



IAESTE
SWITZERLAND

Alfie Walker

Employer: Julien Dubois Architectes SA, La Chaux-de-Fonds

Internship Dates: 01.02.2025-31.08.2025

Sending Country: United Kingdom

Work

As a Trainee Architect, most of my work was architectural, with a small amount of general office admin. This was largely the creation of plans and digital 3D models using Archicad modelling software. I had the opportunity to engage in both schematic and technical design, which will help me a lot with the remainder of my studies and eventually qualifying as an architect. Although not fully qualified, I was treated similarly to the architects within the practice, and had the opportunity to share and develop my own design ideas during the twice-weekly design meetings. I worked on several projects, including some individual dwellings, apartment buildings, industrial buildings and even railway infrastructure.



Experience

As the internship was only seven months, I decided to live close to the office, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, although it would also be possible to live in Neuchâtel and commute. I lived on my own in a studio apartment, but made some good friends through IAESTE Switzerland. We

had some fun evenings and events in Bern, which is about an hour away, and I also took part in a few bigger national events, including a ski trip and activity weekend in Ticino. I am keen on fitness, so joined a local gym, and also enjoyed the hilly countryside around the town for some challenging runs. I got on well with the other staff at the office, especially as my French improved, and we did a few things together like going swimming in the outdoor pool at lunchtime.



Discover

As I have only just got back to the UK, I am not sure yet exactly what impact it will have on me moving forwards, but I am sure that looking at architecture from a more international perspective will help me with my studies. I would say that moving to a new country on my own has made me more relaxed, as you never really know what something will be like until you try it for yourself.



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