



My IAESTE Internship Experience in Switzerland



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September 2024 – November 2024

First of all, I want to sincerely thank IAESTE for their amazing work in enabling students like me to gain international experience all over the world. In my opinion, very few things compare to an opportunity like this for personal development. So, if you are considering doing something like this, I wholeheartedly encourage you to take the leap and try it out! I promise you won't regret it! 😊

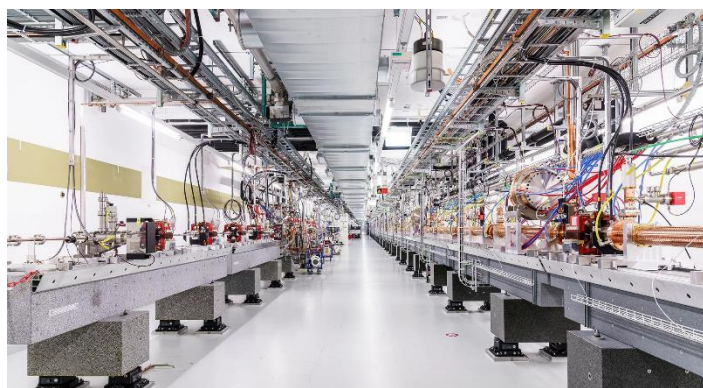
Internship Experience

At first, I was quite nervous when I stepped onto the train, knowing that I would be away from my familiar surroundings for three months. Even though Switzerland is not far from Austria, my home country, it still felt like a long journey—one that I couldn't just take every day.

My internship took place at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), one of Switzerland's largest research institutions, located in Villigen, in the German-speaking part of the country. The IAESTE Incoming Exchange Coordinators from Switzerland were extremely helpful, assisting me with accommodation, documents, and all bureaucratic matters. From the very first day, I was warmly welcomed into the Battery Electrodes and Cells research group. It was also very convenient that my supervisor, Leon, had previously done an IAESTE internship himself, as he was always happy to answer my questions and help me navigate my time there. And, of course, the absolutely necessary coffee breaks and discussions made my workdays even more enjoyable.



PSI cat "Jipie"



Swiss X-ray Free Electron Laser (SwissFEL)
[<https://www.psi.ch/de/swissfel>]

During my internship, I investigated the cathode electrolyte interface using online electrochemical mass spectrometry (OEMS). However, my absolute highlights were seeing the Swiss Light Source (SLS) and the Swiss X-ray Free Electron Laser (SwissFEL) in person. Witnessing these incredible scientific instruments up close truly made me feel small in the vast world of research.

Another very important part of my time at PSI was the PSI cat "Jipie", who lived on-site and provided moral support to everyone by always offering free cuddles. 🐱

Cultural Impressions

Culturally, Switzerland is not vastly different from Austria, but there were a few memorable differences. First, the cheese selection is amazing! I discovered my new favorite cheese, Gruyère, and had the chance to try traditional cheese fondue, which is simply delicious.

Another fantastic experience was Swiss public transport—it is incredibly convenient, easy to use, and offers connections to almost anywhere you want to go. And last but not least, I absolutely loved hearing Swiss German! The accent sounds so charming, and I made an effort to learn as many words as possible during my stay.

Final Thoughts

All in all, my time in Switzerland was an amazing experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. A huge shoutout to all the incredible people I met along the way, who made my stay one of the most unforgettable and cherished memories of my life.



Me, with some of the biggest mountains of Switzerland (Eiger-Mönch-Jungfrau)