

## **Final report: Semester exchange programme at PH Zug – Charlotte Curley**

### **1. Support**

- From PH Zug / the International Office – I received good support from PH Zug and from the International Office. I decided to apply to PH Zug's exchange programme late, and Lynne and Judith were very accommodating. When I had issues regarding modules and credits, Lynne was very helpful.
- From your classroom teacher (if you completed the internship) – I am very happy and satisfied with the support that I received from my classroom teacher in the International School of Zug and Luzern. My classroom teacher was very welcoming and instantly made me feel welcomed and comfortable. She provided me with lots of helpful feedback on my weekly lessons, and she gave me good, practical advice for my teaching practice and the ways in which I can improve. I felt very supported coming up to and during my observation visit. My classroom teacher supported me during this by providing me with advice, materials and resource ideas and feedback.
- From your buddy – I received good support from my buddy. I felt comfortable asking her any questions I had and going to her for advice on anything. She was friendly and kind when we met our first day. She answered all of our questions and helped us to settle in well.

### **2. Accommodation and living situation**

- Finding accommodations, type of accommodations, cost – I was offered a room in the Kloster and I found the accommodation suitable for attending the university, and I found the cost of the accommodation reasonable and fair. However, outside of this option, the accommodation types are very limited. If I had not gotten a place in the Kloster, I would have found it very difficult to find alternative accommodation.
- Approximate monthly living costs – Considering the fact that Zug is an expensive area, I found the monthly living costs to be as I expected. It was expensive, but manageable. I found that I spent a lot of money on trains, as the transport here is quite expensive. I found grocery shopping reasonable. Activities on the weekends depended on what they were, but for the most part they were expensive. However, this was expected as Switzerland is an expensive country.

### 3. Overall programme

- Programme at PH Zug (lectures etc.) – I enjoyed the programme, and I found the lectures and classes useful and practical. I enjoyed the practical aspect of the modules, and I have been able to take useful tips from these classes for my future teacher practice. Speech and voice coaching and Natural sciences are examples of practical modules that were hands-on and interactive. The modules that I particularly enjoyed were teaching practice at ISZL, Special Needs Education and English Methodology. I think the classroom management class in PH Luzern and the Swiss culture class in PH Zurich are great additions to the programme. The classes themselves were great, especially the class in PH Luzern, and these classes allowed me to spend time in these new places, meet other international students and further my professional and personal growth. I personally found the German Language course not as helpful and practical as I thought it would be. It was maybe not organised properly, and I understand that it is difficult to teach a beginner a new language. I found that at the end of this module, I had not achieved what I would have liked to have achieved, which would be knowing and understanding a basic level of German.
- Teaching practice programme – The teaching practice programme was one of my favourite parts about my exchange programme. I felt that this was a very worthwhile experience and something that I learned a lot from. I think that, as teaching is such a practical profession, it is important to have many positive experiences on teaching practice. The International School of Zug and Luzern were very welcoming and helpful. I received lots of support from my classroom teacher and many others at ISZL.

### 4. Personal evaluation of the stay

- Benefit for your future studies and career – I feel that this exchange programme at PH Zug will benefit me in my future studies and career. It was good for my future studies to study in a new place. Many of the classes I attended were unlike my home university's classes and so this was a good, new experience for me. I was introduced to a new perspective of teaching and from this I learned many new things. Teaching

practice allowed me to gain more practical, hands-on experience and reaffirmed my love for teaching.

- Recommendations for future students – For future students, I would recommend that they begin looking for accommodation as soon as possible, to ensure they can get suitable accommodation. I would recommend inquiring about the module, and whether the classes will be with other international students or with the university students. This could help when choosing modules and doing the learning agreement.
- Personal evaluation and conclusion – From this exchange programme, I have benefited from it both personally and professionally. I learned to deal with new challenges that I had never dealt with before. I learned to be independent regarding my studies, travel and living by myself. I learned about myself as a future teacher and the kind of teacher I would like to be. While there were a few challenges that I faced and there are some things that could be improved, I overall enjoyed my exchange programme experience at PH Zug.

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