

Francisco Simore, Argentina

Intern at HEIG-VD, Yverdon, Vaud, Switzerland



During my studies, and especially in the last part of my degree, the experience of doing research or an exchange in another country got more and more attractive over time. Along with this sentiment, I've always wanted to go to Switzerland given that I've always been fascinated with its landscapes and organization and that the little town where I live in Argentina has strong ties with Switzerland because of past immigration.

Luckily, my university takes part into the IAESTE program, this allowed me to get chosen as a participant and to contact different IAESTE organizations of some countries, like Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and so on. It was IAESTE Switzerland which replied to me with the most interest and kindness and that completely called my attention.

After some back and forward with the Swiss and Argentinian IAESTE and the evaluation from my soon to be supervisor, I finally received the notice that I was accepted! From the moment of my acceptance a lot of paperwork and miscellaneous preparations needed to be done. Obviously, the most important part of said preparation was all the documentation and procedure that I needed to do for the obtainment of a work permit in Switzerland. Katie, from IAESTE, was of complete help regarding the latter and we were constantly in touch during the whole process. She helped me mainly on the paperwork necessary for my arrival which was a completely tiring and long process which I couldn't have been possible without her help! She made sure that I have everything in-check like flights, insurance, accommodation, and she was available for any questions or doubts.

After a long 2-month process of paperwork with the Swiss Embassy in Argentina I finally got my visa approved!

The project in which I took part during my internship was about the location of health resources. My collaboration was related mainly to the development of the mathematical models for the location of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stations and ambulances. I had a lot of freedom in how I wanted to face the problem and which tools I was able to use.

I had the luck to work with a diverse and talented group of researchers which showed great skill in their respective domains. Dr. Stephan Robert-Nicoud was my supervisor and mentor for the internship in which he helped me with tracking my progress and trying to face the problem in the best way possible.



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During my stay I managed to meet people from all over the world thanks to living in a FMEL Residence. I made a lot of friends in which I'm still in contact with after finishing my internship. We were constantly going to the lake and participating in different events and going out whenever it was possible. I was able to tour around the main Swiss cities (Lausanne, Genève, Bern, Zurich, Interlaken, Basel, and so on) and to smaller towns with the aim of sightseeing beautiful landscapes.



This experience was extremely rewarding not only in the work-related aspect (skills, research, learning) but also in a kind of “personal” aspect. All the people I've met will be, for sure, part of my future life and we'll remain in touch as much as possible. Getting to know different cultures, traditions, and every other aspect of a country was extremely interesting. We weren't afraid of talking about politics, traditions, opinions, and so on, this made possible to really get to know each other and our countries.

Having the opportunity to work in such an amazing environment as HEIG-VD will impact my future career in a positive way. Getting to work with and learn from such talented people and having the possibility of doing high-impact research is not something that is commonly done! This will impact greatly in my future job searches. I am extremely grateful to all the people that helped me during this experience and to all of who I met during my stay.

Je vous suis tr`es reconnaissant... Merci pour tout!

Francisco Simore