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Role: Student in Erasmus
Place: Pädagogische Hochschule Zug, Switzerland
Period of stay: September 2021 – December 2021
Type of mobility: Semester stay / Teaching Practicum

I came to Zug with quite good expectations about the landscapes and the mountains and about the subjects at the university and these expectations did not disappoint.

The **university** is really small, so is the city, but it's great, actually since it is quite small, people would look after you more. I received great **support** from the PH Zug and from the person responsible for us incoming students, from whom I always received information in advance and with whom I could talk to about any issues. I found that people here were all very kind, respectful and helpful. The **teachers** have all been very kind and available and I really felt like I could write them with any questions and I could express my opinion without fear of judgment. The university building is very modern and it has everything you may search for, complete with studying rooms, group and sofa rooms, a crypt with mattresses, a print room, pianos, a library and a gym. The **subjects** were all in English for us and all the professors could speak it perfectly. My favourite subject was Intercultural pedagogy in the focus week, where we could meet people who immigrated to Switzerland from different parts of the world. We could hear their stories and talk about integration as citizens and as teachers; for me it was amazing, very practical, very emotional and very diverse and I loved that the University provided a course like that. All the subjects have been very entertaining and dynamic and I learned a lot about the use of my voice, about interculturality and multiculturalism, and about how to teach.

The **teaching practice** was great. The international school of the teaching practice is a really innovative school and the whole system really surprised me and excited me, and the whole staff of teachers is very supportive and very much like a family and the mentor of the teaching practice is very helpful and kind with everything. I taught sometimes and I felt very lucky and surrounded by a **good and healthy environment**. I really enjoyed going to university and going to the teaching practice.





The other students have also been helpful and our **buddies** did a great job, mostly in the beginning, helping us through our first issues of staying in a new place. They offered us to accompany to places and they helped us with the immigration office. They invited us to their houses and to eat typical food from their culture and we discovered some new places with them. They have been very sweet.



The **accommodation** was suggested and provided by the University, they did everything and that's very kind and very comfortable because it can be quite difficult to search for a house when you are in another country. I have lived in the Monastery at literally three steps from the University, so very convenient. The price is quite low for Switzerland's standards and the scholarship will help cover it. I had my own room and I share the floor, the kitchen and the bathroom with other people, two of which are the other Erasmus people, which is quite handy. The people from the Monastery are very kind and helpful and it's a nice and cozy environment. Switzerland is quite expensive, but if you find the right supermarkets, for example Migros or Lidl, it can be managed. The thing that bothered me the most about money was the cost of the train tickets but fortunately the university covers the **cost** of the half travel card, which is a card that cut the price of ticket in half through all Switzerland, so this can also be managed.



I faced some challenges concerning the costs of course, concerning the immigration office at first (then it was solved), concerning the language barrier sometimes (because I don't speak German and that's the official language here, but the university provided a German course and I tried to learn it). However, they can all speak English very good here, and sometimes concerning the cultural differences of eating habits, punctuality or warmth.

I will remember forever the support and the kindness from people here, the innovation and the practice of the studies and subjects, the most beautiful hikes in the most beautiful places and the sunsets at the lake.

I think that the subjects that I did here could help a lot for my **career and future**; I have to say that I don't see myself fully as a teacher but my dream is to become a social worker. So the teaching practice and the voice training could really help and gave me a lot of good tools for working with kids, and the subjects in which we talked about open-mindedness, systemic racism and interculturality could be very very helpful for my future as a social worker obviously, so I'm grateful.

3 positive points: landscapes, practice and innovation, support

3 negative points: language barrier, not a lot of Erasmus people, expensive

If you want to experience a good and functioning university; if you want to look out of the window, out of the cafeteria or out of a random bar and see a beautiful view of the lake; if you want to have also a little bit of time for yourself to read or think or let yourself grow; if you want to experience a small cozy place and you don't like the chaos of a big city; if you want to have an innovative teaching practice in a healthy environment, if you want to have good and cold walks in the nature; **this is the right place for you.**

