



Annual Report 2025



IAESTE
SWITZERLAND

From Reflection to Action: Shaping the Future

As we close another exchange year, it is once again time to reflect - on the challenges we have faced, the progress we have made, and what lies ahead.

One of the real highlights of the year has been our intensified cooperation with the Local Committees (LCs). These volunteer groups - made up of current students, past incoming interns who stayed in Switzerland, and former outgoing students - form a vital core of IAESTE: they help make IAESTE visible across campuses, and support incoming interns from all over the world by organising accommodation, planning fun trips and events across Switzerland, offering tutoring systems. They generally ensure that interns feel welcome from day one. Over the past year, the National Office (NO) and LCs have ramped up our joint efforts: co-hosting events, creating a comprehensive handbook to ease knowledge transfer within the LCs, and revising the LC statutes together. A standout moment was the yearly *Activity Weekend* where we invited another country committee for the first time. We welcomed guests from France for knowledge

sharing and exchanged "best practices". This closer cooperation has been both invaluable and motivating for all of us and these joint efforts remind us that IAESTE first and foremost thrives on people and connections.

Our biggest challenge has remained the Outgoing Exchange. We were not able to reach our goals set for this year and had fewer students going abroad than the last two years. There are many reasons coming together - but the key issue is the need for more visibility at universities and universities of applied sciences, and to greater awareness of the IAESTE exchange programme among students. Additionally, the international network's post-pandemic recovery has been slower than anticipated. Building up new committees simply takes time - often several years rather than months - and that puts limits on the opportunities available for our Swiss students searching for placements abroad.

To tackle our current challenges and to set ourselves up for future success, we developed a strategy during the summer, together with our board. Key initiatives in-

clude modernizing our IT systems - upgrading our CRM and CMS, launching a more user-friendly website - and embracing AI where it provides genuine value. At the same time, we need to adapt our exchange work and efforts by focusing more strongly on exchange opportunities with reliable country partners, where our past experiences have been most successful.

We know the road forward isn't always easy. But with the support of our partners, employers, universities, and volunteers, we are confident we are moving in the right direction. After all, IAESTE's true strength lies in its people and communities: Our work is driven by personal commitment on all levels, and we thank everyone who contributes to our network.



Andreas Hugi
President of IAESTE Switzerland



Welcome Hester to IAESTE Switzerland

Stepping into her role, we are excited to introduce Hester Kujik Breitenmoser as the new Outgoing Exchange Coordinator, supporting students in finding opportunities abroad. At the same time, we say goodbye to Valentina Preuhs and thank her for her contributions over the past year.

We are also glad to welcome back Gaby Hilpertshauser, who is supporting us for four months in modernizing our CRM modules. Her long-standing experience and knowledge of IAESTE are invaluable as we take these important steps forward.

PREMIUM PARTNERS



ETH-Rat
Conseil des EPF
ETH-Board



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Zürcher Hochschule
für Angewandte Wissenschaften

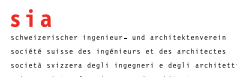


NOVARTIS

PARTNERS



satw technology
for society



sia
schweizerischer Ingenieur- und Architektenverein
société suisse des ingénieurs et des architectes
società svizzera degli ingegneri e degli architetti
swiss society of engineers and architects



SWISS
ENGINEERING
STV UTS ATS



burckhardt



swisscare

SUPPORTED BY



HASLERSTIFTUNG



25 Interns, Countless Stories: How Waldhauser & Hermann Embodies the Spirit of IAESTE

This year marks a special milestone for Waldhauser & Hermann, a long-standing IAESTE employer: they have welcomed their 25th intern through the IAESTE exchange program. Over the past decades, the company has hosted students from all over the world, including Greece, Belgium, Brazil, Jordan, the UAE, Panama, and many others. Their commitment to offering students the opportunity to gain first work experience has been exemplary, and they continue to embody the true spirit of intercultural exchange.

This long-standing partnership began with Mario Regis, who - inspired by his own IAESTE internship abroad - wanted to give young people the kinds of opportuni-

ties he had. With guidance from Dilem Dogan & Martin Imhof each intern's placement is shaped not just around the work that needs doing, but around the intern's interests and skills. Interns are welcomed with more than just tasks: they are part of the team. Presentations about their home countries, mentorship, and openness to learning characterize the experience.

Aisha, a student from Jordan, is currently completing her internship at Waldhauser & Hermann with the motivation to put her academic knowledge into practice and gain real-life work experience outside the classroom. For one month she is supporting company projects, performing research on how countries' indirect energy consumption, and analyzing the energy efficiency of Waldhauser & Hermann's own projects. As tradition holds, she will give her presentation about her home country next Monday, demonstrating that intercultural learning and exchange remain a core motivation for the company's participation in the IAESTE program. Several employees, when asked over a coffee, shared how much they value

the presentations from past interns and what they have learned about other countries and cultures through the IAESTE exchange program. Another long-standing tradition many (including Aisha) appreciate is the daily Znüni, a company-sponsored morning gathering of coffee and bread that helps set a motivated, fresh-minded tone for the day.

For Waldhauser & Hermann, hosting interns is more than a training exercise - it's about building bridges between cultures, offering young talents a first step into their careers, and enriching their own workplace with new perspectives. Reaching the milestone of 25 interns is a testament to their dedication and long-term commitment to IAESTE. We are grateful for their continuous support and look forward to more stories like Aisha's.

Check out here how to become an IAESTE employer:



Putting Students First: Our Enriching Partnership with SUPSI

Working with SUPSI feels more than just a collaboration - it's a genuine partnership rooted in a shared commitment: placing students at the center. This student-first mindset makes our relationship both meaningful and deeply rewarding.

Our connection with SUPSI began several years ago, but it truly transformed into a dynamic partnership three years ago when our then Outgoing Exchange Coordinator, Hannah Riemann, visited Ticino to meet with the SUPSI team. Together, we brainstormed ways to deepen our cooperation and raise IAESTE's profile across the student body.

One outcome of that initial meeting was a collaboration with SUPSI's Bachelor in Leisure Management - a hands-on program that includes a mandatory internship in the final semester. For the past two years, IAESTE has offered internships tailored to meet this requirement. While none have yet resulted in placements, good things take time, and curiosity has started to grow. This year, in fact, a student from another study field took the plunge and completed an internship in Bolivia - proof that IAESTE is gaining traction and visibility among SUPSI students.

This August, we met with Annick Catella (Head of the International Office), Diana Guardì (International Relations Officer), and Andrea Di Stefano (Internships Coordinator for the Bachelor in Leisure Management) at SUPSI. We met to brainstorm ideas to further increase IAESTE's visibility among all students

at SUPSI and discussed how to broaden outreach through short, engaging IAESTE pitches and participation in Info Sessions hosted by their International Office. A promising and exciting year

ahead!

Every time we visit SUPSI - set among the stunning landscapes of Ticino - it's like catching up with old friends. Their commitment to practical, student-focused education is clear, approachable, and - perhaps most importantly - human. Together, we're not simply offering internships - we're opening up experiences that shape futures, one curious student at a time.



Do you fancy a paid internship abroad? Here you can find our latest offers:



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.

Edith Cherotich Cheruiyot, Kenya
Incoming Intern at Siloxene AG
Brüttsellen, Switzerland



Paulina Hasler, Switzerland
Outgoing Intern at Bungoma County
Referral Hospital
Bungoma, Kenya

Arriving in Switzerland for my internship felt like the start of a new chapter. Coming from Kenya, I was both eager and a bit apprehensive about what the year would bring. Yet already, I feel I've experienced tremendous personal growth.

At Siloxene AG, I focus on researching water-based dispersions of functional silanes for glass-fiber sizing applications, as well as silane-terminated polymers for adhesives and sealants. My days are rich with hands-on lab work and experimentation with innovative technologies that have real-world impact. The collaborative spirit of my colleagues and fellow interns fosters a truly inclusive and welcoming workplace, where teamwork is the norm.

Adjusting to life beyond the lab has been its own adventure. From mastering Switzerland's efficient public transport system to picking up bits of Swiss German, every small milestone felt like a celebration. Naturally, adapting wasn't seamless—the quiet streets and new social norms took time to settle into. Gradually, however, Switzerland began to feel like a second home, and I used the weekends to discover it. I've taken leisurely boat trips on Lake Zürich, basked in sunshine sparkling on rippled waters, and felt the cool mist of the waterfalls. For my first excursion outside Switzerland, I ventured to Milan, where I experienced the blend of classic architecture and modern living. These moments have deepened my love for travel and for the emotions it evokes.

My IAESTE internship at Siloxene AG has been exceptional for both personal and professional growth. I've gained practical lab skills, and by working alongside people from diverse cultures, I've been reminded how much connects us. The skills, connections, and experiences I'm building here will shape my future far beyond my field of study.

"Karibu, Kenya!"—Welcome to Kenya. Over the past months, I've heard this phrase countless times. Whether riding on the back of a boda boda (motorbike) to the hospital or strolling through the market, I'm greeted with warmth wherever I go. It didn't take long before I stopped feeling like a stranger and instead became part of the community.

My internship at Bungoma County Referral Hospital has been an incredibly impressionable experience. The workload in the maternity ward was often intense—multiple women giving birth at the same time and sharing beds due to limited space. With no ultrasound or CTG machines available, a simple fetoscope was often the only tool used to monitor the babies' heartbeats. Yet, I was deeply impressed by how calm, professional, and compassionate the medical staff remained despite these challenges.

I was not only allowed to observe but also to actively learn and help. I had the opportunity to treat diseases like malaria and sickle cell anemia—especially prevalent in the pediatric ward—which we mostly study theoretically in Switzerland. These practical encounters have broadened my perspective on medicine in a truly meaningful way.

In my free time, I took every opportunity to explore the country. I went swimming, spent time with my new friends, and learned to cook Ugali (a firm Kenyan maize porridge) alongside other local dishes. My favorite weekends were spent in wildlife parks, where we could safely observe animals and take in the breathtaking nature. Those trips offered the perfect balance to the often demanding hospital routine.

Kenya embraced me with open arms—and showed me how much you gain when you embrace the new and unfamiliar.



Vienna Weekend 2025 - Making Memories the IAESTE Way

Students join IAESTE for many reasons - internships, professional growth, or curiosity - but we all share the excitement of creating lasting memories. That's exactly what happened at the Vienna Weekend 2025, where IAESTE volunteers from all over Europe came together. The anticipation started long before arrival: packing, planning, and imagining the days ahead. Some arrived by train, others by plane - each journey unique, yet all leading to the same destination: a weekend full of culture, connection, and discovery.

On Friday, check-in felt like the first day of school - a mix of nerves and curiosity. Some greeted each other like old friends, others met for the first time. Soon, conversations flowed as we explored Vienna's charming streets. That evening, we gathered at the TU Vienna rooftop bar for a

welcome BBQ. With a stunning view, great food, and drinks from around the world, the night turned into a celebration of cultures - especially once the music began.

Saturday was all about exploring Vienna through riddles, games, and spontaneous fun - from waltzing in the park to playful street performances. Along the way, we discovered Austria's rich history and architecture. The day ended with a hearty Austrian dinner, sharing laughs and stories like old friends.

On Sunday, the mood turned bittersweet. While visiting Vienna's beautiful palaces and landmarks, we already felt the weekend slipping away. Departures came one by one - with hugs, warm goodbyes, and promises to meet again somewhere in the world.

Events like this show what makes the



IAESTE community so special.

It's hard to put into words, but easy to feel: the mix of cultures, the spontaneous friendships, the joy of discovering new places together. It's pure excitement. Pure connection. It's the IAESTE spirit!

Discover the many ways
you can SUPPORT US:



Welcoming the World to Switzerland – Local Hosts Create a Home Away from Home

Mrs. Zollinger, a former travel guide who has explored nearly every corner of the globe except South America, now invites the world into her home. She and her husband offer the second floor of their lovely home, complete with a small kitchen so students can cook their own meals. This year, they're hosting Juanta and Edith from Kenya, who enjoy both the comfort and the kindness of their hosts as well as being a short walk from the station, shops, and parks away.

Ms. Rüegg - A South American Connection in Switzerland

Another inspiring host is Ms. Rüegg, who currently shares her home with three interns - Bianca, Gabriel, and Atik - all coincidentally from South America. A perfect match, as Ms. Rüegg spent six years living in Bolivia and speaks fluent Spanish. She invites them to join family meals, try Swiss dishes, and take part in special occasions - like last year's Christmas play, where one intern even played the shining Christmas Star.

There's no need to post ads or screen applicants; IAESTE suggests the next intern before the current one leaves, with a video call to see if it's the right fit.

For students, it's more than accommodation. It's having someone who knows the area, can help with everyday questions, and offers an open ear - sometimes even a place at the family table.

Do you have a furnished room or apartment, or know someone who does? Hosting an IAESTE intern means opening your home - and your world - to an unforgettable cultural exchange.

**Contact: incoming@iaeste.ch
Hannah and Matthias, IAESTE's Incoming Exchange Coordinators, would love to hear from you!**



The Zollingers - Thirty Years of Hosting the World

One shining example is Mr. and Mrs. Zollinger in Winterthur, who have been welcoming interns for an incredible 30 years.

Why Hosts Love Working with IAESTE

Both hosts love the respectful, motivated young people IAESTE introduces them to - and they value having a trusted, long-standing organization to coordinate everything.



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



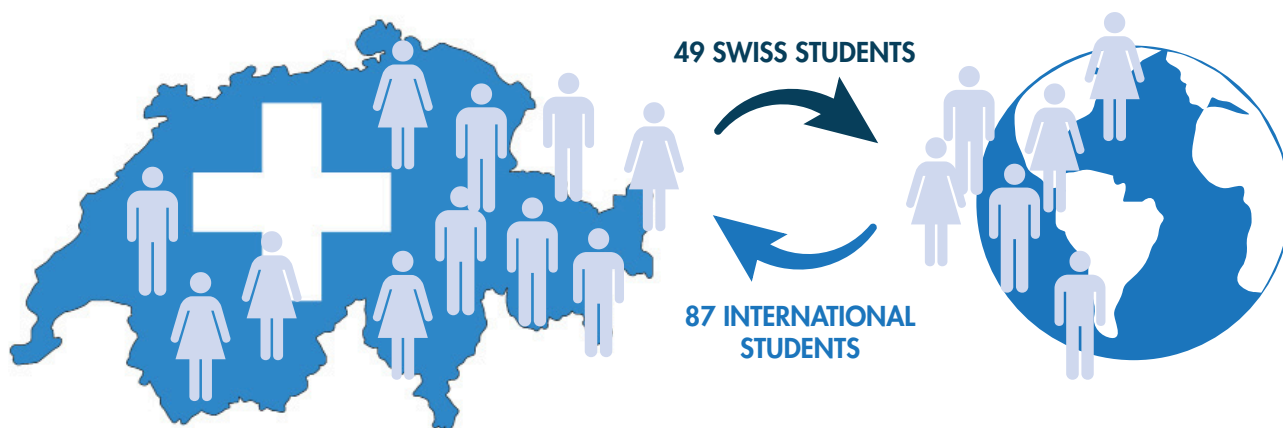
Exchange Figures 2025

IN: 87

2024: 106

OUT: 49

2024: 67



Countries

Students sent & received

	2024		2025	
	sent	received	sent	received
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0
Albania	0	0	0	0
Argentina	0	0	0	0
Australia	1	0	0	0
Austria	1	9	4	5
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0	0
Belgium	2	2	0	1
Benin	0	0	0	0
Bolivia	0	4	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	0	0
Botswana	0	0	0	0
Brazil	7	6	2	5
Cameroon	0	0	2	0
Canada	2	3	2	4
Chile	0	1	0	0
China incl. HK & MO	0	0	1	0
Colombia	1	2	3	3
Croatia	0	0	1	0
Czech Republic	5	4	0	4
Ecuador	5	4	5	4
Egypt	0	0	0	0
France	0	1	0	0
Gambia	1	0	1	0
Germany	1	6	1	7
Ghana	1	1	2	2
Greece	2	5	0	2
Hungary	0	0	0	0
India	6	7	0	3
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Iran	1	0	0	1

	2024		2025	
	sent	received	sent	received
Iraq	0	0	0	0
Japan	1	2	2	3
Jordan	1	0	1	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0
Kenya	6	6	4	7
Korea, Republic of	0	0	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0
Malta	1	0	0	0
Mexico	0	2	0	1
Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Nepal	0	0	1	0
Nicaragua	1	0	2	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0
North Macedonia	1	0	1	2
Norway	0	3	1	1
Oman	1	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0
Panama	1	1	1	0
Peru	1	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	9	3	4
Qatar	0	0	0	0
Romania	1	3	0	2
Russia	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	1	1	3
Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	1	0	0	2
Slovenia	1	1	0	1
Spain	2	5	0	2
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	1

	2024		2025	
	sent	received	sent	received
Sweden	1	3	0	3
Syria	0	0	0	0
Tajikistan	1	2	0	0
Tanzania	1	0	0	0
Thailand	1	0	1	0
Tunisia	2	3	1	2
Turkey	0	1	0	1
Uganda	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	2	3	2	0
United Kingdom	1	1	0	3
United States	1	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	2	2	2	1
Yemen	0	0	0	0
Non-Member Country	0	1	0	1

TOTAL	67	106	49	87
--------------	-----------	------------	-----------	-----------

Top countries

Out

Students sent

1 Ecuador

2 Kenya & Austria

3 Poland & Columbia

IN

Students received

1 Kenya & Germany

2 Brazil & India

3 Poland, Ecuador, Czech Republic, Canada

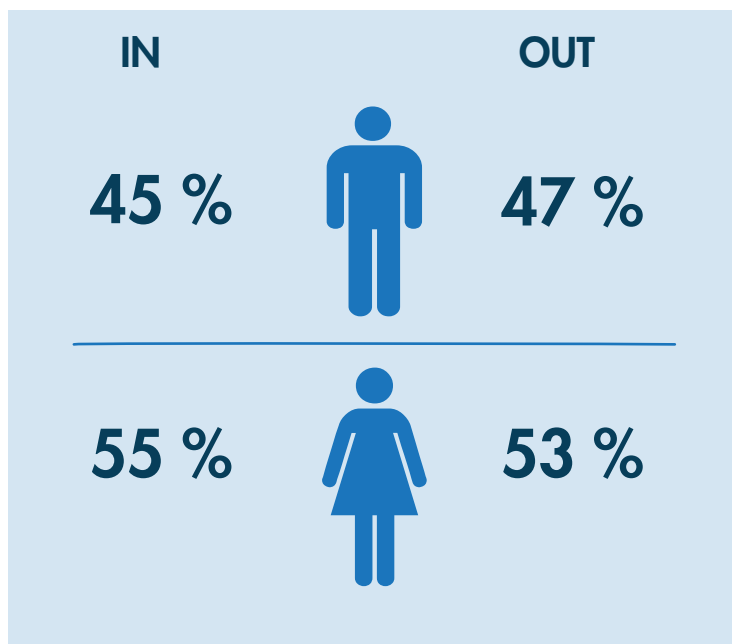
Top Study Fields 2025

Students sent & received



Exchange by gender 2025

Students sent & received



Swiss Employers offering Internships in 2025

- A** ABB Switzerland Ltd. Unterschigen
Agroscope Zürich
atelier ww Architekten SIA AG Zürich
Atus AG Lufingen
- B** Bachema AG Schlieren
BFH - Berner Fachhochschule, Engineering and Information Technology Burgdorf
BFH, High Voltage and EMC Laboratory Burgdorf
BFH, Photovoltaic Laboratory Burgdorf
BÜCHI Labortechnik AG Flawil
Burckhardt Architektur AG Basel / Bern / Zürich
- C** Caprez Ingenieure AG Chur
CAsination AG Bern
CERN Geneva
CORPUS architecture urbanisme Geneva
- E** Empa - Eidgenössische Materialprüfungs- und Forschungsanstalt Dübendorf / St. Gallen
Ericsson AG Bern
ETHZ - Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, Institute of Agricultural Sciences Zürich /
- F** Ferrum Analytics & Sorting AG Schaffisheim
FHNW - Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Institute of Polymer Nanotechnology Brugg-Windisch
FHNW, Institute of Interactive Technologies Brugg-Windisch
FHNW, Institute of Polymer Engineering Brugg-Windisch
FKH - Fachkommission für Hochspannungsfragen Zürich-Oerlikon
- G** Geoprofile GmbH Adligenswil
- H** Hitachi Energy Ltd Baden-Dättwil
Hombrechtikon Systems Engineering AG Hombrechtikon
- I** intelliCard Solutions AG Rapperswil
- J** Julien Dubois Architectes SA La Chaux-de-Fonds
- K** KRM Services AG Zürich
- L** Loepfe Brothers Ltd. Wetzikon
Luca Selva AG Basel
Lumiphase AG Stäfa
Lüscher Bucher Theiler Architekten GmbH Luzern
- N** Niutec AG Winterthur
Novartis Pharma AG Basel
- O** OST - Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Institute of Microtechnology and Photonics Buchs
- P** Parit Immo Bau AG St. Gallen
PSI - Paul Scherrer Institut Villigen
- R** Rapp Architekten AG Münchenstein
REFCO Manufacturing Ltd. Hitzkirch
- S** Schäublin Architekten AG Zürich
Schenkel Vermessungen AG Zürich
Sinox AG Brüttisellen
Smurfit Westrock Swisswell AG Möhlin
Société des Produits Nestlé SA Konolfingen
Solcept AG Wetzikon
SYNICS Regensdorf
- T** toolsuisse AG Rotkreuz
TreaTech SA Lausanne
- U** u-blox AG Thalwil
Universität Basel, Biozentrum Basel
Universität Bern, ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research Bern
- W** Waldhauser + Hermann AG Münchenstein
- Z** ZHAW - Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Institute of Computational Physics Winterthur
ZHAW, Institute of Mechatronic Systems Winterthur
ZHAW, Institute of Product Development and Production Technologies Winterthur
Zulauf AG Schinznach Dorf
Zweifel Pomy Chips & Snacks AG Spreitenbach



IAESTE
SWITZERLAND