long-term internships to gain real work experience. These issues have come to the attention of our cooperating universities who are keen to find solutions with us. We therefore remain confident that together we can find ways to support students and continue to make IAESTE internships available to them.

In conjunction to collaborating with our partner institutions, we decided to increase our marketing efforts to better promote our programme. With the support of a temporary position, who also managed our social media channels, we created several marketing videos which we invite you to discover on our YouTube channel!

Furthermore, we joined the advisory committee of Engineers' Day, a new event project to promote engineering disciplines

within Switzerland. This committee includes several IAESTE partners such as SATW, Swiss Engineering and SIA; IAESTE is represented by our managing director, Sabine Lenz. Switzerland is currently lacking close to 50'000 engineers; we hope this event and the support group will help draw more Swiss students to this industry and its disciplines and contribute to fulfilling the country's labour needs.

There are many challenges to overcome post-Covid, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have indeed weathered the pandemic and our programme perseveres thanks to our partners', cooperating institutions' and employers' continued commitment and efforts.

Andreas Hugli,  
President of IAESTE Switzerland



Team IAESTE Switzerland

### PREMIUM PARTNERS



ETH-Rat  
Conseil des EPF  
ETH-Board

Zürcher Hochschule  
für Angewandte Wissenschaften



### PARTNERS



sia  
schweizerischer Ingenieur- und Architektenverein  
société suisse des ingénieurs et des architectes  
società svizzera degli ingegneri e degli architetti  
swiss society of engineers and architects



### SUPPORTED BY





# How Greenfish introduces English as their working language



Ashley Ha from Vietnam, Greenfish's new IAESTE trainee

"It is said that 'languages open the world for you'. True to this saying we decided a few years ago to open the world for a Canadian intern and welcome them to our team. Although we are mainly German speaking in our production, we saw the arrival of an English-speaking colleague as an opportunity. At the beginning, this was of course a challenge for some of our employees and made communication a bit difficult. However, we quickly realized that we were more adaptable and learned faster than we thought we could."

At the end of the 6-month internship, the conclusion of everyone involved was clear: language should not be a limiting criterion for hiring an intern. On the contrary, we all, our intern and the whole team, were able to develop not only professionally, but also linguistically."

Themmy VanDingenen, COO of Greenfish

Greenfish has recently welcomed another IAESTE intern: Ashley Ha from Vietnam started her internship in September 2022.

## "Hosting incoming students has become my lifestyle"

Nadia is a valued landlady at IAESTE. She grew up in New York, was an exchange student herself in Europe, and now she welcomes the world at her home in Winterthur. Nadia is a very social person and loves having the chance to share her spacious apartment and have it filled with the young spirit of students from all over the world. Nadia's philosophy would be summarized as: „Hosting incoming students has become my lifestyle, my destiny. I cherish the lasting happiness it brings to my heart and the fond memories created with the students."

We are continuously seeking kind, open-minded landlords/ladies like Nadia who would be eager to welcome our students and offer them a room. In addition to charging a small leasing fee, renting with IAESTE gives the opportunity to meet people from different cultures and contribute to our programme which provides a life-changing experience to young people.

**If you would be interested in becoming an IAESTE landlord/lady, please contact us at [info@iaeste.ch](mailto:info@iaeste.ch)**



Gaby visiting Nadia and two of her IAESTE tenants, Lorna and Divyanshu

## Introducing one of IAESTE's new employers: Rosta

Rosta is the world leading manufacturer of rubber spring and damping systems. Like IAESTE Switzerland, they have over 75 years of experience and a global network with seven subsidiaries across the globe and partners in over thirty countries.

At the end of 2021, they welcomed their first IAESTE intern from Greece. This spring two more interns, Felix from Germany and Faith from Kenya, started a placement with them:

Felix is a Master student in mechanical engineering. His placement involved documenting working instructions in the production department as well as documenting steps for quality control. After this 3-month internship, he is now writing his Master thesis with ROSTA. He appreciates having the ability to

work independently on his projects and that his opinions and observations are acknowledged and appreciated. The work environment is extremely pleasant,

his colleagues are caring, he has his own workplace and the hours are flexible, "it couldn't be better" he says.

For Faith, a Bachelor student in electrical engineering from Kenya, it is her first time abroad. She is interning in the digital product development of ROSTA, a challenging field for someone with an electrical engineering background. In the first months, she has had the chance to discover the business side of ROSTA, learning about customers' needs in relation to sensors and AI-analysis technology. Faith is a very social person and is therefore fascinated with this customer-oriented role. Like Felix, she is also tasked with documentation, which is new for her and something she had not yet discovered in previous internships. In the next phases of her placement, Faith will be managing more mechanical tasks which will rely on her technical skills.



Faith from Kenya and Felix from Germany at Rosta

# 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 Krzysztof Ragan from Poland doing an internship in Switzerland and Paula Zwicky to go to Poland for her work experience.

KRZYSZTOF RAGAN, Poland,  
**Incoming intern** at FLARM Technology AG  
Zug, Switzerland



PAULA ZWICKY, Switzerland,  
**Outgoing intern** at Medical University of Łódź  
Łódź, Poland

My internship takes place at FLARM Technology AG. Since the company was founded, it has provided over 50 000 traffic collision avoidance system devices. The avoidance system devices are developed for manned as well as unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) and is well known among pilots in Europe and the USA. Despite such high sales numbers there are only five employees in the office. The company also constantly develops and produces new devices in the market which is impressive.

One of the new developments is building an app to compare obstacle databases, which I am working on. It involves the full process of projecting an app; from introduction to the problem, planning the app structure, creating an algorithm and implementing it in the code, testing the script and making changes to the code, until finishing the project to the stage of a final product. All those steps of creating an application, that is later going to be used by the company to compare obstacle databases, is very interesting and I am gaining a lot of experience from being a part of that project.

My second task is to assemble and test UAV devices. Assembling products to the final version which is ready to be used by the customers is a very satisfying process. There are already devices in use which I made.

In my free time I am enjoying the amazing views nature has to offer in Switzerland. I am taking part in weekend activities organized by IAESTE: river-rafting in Interlaken and have celebrated Swiss national day on 1st August in Basel with beautiful fireworks. I have met amazing and cheerful people from all around the world and I am sure that we will stay in touch even after the end of my internship. Applying through and doing my internship with IAESTE in Switzerland was a great decision. Not only am I developing my technical skills and gaining a lot of experience, I am also discovering a new country with other international interns and making new friends.

Going to Poland for my summer internship was a great change of scene for me. For two months I dived into a completely new environment with people and places I've never seen before – exactly what I was seeking to do.

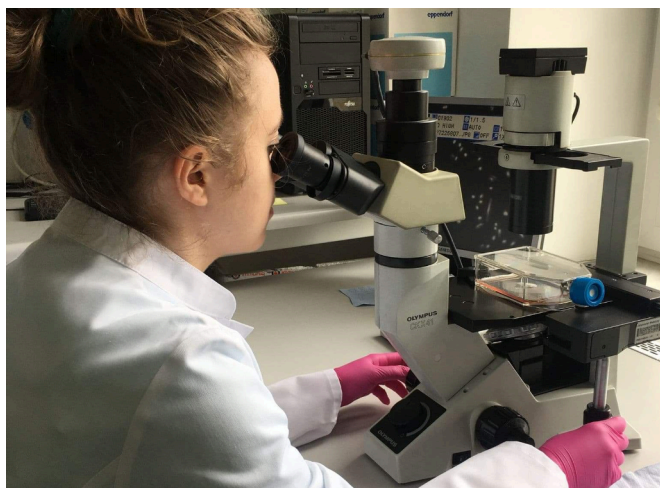
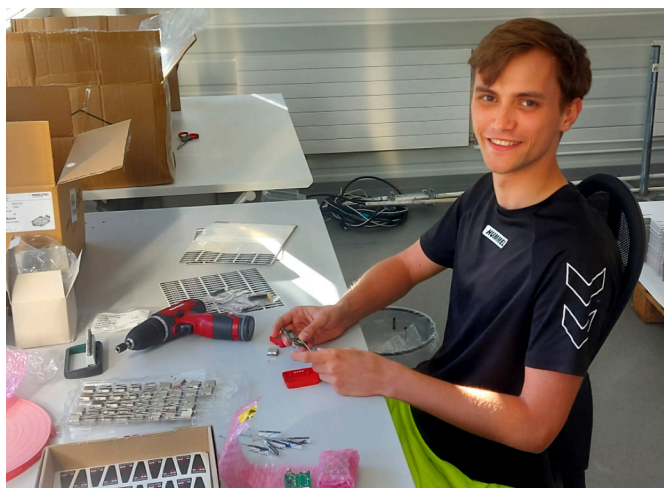
When I arrived on a Sunday afternoon, I was picked up by a girl from the Local Committee of Łódź, a city in the middle of Poland where I completed my internship. We spent the whole evening together, talking and having dinner before she helped me to get to my accommodation. On the next morning I found my way to the Department of Cell Cultures and Genomic Analysis for the first time. During the next two months I was going to investigate the effect of the mycotoxin ZEA on the differentiation of osteoblasts through estrogen receptors. I got quickly integrated into the research team and luckily had a peer who was a local medical student, working together with me on the same research project.

In contrast to the research work I was completing during the week, my free time was filled with picnics or volleyball matches with the Local Committee members and other interns.

Several times a week we were also enjoying the huge program of outdoor cinema movies which were played in different locations of the city or the surrounding parks during the warm evenings.

Every weekend we were discovering a different Polish city together. We went on a road trip to Gdańsk, where we jumped into the sea and where I attended my first big party after almost two years. We also saw the famous cities of Wrocław, Poznań or Kraków. I ended my internship with the international Warsaw Weekend, where besides discovering the capital city of Warszawa, I met interns and committees from the whole country.

It was definitely an unforgettable experience. I would recommend everyone to do an IAESTE internship. Not only does it provide interesting work opportunities, but also the possibility of meeting new people and discovering a different country.





# Local Committees: Reconnecting in the real world

As the pandemic also took its toll on Local Committee (LC) activities in the past two years, we were very excited to finally have the usual weekend and day events back. Incoming students and our volunteers explored Switzerland through adventures, such as our white-water rafting, Ticino weekend and Jura trip. In addition, weekly meetings brought back the social life we have all missed the last years.

2022 also marked the return of international conferences and weekends, where IAESTE members from all over the world come together to have a great time and learn from each other.

The Connect Conference for example was held in April near Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain) and was attended by around 50 participants from the Connect Region.



The many workshops at this event allowed all the attending IAESTE members to share experiences, struggles and solutions.

Another traditional IAESTE event is the Central European Conference, or CEC for short. It is held twice annually and attracts around 150 members each time. The first full edition since the pandemic happened this May in a castle close to Pilsen, Czech Republic. The Saturday was full of workshops, one of which was hosted by the president of LC Zürich, Michael. His workshop, titled "How to prepare for Big Tech interviews" aimed to help people prepare for interviews at Big Tech companies such as Google, Facebook and Amazon. The first part consisted of examples and exercises for behavioural interviews where people talk about their past experiences in a systematic way. In the second part the workshop focused on technical interviews, specifically coding questions where applicants have to program live in front of an interviewer. The CEC finished with a classic international evening where people share food and drinks from their home country. Two members from our LCs joined and six more are planning to join the next conference in October. This year showed that the international spirit of IAESTE is still going strong.

Michael hosting his workshop  
"How to prepare for Big Tech interviews"

## Strengthening our collaboration with OST

Our outgoing numbers have increased from 28 in 2020, to 51 in 2021 and finally to 70 in 2022, which is an undeniable upward trend. However, we are still some ways away from our pre-covid figures. While many aspects, such as the internships offered and travel/work restrictions abroad are out of our hands, we are not deterred and are motivated to work harder in developing what we can control. We are focusing on student raising, solidifying our collaborations with universities, and reviving those which have been latent over the past years due to personnel changes or reorganization.

One such example is our collaboration with the Ostschweizer Fachhochschule (OST). OST was in the midst of a school-wide reorganization over the past two years. Having now settled into their new structure, it was a good time to meet the new International Office team and renew our collaboration. We therefore recently met at the OST in Rapperswil and discussed ways to build awareness of IAESTE among the student body. We plan to take part in their international fair this November and hold an information session in February.

The OST is not only a great partner, with a motivated team that has their students' best interests at heart, but it is also an internationally open-minded institution that is currently hosting two IAESTE incoming students, Stavros from Greece and Eloi from Spain. Both interns are at the Buchs Campus and we were kindly invited to meet with one of them and his team.

Just as with the International Office, we were welcomed with open arms and once again impressed by the international spirit of the team which included members from all over the world.

The professors as well as the intern pointed out how they appreciated learning from and with each other and expanding their horizons together in true IAESTE spirit.

We are looking forward to further developing our collaboration this year and to sending many OST students abroad in the future.



Sabine & Hannah visiting the International office team from OST



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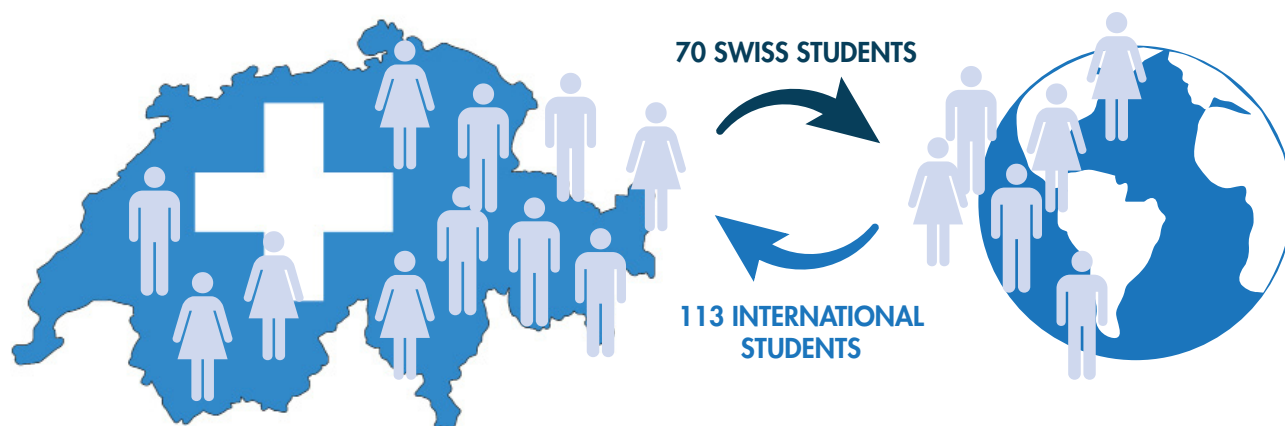
# Exchange Figures 2022

**IN: 113**

2021: 99

**OUT: 70**

2021: 51



## Countries

Students sent & received

	2021		2022	
	sent	received	sent	received
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0
Argentina	0	4	2	3
Australia	0	1	0	0
Austria	1	4	0	7
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	1	0	0
Belgium	1	2	1	4
Bolivia	2	2	2	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	1	0
Botswana	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	5	7	6
Canada	0	1	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0
China incl. HK & MO	0	0	0	0
Colombia	0	0	2	2
Croatia	1	1	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	3	0	3	3
Ecuador	2	2	1	3
Egypt	0	0	0	0
France	0	2	0	3
Gambia	0	0	0	0
Germany	6	7	2	11
Ghana	0	1	1	0
Greece	0	8	2	9
Hungary	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0	0	0	0
India	0	5	5	2
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Iran	2	2	1	2
Iraq	0	0	0	0

	2021		2022	
	sent	received	sent	received
Jamaica	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	1	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	0
Kazakhstan	1	1	0	0
Kenya	1	1	5	6
Korea, Republic of	0	0	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0
Malta	3	2	2	2
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	3	2	0	2
North Macedonia	0	1	1	1
Norway	3	1	4	1
Oman	0	0	1	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	0
Poland	4	11	2	11
Portugal	2	3	3	4
Qatar	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	1
Russia	1	2	0	0
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	0	2	1	2
Slovenia	0	1	1	0

	2021		2022	
	sent	received	sent	received
Spain	5	9	3	6
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	1
Sweden	1	2	1	2
Syria	0	0	0	0
Tajikistan	0	1	2	1
Tanzania	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	2	1	4	2
Turkey	1	1	1	1
Uganda	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	2	0	0
United Arab Emirates	3	0	4	2
United Kingdom	1	6	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	0	0	1	2
Yemen	0	0	0	0
Non-Member Country	0	0	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>113</b>

## Top countries

### Out

Students sent

**1** Brazil

**2** India, Kenya

**3** UAE,  
Norway,  
Tunisia

### IN

Students received

**1** Germany,  
Poland

**2** Greece

**3** Austria

## Top Study Fields 2022

Students sent & received

IN



**22** Computer Science



**15** Electrical Engineering



**13** Mechanical Engineering



**13** Chemical Engineering / Chemistry



**12** Architecture

OUT



**14** Mechanical Engineering



**6** Health Science and Technology



**6** Food Technology



**6** Chemical Engineering / Chemistry



**5** Computer Science

## Exchange by gender 2022

Students sent & received



IN  
**49 %**  
MALE

OUT  
**58 %**  
MALE



IN  
**51 %**  
FEMALE

OUT  
**42 %**  
FEMALE

## Swiss Employers offering Internships in 2022

**A** ABB Schweiz AG Turgi  
ADDAX / Oryx Energy Geneva  
A.I.A. GmbH Zurich  
Agroscope Zurich / Nyon  
ARTORG AG Berne  
atelier ww Architekten SIA AG Zurich  
Atus AG Neerach  
Avantama Stäfa

**B** Bachema AG Schlieren  
BFH - Berner Fachhochschule, Engineering and Information Technology Burgdorf  
BFH, Robotics & Automation Burgdorf  
BFH, Institute for print technologies Burgdorf  
Biognosys AG Schlieren  
Burkhardt+Partner AG  
Basel / Berne / Lausanne / Zurich

**C** Caprez Ingenieure AG Chur  
CAscination AG Berne  
CERN Geneva  
Cordenpharma Liestal  
CORPUS architecture urbanisme Geneva  
Creoptix AG Wädenswil

**D** Datahouse Zurich  
digitalSTROM AG Schlieren

**E** Empa - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology Duebendorf / St. Gallen  
Ericsson AG Berne  
ETH Zurich - Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Institute of Energy and Process Engineering Zurich  
ETH, Institute of Agricultural Sciences Zurich / Lindau-Eschikon  
ETH, Institute for integrative Biology Zurich  
ETH, Department of Humanities, Social Networks Zurich  
Evatec AG Truebbach

**F** FAIRTIQ AG Berne  
FHNW - Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Institute of Polymer Engineering  
Brugg-Windisch  
FHNW, Institute for Interactive Technologies  
Brugg-Windisch  
FHNW, Institute for Data Science  
Brugg-Windisch  
FKH Fachkommission für Hochspannungsfragen  
Zurich-Oerlikon

**G** Geoprofile GmbH Adligenswil  
Greenfish St. Gallen

**H** HEIG - Haute Ecole d'Ingenierie et de Gestion, Institut for Information and Communication Technology Yverdon-les-Bains  
HHF Architects Basel  
Hitachi Energy Ltd Baden-Daetwil  
Hochstrasser Glaus & Partner Consulting AG Zurich  
Hombrechtikon Systems Engineering AG

**I** Inficon AG Balzers, LI  
intelliCard Solutions AG Rapperswil, Jona  
lonair Lucerne

**J** Julien Dubois Architectes 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  
Luca Selva AG Basel  
Lumiphase AG Kilchberg

**M** Maurus Schifferli Landschaftsarchitekten AG Berne  
Meister Abrasives AG Andelfingen

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

**P** PSI - Paul Scherrer Institut Villigen

**Q** QualySense AG Glattbrugg

**R** Rapp Architekten AG Muenchenstein  
REFCO Manufacturing Ltd Hitzkirch  
Reichel Architekten GmbH Zurich  
ROSTA AG Hunzenschwil

**S** Schäublin Architekten AG Zurich  
Schenkel Vermessungen AG Zurich  
SHL Medical Zug/Taiwan  
Siloxene AG Brüttisellen  
Société des Produits Nestlé SA  
Konolfingen / Orbe  
Solcept AG Wetzikon  
Stücheli Architekten AG Zurich  
Supertext AG Zurich  
Swissgrid AG Aarau  
SYNICS AG Regensdorf

**T** Terraview GmbH Winterthur  
TreaTech Sàrl Lausanne

**U** u-blox AG Thalwil

**W** Waldhauser + Hermann AG Muenchenstein

**Z** ZHAW - Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Institute of Energy Systems and Fluid Engineering Winterthur  
ZHAW, Institute of Computational Physics Winterthur  
ZHAW, Centre for Artificial Intelligence 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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