



# Annual Report 2023



**IAESTE**  
SWITZERLAND

## Happy birthday IAESTE!

**A**nother exchange year has passed by, so it is time to reflect. 2023 is very special for IAESTE as we're celebrating our 75th anniversary. IAESTE was founded in 1948 and as ETHZ was one of the ten founding institutions, this is a celebration not only important for IAESTE Global but also for IAESTE Switzerland.

IAESTE was established in the aftermath of WWII when the world was enthusiastically seeking international and intercultural understanding. Our exchange programme was created in this spirit - to promote and foster the cooperation between higher educational institutions, industry employers and students. Even now, 75 years later, our aim "to be a source of cultural enrichment for interns and their host communities" resonates as strongly as back then.

Although we can rely on over seven decades of experience, we must constantly re-evaluate and adapt our programme and service to our changing environment and resulting new requirements. During the past years, the COVID pandemic has certainly been our biggest challenge and we are still struggling with its consequences at an international level. The Swiss economy

is fortunately stable and strong enough to have overcome the impacts of the pandemic quickly and has therefore allowed us to achieve satisfying results for our Incoming exchange. With 115 student placements for Swiss employers, we have almost reached our pre-pandemic numbers.

Regretfully however, our outgoing exchange is stagnating with just 75 students sent abroad this year. In comparison to before the pandemic when we would average 120 -130 outgoing students per year, our current figures are low. This is largely due to the situation in our partner countries which are responsible for offering internships for our Swiss students. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, many IAESTE member countries have had to severely restrict their exchanges or have ceased their activity completely. Due to the ensuing financial losses, the lack of support from governments and the continuing inflation and rising recession, the IAESTE international network has shrunk to currently 65 member countries (pre-pandemic there were 87). The offer abroad is therefore smaller and not as appealing, which has resulted in less students registering and finally going abroad.

Close to a quarter of IAESTE Switzerland's finances are dependent on the successful placement of outgoing students, the disparity between our incoming and outgoing figures therefore does impact our bottom line and we are reporting a financial loss for 2023.

We are confident the global IAESTE situation will recover soon and, although we do have some reserves, we wish to highlight how grateful we are for the support of our partners, cooperating institutions, supporting engineering associations, our employers and volunteers. Thanks to you we can navigate these trying times. We have a positive outlook for the new exchange year, knowing we can rely on great partners.



Andreas Hugi  
IAESTE President

### PREMIUM PARTNERS



### PARTNERS



### SUPPORTED BY





## Engineers' Day 2023

At the end of 2019, UNESCO declared March 4th the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development.

It aims to draw the public's attention to the engineering sectors: to promote engineering professions, inspire the next generation of engineers and hold broad discussions about the sustainable development of our world and society.

Taking example from the World Engineering Day, the Engineers' Day in Switzerland was established. Its aim is to promote engineering disciplines within Switzerland by organizing several projects and events on engineering topics,

taking place at universities, companies, and schools across the country.

Since 2022 our managing director Sabine Lenz has joined the advisory committee of the Engineers' Day in Switzerland which also includes several IAESTE partner associations such as SATW, Swiss Engineering and SIA. Together we are eager to support young professionals in the engineering sector. We were happy to take part in a networking event organised on the 1st of

February 2023 at the Kursaal in Bern as part of the Engineers' Day Switzerland. On this occasion we had the chance to meet employers, both current and potentially new ones, as well as enjoy a captivating conference with many interesting speakers ranging from startups to tech CEOs and government officials.

As Switzerland is currently lacking close to 50'000 engineers, we hope by helping to grow the visibility of the engineering sectors, we will draw more Swiss students to this industry and its disciplines and contribute to fulfilling the country's labour needs.

## Accessing young talents with IAESTE

Kardex Remstar is a leading global manufacturer of dynamic storage, handling, and distribution systems with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland. Every year they have two interns in their Life Cycle Service department. The department's goal is to improve the company's worldwide service offered for their customers, an exciting opportunity at the intersection of business, IT and technology. With the main communication language being English, it is an ideal place for international interns.

Our collaboration goes back until 2017, when they had their first intern from Germany. Since then other interns have come from all over the world, from Brazil through Poland to Vietnam. Alicia currently interns with Kardex in Zurich. She has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Wroclaw University of Science and Technology in Poland and has been active at IAESTE Poland.

Until she saw the exciting internship with Kardex, Alicia had not had Switzerland on her radar. Now she is happy she took this chance as she discovered a nurtu-

ring work culture which allows to learn from ones' mistakes and encourages to ask questions. Alicia took a big step in her personal development, feeling now more confident about her work and her decision to start a master's degree in management when she returns to Poland.

Several of Kardex's previous IAESTE interns work with them now, in Zurich or other locations around the world.

Juan from Argentina started as a Life Cycle Service intern, and now works as a project manager in the Zurich office. Belen from Ecuador, another IAESTE alumni, joined the Madrid office in August. This shows the international opportunities

and diversity within the company. Marc Blockus, Director Business Analyses & CRM Application Owner in the Life Cycle Service department, is convinced by the value IAESTE interns add to the team and company: "The cooperation with IAESTE and the interns' qualifications, attitude and willingness to learn are really good. The program has become a good source for recruiting young talents for our team."



Stefan Knorr, Alicia Kozeriew (PL), Juan Pablo Leoni (AR), Marc Blockus, and Juan Diego Pinto (EC)

kardexremstar



# The IAESTE Formula 1:1 = 2

The IAESTE exchange is always on a reciprocal basis, which means when receiving students from a certain country we can send students abroad as well.

ORIANA PALACIO ROLDAN, Colombia,  
**Incoming intern** at EMPA  
Dübendorf, Switzerland



RONNY HARDEGGER, Switzerland,  
**Outgoing intern** at Universidad de Ibagué  
Ibagué, Colombia

During my almost one-year long internship at Empa, in Switzerland, I had the privilege of immersing myself in the interesting realm of aerogels, ultralight materials known for their exceptional porosity and insulating properties and nanoporous composites for insulation. Under the guidance of brilliant researchers, I was able to contribute to ongoing projects and work closely with interdisciplinary teams, while learning about the field.

My supervisors were always extremely encouraging. They gave me the opportunity to do my bachelor's thesis at the institute on the study of the vibro-elastic properties of aerogels. Thanks to this, I was able to have my first scientific publication. Throughout the internship, I was also able to collaborate with industry partners, and on projects that were presented at different international conferences. I am very grateful for the visibility that our work had during that time. Empa's strong connections also provided valuable networking opportunities, enriching my understanding of material science applications in the real world.

I was lucky to have enjoyed a remarkable work environment. On the day I arrived, my supervisor welcomed me from the train and even helped me carry my bags to the institute's guesthouse. That same day, my new colleagues and friends prepared a cake and a fondue to welcome me to Switzerland.

The friendly and inclusive work environment at Empa, coupled with the chance to explore the country's natural beauty in my free time, made the internship a truly unforgettable journey. Swiss mountains have a special allure that makes them the perfect place to find freedom and courage. Now I feel that I have a friend in almost every corner of the world. The learnings and memories from this internship will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors way beyond the field of material science.

My internship brought me to the enchanting city of Ibagué, Colombia—a destination that exceeded all my expectations. It offered me the transformative experience I had been looking for, one that would forever leave a lasting impression on my life.

Stepping into the city on a sunny Sunday, I was embraced with open arms by a kind-hearted member of the Local Committee, who introduced me to my host family, with whom I shared countless beautiful moments.

The following day marked the beginning of my scientific journey within an exceptional research team, who welcomed me as if I had always belonged. Our focus was on investigating potential Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors derived from native Amarillidaceae, utilizing molecular docking and dynamics simulations.

While the weekdays were dedicated to our research pursuits, the moments of freedom during evenings and weekends were filled with laughter and camaraderie. I was fortunate to visit various cities such as Cali, known as the salsa capital of the world. In Medellín, I found myself swept into the pulsating nightlife and also had the opportunity to escape to the Caribbean island of San Andrés, a tropical gem boasting stunning landscapes and turquoise waters. My internship further led me to explore the captivating coffee regions of Armenia, Filandia, Salento, and the Cocora Valley—an expedition that ignited a profound appreciation for the art of coffee.

Reflecting upon this entire experience, I can confidently say that it was an extraordinary journey and I wholeheartedly recommend everyone to embark on an IAESTE internship. May your own journeys be filled with boundless discovery, cultural immersion, and the courage to step outside your comfort zone.



# Big South Trip in Tunisia

IAESTE volunteers who are part of the Local Committees (LCs) love welcoming students from all around the world in Switzerland. But as an LC member, we also have the chance to immerse ourselves in intercultural experiences outside our borders. This spring, we had just such an opportunity.

In March, a team of IAESTE Switzerland LC members and interns embarked on an unforgettable trip to Tunisia, participating in the "Big South Trip", a 5-day adventure organized by IAESTE Tunisia. This adventure brought together participants from diverse IAESTE committees around the world, forming new connections and showing the beauty of Tunisia.

The trip commenced in the bustling city of Tunis where we hopped on a bus to tour the country. The group headed to Sbeitla, a historical spot where we marveled at ancient archaeological sites. After Sbeitla, we arrived at Tozeur, a serene desert oasis for a two-day stay. After exploring the oasis, learning about palm uses, and visiting the Star Wars set, we swam beneath a waterfall at Tamaghza Canyon. Thrilling jeep rides across the desert led to a stunning sunset view from a big dune. Evenings were enlivened with an international party where each person showcased their homeland's culture, sharing tradi-

tional dishes and beverages. These first days allowed IAESTE travelers to immerse in Tunisian culture and nature as well as discover other cultures of the different international participants.

Gebili was the next stop. There, we had a thrilling time riding camels, horses, and quads in the desert's vast and impressive surroundings. The journey continued to Djerba, a sun-soaked island full of picturesque beaches, where we enjoyed swimming in the waters and explored the artistic enclave of Djerba Hood. The end of the adventure was a visit to the monumental Colosseum of El Djem, a striking testament to Tunisia's rich past.

Before our home-bound journey, we toured the main city of Tunis. The IAESTE Tunisia team showed us around and taught us some more about Tunisia's history and culture.

What truly distinguished this trip was the friendships made. IAESTE Tunisia members and Swiss participants forged strong bonds and made lasting memories, all in the IAESTE spirit "Work.Experience.Discover". IAESTE Switzerland extends an invitation to future adventurous volunteers to benefit from IAESTE's international network and partake in enriching experiences like this one.

By Bilel Abdennadher, LC Bern President



## Meeting with HES-SO

In February our Romandie representative Katie Leishman had the pleasure to meet with the Engineering and Architecture Teaching Committee of the HES-SO (Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse occidentale). It had been some time since we had sat down together. After the disruptions from the pandemic and a change of staff, we thought now was an opportune moment to meet again.

The committee was comprised of a representative from each HES-SO school, some of whom were already familiar with IAESTE, and others who did not know our programme as well. The meeting was therefore a great opportunity to refresh them all on our mission and the services IAESTE provides to their schools and students.

We also had the opportunity to address issues which are particularly of concern to HES-SO students, for example the lack of time the students have within their curriculum to do an internship which makes it challenging for them to take part in our exchange. A challenge we have been facing in many

schools ever since the Bologna Reform. This has also been mentioned in employer feedback as they notice a lack of hands-on experience among young graduates.

We are fortunate to have long-standing collaborations with many universities, schools and institutions in Switzerland and encourage our partners to meet with us as often as possible so we can ensure we are always offering the best opportunities and services for them. We were very thankful to have this opportunity to meet with the Teaching Committee of the HES-SO and look forward to reinforcing our collaboration in the years to come.

Discover the many ways  
you can SUPPORT US:



**IAESTE**  
SWITZERLAND

Weinbergstrasse 41  
8006 Zürich  
T+41 43 244 93 13  
info@iaeste.ch

Bd de Grancy 37  
1006 Lausanne  
T+41 21 601 79 93  
romandie@iaeste.ch

[www.iaeste.ch](http://www.iaeste.ch)





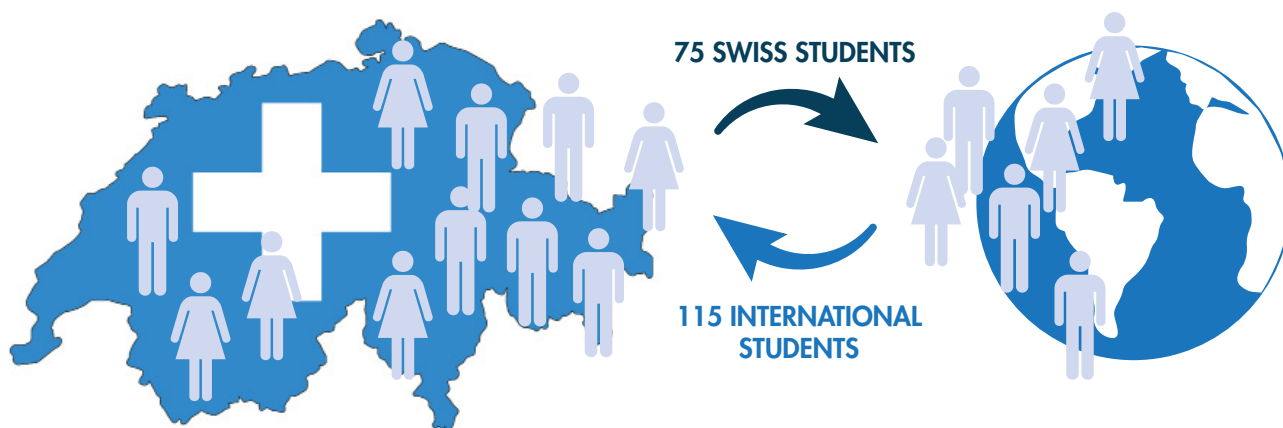
# Exchange Figures 2023

**IN: 115**

2022: 113

**OUT: 75**

2022: 70



## Countries

Students sent & received

	2022		2023	
	sent	received	sent	received
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0
Argentina	2	3	2	4
Australia	0	0	2	1
Austria	0	7	4	5
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0	0
Belgium	1	4	4	2
Bolivia	2	3	0	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0	0
Botswana	0	0	0	0
Brazil	7	6	6	9
Canada	0	0	2	1
Chile	0	0	0	0
China incl. HK & MO	0	0	0	0
Colombia	2	2	3	2
Croatia	0	0	0	1
Czech Republic	3	3	2	5
Ecuador	1	3	3	4
Egypt	0	0	0	1
France	0	3	0	1
Gambia	0	0	0	0
Germany	2	11	3	7
Ghana	1	0	0	0
Greece	2	9	1	4
Hungary	0	0	0	0
India	5	2	3	4
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Iran	1	2	1	4
Iraq	0	0	0	0

	2022		2023	
	sent	received	sent	received
Japan	0	1	2	1
Jordan	0	0	1	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0
Kenya	5	6	8	5
Korea, Republic of	0	0	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0
Malta	2	2	0	1
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	1	0
Nepal	2	2	0	1
Nicaragua	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	2	0	1
North Macedonia	1	1	0	2
Norway	4	1	3	3
Oman	1	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	0	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	1	1
Peru	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	0
Poland	2	11	5	12
Portugal	3	4	0	0
Qatar	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	1	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0
Serbia	1	2	0	1
Slovakia	1	2	1	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1

	2022		2023	
	sent	received	sent	received
Spain	3	6	3	6
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	0
Sweden	1	2	2	1
Syria	0	0	0	0
Tajikistan	2	1	2	1
Tanzania	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	2	0
Tunisia	4	2	1	1
Turkey	1	1	0	3
Uganda	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	4	2	2	1
United States	0	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	1	2	2	2
Yemen	0	0	0	0
Non-Member Country	1	3	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>115</b>

## Top countries

### Out

Students sent

**1** Kenya

**2** Brazil

**3** Poland

### IN

Students received

**1** Poland

**2** Bolivia, Brazil

**3** Germany

## Top Study Fields 2023

Students sent & received

IN



25

Chemical Engineering / Chemistry



18

Computer Science



15

Architecture



14

Mechanical Engineering



11

Electrical Engineering

OUT



14

Environmental Engineering / Sciences



12

Mechanical Engineering



9

Computer Science



8

Biology



4

Physics

## Exchange by gender 2023

Students sent & received

IN

51 %



OUT

52 %

49 %



48 %

## Swiss Employers offering Internships in 2023

**A** Artidis AG Basel  
Agroscope Zurich / Nyon  
ARTORG AG Berne  
atelier ww Architekten SIA AG Zurich  
Atus AG Neerach  
Avantama Staefa

**B** Bachema AG Schlieren  
BFH - Berner Fachhochschule, Engineering and Information Technology Burgdorf  
Burckhardt Architektur AG  
Basel / Berne / Zurich

**C** Caprez Ingenieure AG Zerne  
CASCINATION AG Berne  
CERN Geneva  
Cordenpharma Liestal  
CORPUS architecture urbanisme Geneva

**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, Social Networks Lab Zurich  
Evatec AG Trüebbach

**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'Ingeniérie et de Gestion, Institut for Information and Communication Technology Yverdon-les-Bains  
HHF Architects Basel  
Hitachi Energy Ltd Baden-Daettwil  
Hochstrasser Glaus & Partner Consulting AG Zurich  
Hombrechtikon Systems Engineering AG  
Hombrechtikon

**I** intelliCard Solutions AG Rapperswil

**J** Julien Dubois Architectes SA La Chaux-de-Fonds

**K** Kardex Remstar Zurich  
Kunz Architekten AG Basel

**L** Lichtkompetenz GmbH Zurich  
Loepfe Brothers Ltd. Wetzikon  
Luca Selva AG Basel  
Lumiphase AG Kilchberg  
Lüscher Bucher Theiler Architekten GmbH Lucerne

**M** Meister Abrasives AG Andelfingen

**N** NTI Audio AG Schaan, Liechtenstein

**O** OST - Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Institut for Microtechnology and Photonics Buchs  
Ovivo Witterswil

**P** Planon, Zurich  
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** SAK St. Gallisch-Appenzellische Kraftwerke St. Gallen  
Schäublin Architekten AG Zurich  
Schenkel Vermessungen AG Zurich  
Selectron Systems AG Lyss  
SHL Medical Zug/Taiwan  
Siloxene AG Brüttisellen  
Société des Produits Nestlé SA Konolfingen  
Solcept AG Wetzikon  
SONY Europe B.V. Schlieren  
SQTS Swiss Quality Services Dietikon  
Stücheli Architekten AG Zurich

**T** Terraview GmbH Winterthur  
TreaTech Sàrl Lausanne

**U** u-blox AG Thalwil

**V** Vatorex Winterthur  
Vitaplant Utwil

**W** Waldhauser + Hermann AG Muenchenstein

**Z** ZHAW - Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, IEEF, Institute of Energy Systems and Fluid Engineering Winterthur  
ZHAW, ICP, Institute of Computational Physics Winterthur  
ZHAW, CAI, Centre for Artificial Intelligence Winterthur  
ZHAW, ISC, Institute of Signal Processing and Wireless Communications Winterthur  
ZHAW, IMS Institute of Mechatronics Systems Winterthur  
ZHAW, InIT, Institute of Applied Information Technology Winterthur  
ZHAW, ZPP, Centre for Product and Process Development Winterthur  
Zulauf AG Schinznach Dorf

**#** 3Brain AG Waedenswil  
3S Swiss Solar Solutions Gwatt-Thun



IAESTE  
SWITZERLAND