

**Overall, I had a fantastic experience studying in Zug. I would encourage anyone who is thinking of going on Erasmus to go.**

## **PH Zug College**

PH Zug provided an enriching and engaging learning experience. The courses were not only insightful but also interactive, ensuring we felt part of the academic community. The lecturers, delivering their sessions in English, made sure to involve us in discussions, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all international students. It was clear they cared about making the experience memorable and impactful for everyone.

I would say I felt supported by the staff at PH Zug. Judith helped us with documentation needed and offered advice for our stay. Patrick was also another friendly face who we could go to if we had a problem. He also reimbursed us all for money for the halftax card which I will mention later. This financial support was very helpful and definitely saved us a lot of money! Apart from the international office team, all our lecturers were very helpful too. They always tried to include us through activities during the lectures. Everyone was approachable and eager to help, making the transition to a new country much smoother.

I studied English methodology, music, PE, speech and voice training, person and interaction and special needs education. Throughout these modules, we took part in practical activities as well as learning theory that will be beneficial for our teaching careers. I really enjoyed music each week as we looked at different aspects of the music curriculum including dancing, singing and performing. Henk always made sure everyone was engaged and enjoyed his classes, so it was never a chore attending. Speech and voice training was also another great choice. Judith always delivered very practical lessons where we could take our learning and employ it during our teaching careers!



## **Finding Accommodation**

Finding accommodation in Zug as an Erasmus student was a mix of challenge and adventure. Initially, we struggled as most options were either far too expensive or located too far away. As someone who didn't know the area or transport systems it was difficult to know if a certain area was a good place to live, but I can say now that the transport in Switzerland is second to none. So, if we had ended up further away it would not have been too bad.

However, we did get lucky in the end and secured a place in the college house, where we lived with 16 other students from Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. It was lovely to always have people around, and the house was spacious enough for everyone with two big study rooms, two sitting rooms, a kitchen and a dining room. This communal living experience added a social and supportive dynamic to our stay, making it feel like a home away from home.

## **Zug Itself**

Zug may be small, but it has everything you need. The lake, surrounded by mountains, is stunning and offers many opportunities for nice walks or hikes up Zugerberg! Whether walking along the shore or exploring the quaint streets, Zug has a cute charm that I'll always remember. The Freiruum was a super cool place for food and definitely pay a visit to Chicago if you enjoy nights out! One practical tip, shops don't open on Sundays, something we didn't realize at the start! Planning ahead became part of the routine, and Zug quickly felt like home.

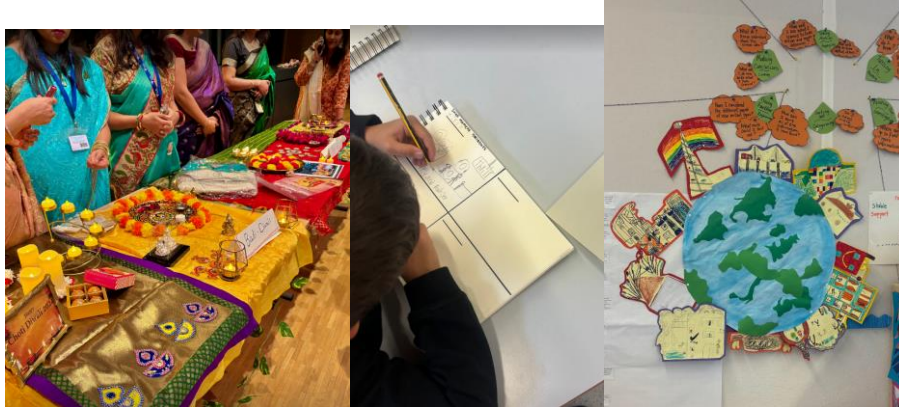
## **Piano Lessons**

One of the most unexpected joys was the chance to take weekly piano lessons. The classes were a perfect mix of fun and learning, and the teacher's patience and encouragement made the experience even more rewarding. It was amazing to pick up a new skill while studying abroad, and I know it will be lovely to use this skill in the future in the classroom as a teacher, adding a creative element to my teaching style.

## **ISZL Experience**

Teaching at the International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL) twice a week was an unreal experience. I had the opportunity to work with second-grade students and learned so much about teaching through the inquiry cycle. It was fascinating to see how this method encourages critical thinking and hands-on exploration. The diversity of the

school, with students from all over the world, created such a unique experience and an inspiring atmosphere. My class teacher Tina also had so much experience, and she supported me immensely throughout. This experience gave me practical insights into international education and profoundly shaped my understanding of teaching.

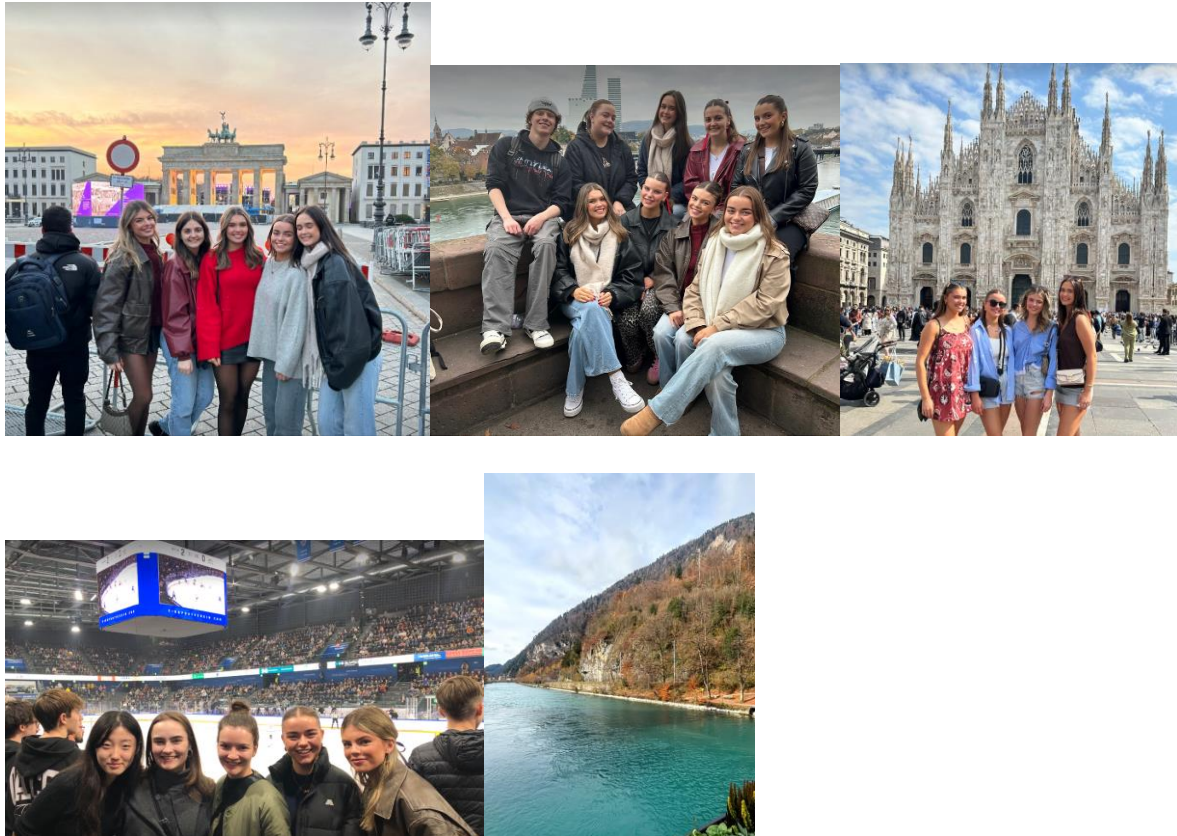


## Transport

The transport system in Zug and Switzerland, in general, is incredible. We bought the Halbtax card, which gives you 50% off all trains once you are under 25, making it easier and more affordable to explore the country. We also purchased the Zug community bus pass every month for 62 francs, which allowed us unlimited access to local buses. This was especially convenient and even worked for the Zugerberg mountain train, which leads to trails and breathtaking views. Taking advantage of this excellent transport system made it easy to explore both Zug and beyond.

## Trips

The opportunities to travel were incredible, and we didn't expect to explore so much. From hopping on a bus to Milan, catching a flight to Berlin, or taking the train to Lucerne, Basel, and Bern, every trip was a new adventure. Each destination was lovely, and we really tried to make the most out of every opportunity. These trips were unforgettable and added so much to my Erasmus experience. We also did trips close by to Zugerberg and ageribad to the infinity pool which we love! Definitely try to go to an ice hockey game too. We went to three overall, and they are always such good fun!



## Budgeting

Overall, I would say Switzerland is quite expensive. However, after a few weeks you quickly learn how to budget. We did a weekly shop each week in lidl. This really worked for us. Otherwise, if we needed something quick, we headed to migros down the road. Transport was still dear if you were using the train often even after having the halftax but we embraced it as we wanted to visit other cities i.e zurich, lucerne, bern, basel and interlacken. We probably spent 800 euro a month excluding rent. However, as mentioned previously we did a lot of travel and some shopping here and there, so it differs for everyone.