

## **Final Report PH Zug**

### **1. Support**

I thought that the support from PH Zug and the International Office was great. Particularly whilst we were preparing for our study abroad semester. Judith was happy to answer any queries we may have had over email and was a great help all round. As well as that Patrick was a great help in particular when guiding us on what transport passes would be best for us as we were clueless!

During my internship at ISZL, my class teacher Caroline was an invaluable support during my time there. Whether I needed help with a lesson idea, needed resources/ materials for a lesson, was worried about how a lesson went or even just needed some guidance during my time here, Caroline would go above and beyond to try her best to help & reassure me no matter how big or small.

My Buddies Irina & Michelle were very nice. We had a lovely meeting at the Freiruum in Zug. Unfortunately, I had friends & family visiting the other times that they had activities planned so I was unable to attend.

### **2. Accommodation and Living Situation**

I found finding accommodation in the right place for a reasonable price quite difficult. I was very fortunate to get a shared room with Kate, another exchange student from Ireland, in the shared student flat less than a 5-minute walk from the PH. Kate and I had originally booked an apartment in Zurich that fell through. Really this was a blessing in disguise as the student flat was perfect for us and it would have been over an hour to travel from Zurich to the PH every morning. It had all the facilities & amenities we needed – Large kitchen & dining room, living room with projector, study spaces, storage, wash & dryer & area to hang clothes to dry. As well as all of these pros, the main positive to the student flat was that we got to meet & live with so many others and made great friends.

I paid 2,000 CHF altogether for 4 months accommodation in a shared room which was very reasonable compared to other options we looked into. Cost of living is quite expensive in Zug, monthly costs for transport food, activities & miscellaneous (excluding accommodation) was about 700CHF (although we made the absolute most of our time here & did lots of travel & experiences)

### **3. Overall Programme**

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the program at PH Zug. I thought the balance between classes and teaching practice was great- 3 days in college and 2 days on teaching practice. I chose the following modules

- Person & Interaction
- Communication: Theory and Practice
- Studying Abroad
- Oral Communication in School
- English Methodology
- Music Methodology
- Physical Education and Sports Methodology
- Special Needs Education
- Instrument – Piano
- German Language Course

I was very happy with my choices for my time here & each of the lecturers for each module made me feel very welcome, even though it may have been a struggle for them to deliver the lecture content through English they always tried their best.

My favourite modules were Music Methodology, Special Needs Education & piano. Our music lecturer Henk always made such an effort to include Kate and I into each lecture & include the Irish culture & curriculum where he could. I also thoroughly enjoyed the assessment for this module. We had to teach a song to our class on teaching practice and record them singing it. I chose 'Here Comes the Sun' by the Beatles. My class really enjoyed it and I thought it was a very practical form of assessment.

Special Needs Education was very insightful and we even got to go on a visit to the Maria Opferung Zug, which supports children with special and additional needs. It was really cool to see the facilities they had for children there and how they differ from facilities like that in Ireland.

Before coming on Erasmus, I had never played any instrument. I chose to learn how to play the Piano with Simone and I am so glad I did. She was an amazing teacher and I now know all of the chords & have learnt many songs including Feliz Navidad, Let it Be, Can't Help Falling in Love with You and lots more. I am definitely going to keep it up when I return home and use it in the classroom.

I completed my teaching practice at the International School of Zug & Lucerne in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This was by far my favourite part of the programme at PH Zug. I had an amazing class teacher who was actually from Ireland as well. I had never taught a class with such diverse backgrounds before so it was amazing to get this experience. I taught 2 lessons a week and got to observe and assist with many more. It was so interesting learning about & teaching from a different curriculum and comparing it to the Irish curriculum. I think this experience will stand to me for many years in my teaching future & career.

#### **4. Personal evaluation of the stay**

I would definitely recommend to anyone thinking about coming on Erasmus to consider PH Zug. It has the perfect balance of being a small town, but only a 25 minute train to Zurich. I think the mix of college & teaching practice the biggest plus to the course.

The biggest recommendation I have would be to do as much travel during your free time. We visited Zurich, Basel, Lucerne, Interlaken, Berlin & Milan whilst being here and we are hoping to get to Geneva on our last week before heading home. The train systems over here are amazing and you can get almost anywhere. There is also an 80CHF pass for 4 people under 25 to travel anywhere in Switzerland return for the day for only 20CHF each. We used this for longer trips like Interlaken, Rhine Falls & Basel.

Other recommendations I would have for your time here:

Freiruum (a huge industrial building converted into a food court with many different restaurants & food markets from different vendors), pumpkin patches, ice hockey games, outdoor pool in Ageribod, Lindt museum, Christmas markets & ice skating of course. I would also definitely recommend a trip to Zugerberg in the sunshine and in the snow!

I think the main challenge I faced was balancing classes, teaching practice, social outings, exploring a new country & finding time for myself, all whilst being in a new country away from my family. The days and hours can be quite long but the weeks fly so the slight lack of sleep was worth it and I wouldn't have changed it.

📍 Freiruum



📍 Lindt museum



📌 Cable car to Zugerberg



📌 Swiss Life Arena



📌 Ageribod



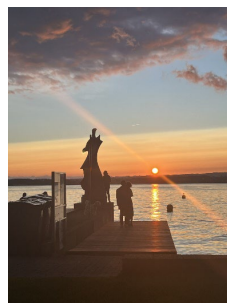
📌 Lucerne



📌 Interlacken



📌 Lake Zug



📍 Zug



📍 Zurich Christmas markets



📍 Basel

