

My internship in Argoscope

In February 2022 I saw the offer for an internship at the Agricultural research facility of the Swiss Government. Short after I applied since I was always interested in getting more knowledge in Agriculture but until then never had the time for it. During my previous travels I had volunteered at different farms before, but the systematic research behind farming was something completely new to me. I was lucky to get accepted even though I didn't study agronomy.

So during my internship I was part of the crop variety testing group of Argoscope. My workplace was a bit outside of Zürich, but still reachable by train. My first workday was the 2nd of August since the 1st of August is the National Day of Switzerland. After fixing my residence papers I was warmly welcomed by the whole team and directly given some tasks to do.



From the first moment on I felt very welcomed, and my work colleagues are super nice and polite. In the summer I was mainly working outside. My main work area was in corn, although I also assisted other people in the team with their plant varieties as well. Conducting various plant variety ratings of maize in different locations of Switzerland were my main responsibilities. After the first few weeks I was also given other tasks related to other farming crops such as soya, lentils, peas, chickpeas and potatoes.

Always when the was good weather I was working on the fields. It was really nice to spend so much time outside and work together as a team. It was mainly manual work which I really like because I don't like to sit in front of a laptop too much time. Four days in October I was also invited for the potato harvest in Maran, high up in the Swiss mountains. The landscape up there is beautiful!



After the summer months I got some more indoor computerwork. I assisted different people in different tasks, mainly connected to Excel and Data analysis. It was not too demanding, but I still learned some stuff and I was happy that I could help! Because of my studies I have some knowledge in soils and water content in soils. Therefore, I could also help with a project where we analysed and evaluated different soils sensors.

In my free time during my internship I met a lot of nice people from all over the world. Mostly other interns which where also doing an internship close to zürich. Since I am quite an active person and I enjoy being outside hiking quite a lot, I joined for all hiking trips available and organised some more on my own as well.



I am grateful for the opportunity I had to do the internship in Switzerland. I really enjoyed it a lot and made great friends while I was there.