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The support at the PH in Zug before moving over was really great . The college were really great at replying to emails about our modules and other questions we had about college. What was really difficult before moving over was trying to find accommodation. There was no accommodation left in the monastery which the college suggested and when we asked for other options there was limited suggestions and the ones which were suggested were full. Alternative accommodation in Zug was very expensive. Therefore this was quite a challenge for us.

The support from the college buddies we were set up with was really great. Mark was so helpful and any issues we had he always helped us with. They organised a get together for us to get to know each other.

While at the P.H we had great support from the teachers ,any questions we had or things we needed clarified was no problem. I had Helen as my music teacher once a week and she always checked in with me to make sure I was doing ok and if I was having any problems.

We had Olivia as our placement tutor who was amazing. She gave us so much support with our lesson planning, teaching and with other college life. Every Thursday we would have mentoring sessions with her which were really amazing and I was always looking forward to them. She organised us a going away crafts day before we left with her and to go on a candle lit walk and we were able to reflect on all the amazing times.



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I had Emma Carr as my placement teacher who was really brilliant , she was so warm and welcoming of me in the classroom and made me really comfortable to teach in her classroom. We worked together to pick the topics I would be teaching.

I mentioned finding accommodation above. In the end myself and another Irish girl had to find it completely ourselves. As there was no student accommodation left in Zug that we could find everything else was insanely expensive we ended up expanding our search bracket and we found Luzern. We looked on the colleges in Luzerns websites for links to accommodation and that's how we found where we ended up living. Our accommodation was 550 chf a month which was pretty good and the grant we received from the PH just about covered this. We lived in a 10 room student house which was great as there was always people to talk to and life about the place. I liked living in Luzern as it is a much more student city. There was lots of shops , clubs and bars, They would have student nights in the clubs in Luzern which was also great for meeting new people.

We joined the Erasmus student network in Luzern which was fantastic. They organised so many events from September all the way through to December. This meant we were able to meet really cool people from outside the PH in Zug who were also on Erasmus and doing different courses. I made so many great friends through the ESN and we were able to share hike ideas and must see in Switzerland.



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I joined the local kayaking club in Zug which was very friendly and welcoming and I went out



with them nearly every week

Approximate monthly living costs were probably 1000 euro a month. Accommodation was 550 CHF a month, transport costs were 300 CHF a month as I had to buy a Swiss GA card as it was better value to get a travel card as I was going to Zurich once a week for college. This also meant I could maximise my time by going anywhere I wanted while in Switzerland at no additional cost. Food was about 200 euro a month especially if you are trying to eat well and healthily and meat is so expensive. Although the college canteen is quite good value, it still works out quite expensive to eat there regularly. The college had a microwave and a kettle which students could access which was very useful for us since we travelled in from Luzern we would be in for the whole day so we would have to bring packed lunch.

The programme at the PH was really good. The majority of our lectures were really interesting. I really enjoyed the music lectures with Henk. They were so engaging and I feel I learnt more about teaching music in the one semester with Henk than I had learnt about teaching music in my home university. By the end of the semester I felt my confidence for teaching music had hugely improved. I was so happy while at the PH in Zug to have the opportunity to learn both the piano and the guitar. Before going to Zug I had no musical background but I really expanded my knowledge on music and in the end I really loved playing both of these instruments.

I also attended class in Zurich on a Friday which I would hugely recommend. Stefan the lecturer was so engaging and I learnt so much about Switzerland and as part of the

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programme we went on trips around Zurich and also to Geneva, Lauterbrunnen and Bern and we each got to learn about and present o one of the places we had been to.



One of my favourite parts of studying at Ph Zug was being able to do teaching placement in the international school. I learnt so much here as it was so different to schools in Ireland and I have so many new ideas and ways of doing things to bring into my future teaching. I would hugely recommend taking this module. Everyone at ISZL was so friendly and wanting to help us. I had so many amazing opportunities to teach a range of subjects and to work with the learning support class.

The things I found the most challenging was getting our residency permits and having to open a bank account. We were living in Luzern so we had to register in the canton of Luzern which was different to the canton of Zug which the college had told us about. When we realised this we really didn't know what to do about how to open it and all the forms were in German. I think for future students if the college could give them more support on this it would be helpful. It was also really hard as we were told we had to get a permit to open a bank account as the money had to be sent to a swiss bank account. All of these things cost us at least 100chf which the girls in Zug didn't do and received their money in cash saving that 100 chf. This was quite unfair .

One of the lectures we had was a first year lecture and although the lecturer and content was excellent we had already covered this as we are in 3rd year and I think only having 3rd year

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lectures would be better. This would also make it much easier for us to integrate with the students at the PH as we would see the same students a lot more often.

We had some lectures where there were only three of us (English speaking) which was quite challenging especially as some of them were 3 hours long and twice we had 6 hours of this lecture in one day. The English speaking cohort was very small. The language barrier limited the choice of modules quite a bit.

One thing I found interesting while in the lectures was myself and Cifa talked a lot more when questions were asked to the whole class and often none of the Swiss students would engage with questions asked by the lecturers.

The grading system is so different to Ireland and if a grade is required by a home college there needs to be more quality about the equivalence.

What I would recommend for future students are all my favourite things that I did while in Switzerland. I did so many amazing adventures so I have just included my top favourites!

The Matterhorn is a must see its so incredible and I did the most amazing hike there.



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Interlaken is everything it's made up to be and more. The lake is so blue and is perfect for swimming in , the sunset at the top of the lake is extraordinary.



Bellinzona , I went here with three of the girls from zug and we had such a Fabolous day out. We saw the three castles and we hiked up to the suspension bridge which was so beautiful.



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Sledding in the snow on the Zugerberg is a must do as it's so much fun and so close to the college.



Mount Pilatus at Luzern, the view is breath-taking from the top and go in September or early October and the bobsled run is still open this is a 10/10 day out.

Hiking at Oberegeri and it's a great one to do in the snow. Its covered on the Zug pass and it's not too long and once again the view is gorgeous.



The Christmas markets anywhere we went to the ones in Basel, Luzern and Zurich were all so magical.

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The thermal baths in Baden are free and are so warm its such a good half day trip as they are only 15 mins from Zurich.



Go to an ice hockey game in Zug the atmosphere is so cool and its really fun to watch.



What was so cool for us is how accessible all of Europe becomes by train and I was able to visit Lichtenstein , go to Paris and Munich for weekends and the felling of being able to just get on a train and go was amazing.

Overall 100 percent go on Erasmus to Zug its incredible.