

FINAL REPORT: QUESTIONNAIRE

Charlotte Dutton

29th October – 23rd November 2018

1- Information and Support

Wonderful support provided by Patrick and Judith when we arrived in Switzerland! We had a great tour of the university so felt prepared for our classes. We participated in Music, German, English Methodology and Woodwork classes during our time at PH Zug. Us four Australian girls were buddied up with Nicol from PH Zug. She was a great help when we had questions whether they were about the university, school, culture or what to see! I loved the opportunity to visit her practicum school for a day.

*Perhaps a suggestion for next time would be notifying us of our host family and school much earlier so we can prepare ourselves in terms of location, transport, lesson planning etc. I understand this process is difficult and the organization is hard with school holidays though.

*Classes offered in English were enjoyable.

2- Overall program/living situation

Have absolutely loved my time spent at Elementa! It has been a very different experience to any other practicum I have done in Australia. Our program meant we spent time across all the different year levels and in different subject areas. It has been so lovely building a connection with the students and the staff and learning about the different cultures – not only Swiss but from many other European countries.

The classes offered at PH Zug were English methodology or Music, woodwork and German lessons. I really enjoyed the music classes and Henk made us feel very welcome – often making jokes about the Australian/Swiss differences. This was a really great class and something different from what is offered back home. I am keen to incorporate some music activities and games within 'regular' classes back home.

I absolutely loved the opportunity to visit our PH Zug buddies' practicum school! And I also really loved the tour of Zug we did with They!

My hosts were just AMAZING! I was placed with a couple of similar age and was made to feel right at home. We enjoyed chatting and sharing stories over the dinner table. I was just a short walk to the train station and they even offered me the use of their electric bike. The cost of this stay (500CHF) was very affordable.

*Perhaps more involvement in the creation of our university timetable may have been good. I really loved the German class and wouldn't want to miss it however 4:45-5:45pm on a Friday made it difficult to plan any weekends away. We only have such a limited time in Switzerland it would be nice to make the most of the weekends so we can see as much as possible.

*I found it quite challenging sharing class time with another student from Australia. Ellen and I got along very well but back home we never do practicums with another student so this was very different. We still enjoyed this but I think we both just wanted to get as much teaching in as possible!

3- Goals and professional benefit

My main goal for this program was to fully immerse myself into every opportunity given to me. I wasn't sure what to expect so was ready to give everything a go. I have managed to push myself out of my comfort zone and overcome the challenge of the language barrier. I will take all my learnings from this experience in a Swiss school and try to find a way to incorporate the elements I think worked well into my teaching back in Australia. This experience has questioned my pedagogical philosophy and has pushed me to become a better teacher.

4- Personal evaluation of the stay

I would definitely recommend undertaking a few basic German lessons before coming over. We were under the impression our university in Melbourne was going to provide these for us however they didn't. This would've been very beneficial and a great base for developing our German language.

BRING WARM CLOTHES! Expect all weather possibilities – we had days where we were comfortable in T-shirts and days where we wore about 20 layers.

If possible – get into contact with your hosts early (difficult if finding this out late) to discuss what they might like to do/have planned for you. This way you can plan your free time and make the most of it.

I would definitely recommend staying longer after the four weeks as it is quite full on trying to balance doing placement, university classes and travel. This way you can see more!!

Don't be afraid to ask for help – everyone has been so welcoming and helpful!

I don't think I can choose specific positive points – the overall program has been such a positive and enjoyable experience!



