

Trainee report ETH Zürich, Switzerland

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Overall the «Motto» of this experience is «BLESSED». I was constantly feeling blessed and lucky, I could never imagine to have such a pleasant experience. Everything was perfect since day 1. My IAESTE volunteer from LC Zürich helped me with everything in perfect time and she was always kind and supportive. I got very lucky with the housing, my work was also amazing. Since it was literally my dream job at ETH ZÜRICH!!!! which also blows my mind till this day. Switzerland is in general super expensive, but my salary was totally enough to maintain a normal life. Monthly tickets and half fair tax (Vorteilskarte) are highly recommended to get, since train rides are super expensive.



WORK

I was an intern in Grassland sciences research group - Department of Environmental science at ETH Zürich. The group was super well organised, the Professor and the assistant were the nicest people. I felt very welcome and safe, my colleagues (phDs and young scientists) were super nice to me and in general, I've made a lot of friends amongst them. From the professional prospective I also learned a lot, I've done a lot of field work, lab work, data analysis etc. I was never bored at work and the schedule was quite flexible. This experience was perfect for me since I am applying for a PhD next year.



LOCATION/HOUSING

It is not a secret that Zürich is an amazing city to stay in. It is officially on the 3rd place in the world in terms of life quality (1st - Vienna, 2nd - Copenhagen). The lake was super warm and nice up until beginning of September, it even gave me a vacation/beach vibes. The city itself is quite small but very beautiful. There is not a lot of options in terms of the night life but if you look for it - you will find it.

I was living in a dorm close to the city center, 15 minutes by public transport to my work. I had to take a cable car every day since it was located up the hill, therefore the view was super amazing too. My room was big enough and contained a refrigerator and a sink. I shared bathroom with 4 people which was completely fine, common kitchen was big and equipped with everything. I heard from other trainees that I got very lucky with this housing since it is kind of hard to find a place in Zürich. A lot of them had to stay outside of the city (20-30 mins by train).



IAESTE ACTIVITIES

IAESTE Switzerland treats their trainees extremely well! There were around 30 trainees only in Zürich and surrounding areas. We had meetings with trainees and members every week, I met a lot of nice international people. Moreover, IAESTE Switzerland organised events pretty much every single weekend. We were travelling to a lot of cool places, such as Lugano, Basel, Zermatt and many more. I always had plans for a weekend and was never bored. I've made a lot of IAESTE friends too, it was such an amazing experience.

