

IAESTE internship Manipal India, September – November 2022

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Experience of being abroad

The internship had a very positive impact on my personal development. By getting out of the day-to-day routine, getting to know new people and a new culture I could get a whole new perspective on life. Here in Switzerland, I am mostly hanging out with people who share my opinion on most things simply because we come from a similar background. So, it was truly refreshing to get to know and discuss a variety of other views on life and I think, I learned a lot about myself by that.

Work

Compared to Switzerland the work was slower and you couldn't expect things to work out as planned because often the equipment was not available, didn't work or was an older version of the one that I was used to. Also, because most research equipment and software are sold in US dollars it is excessively expensive for Indian researchers due to the currency exchange. From this I learned that research in Switzerland/Europe is very privileged, and it takes so much more effort to produce high quality research if you don't have access to the modern equipment and software.

Cultural differences

The most special food I had is a dessert called falooda. This very sweet and filling "drink" usually contained noodles, rose syrup, sweet basil seeds, fruit jelly, milk, and ice cream (I might have forgotten something). Never in my life I had a dessert with actual noodles in it and I had no idea that this exists. Generally, I had a lot of fun trying new foods and drinks as there is a huge variety of things, we don't know about that taste delicious and sometimes have surprising ingredients you wouldn't expect in that type of food e.g. noodles in a dessert.

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The greatest advantage of doing an internship through IAESTE was that I could be sure that there will be someone in India that I could rely on if anything happens or ask if I needed to know anything. Especially at the beginning of my stay I was glad to have that security. Also, it was great and easy to meet other exchange students with whom I could share my experiences and who became good friends.



1: Sunset at the beach



2: Me and some other interns trying a drink called jaljeera which contains cumin.



3: Celebration at work.