

# Final Report: Questionnaire

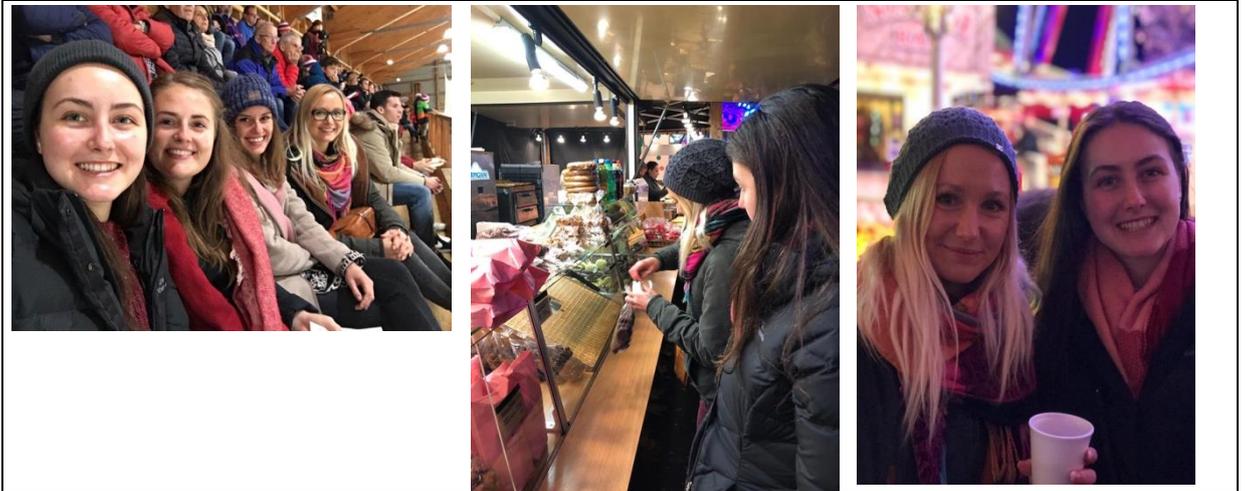
Ellen Boundy

Four-week teaching practice programme at the PH Zug

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## 1. Information and support

- of the PH Zug / of the International Office PH Zug
  - Judith and Patrick were very welcoming on the first day we arrived at the PH Zug. The conversation between us and them was very good, as they chatted about all things Switzerland; which increased our excitement. The only downfall was that as soon as we were dropped off at our practicum schools, we did not have any more support or contact with Judith and Patrick. Unless Judith emailed us about something important, like a meeting or a different lecture we could possibly take (which was great). Therefore, the support of the International office of PH Zug was only on the first day. Despite not needing any additional support from them, I think a 2 week in email asking how everything was going, could be a good idea; especially if students needed more support but were afraid to ask.
- of your classroom teacher
  - My experience at Elementa was very different to what I expected. I had expected to have one classroom teacher and one grade. However, this was not the case, as my practicum timetable was a mix of different subjects within different grades. Therefore, I was never following the same class all day, it was always changed from hour to hour. This meant I had several classroom teachers. All the teachers were very nice and were open to answering questions that I may have had about the subject, the school, the students and so on. They were very supportive and provided feedback after I taught my lessons.
- of your buddy
  - Nicol was a fantastic buddy and I would highly recommend asking her to be a buddy again to future international students. She always provided us with suggestions of what we could do on the weekend and was open to having plans change. She did not force us to do her suggestions but put them out there, for anyone who may be interested. This worked well, as we were still able to go out on the weekends with ourselves or our hosts families; we were not tied to any plans Nicol suggested. Nicol was super lovely and provided us with lots of wonderful knowledge and tourist things. She also offered to drive us places, when we were catching up as a group. This was a very nice gesture, as we took a lot of public transport during our stay. It was an absolute pleasure to have Nicol as our buddy, and we had so many great moments and laughs together.



## 2. Overall programme / living situation

- Teaching practice programme (school, subjects)
  - Elementa was a wonderful school which provided me with a diverse range of experiences. The pupils were lovely and appeared very keen to get to know me. This was a great thing, as it made it easier to create conversation with the students, particularly whilst on lunch duty. I will be sad to leave such an interesting and wonderful bunch of pupils at Elementa. Monica was fabulous as well. She was always smiling and saying good morning to us. She always made sure we were feeling comfortable and kept in contact with us during the week and provided us with weekly meetings with her, to talk about our progress and if we had any concerns and/or questions. Monica also ensured we were given feedback after we taught our sport lessons. The subjects were similar, to the ones I had experienced in both primary school and high school in Melbourne. However, the method of teaching the subjects was completely different to what I am used to and therefore was quite insightful. I found the English lesson for non-native speakers was quite interesting, in terms of how they go about teaching English and what sort of things the teacher teaches first.
- Programme at the PH Zug (lectures etc.)
  - Music with Henk (teacher) was incredible and lots of fun! I would highly recommend this music class for future international students. He was very accommodating and provided us with opportunities to join in and included us in all conversations. He enjoyed laughing with us and asked us questions about our music education in university and if we had done anything like what he was teaching. Music was a great class to have, especially for being quite early in the morning (8:20am). He always spoke English in the lesson and apologised if he spoke German to clarify to the other non-international students what the tasks and/or assignments were (his apologies for speaking in German was not needed, but was very thoughtful of him).
- Living situation (accommodation, costs, etc.)
  - Living with a host family was fantastic. It created insight into the daily lives of Swiss people and allowed me to gain more knowledge of Switzerland and the best places to go and visit before leaving. My hosts Manda and Peter were fantastic and very kind and caring! They loved sharing their experiences with me and vice versa. We had many great chats, which sometimes ended in Peter pulling out a range of different maps for me to

look at. I think the best thing about living with a host family, is that I have created strong life-long relationships/friendships with these people and gives me a wonderful excuse to come back to Switzerland. My host family to me, are like my real family and I cannot wait to come back in a few years to visit them. If Manda and Peter are still willing to have international students stay with them, I would highly recommend them to any future international students. The cost of 500 CHF was reasonable and felt that was more than enough for accommodation and meals such as breakfast and dinner. Overall, they were fantastic in every way and I have nothing but great things to say about these incredible people.



### 3. Goals and professional benefit

- Personal goals for the placement
  - To step out of my comfort zone and try new things.
- Achieved goals and newly acquired competencies
  - I achieved my main goal of stepping out of my comfort zone. For example, mathematics is a weakness of mine and therefore teaching mathematics in a foreign country is out of

my comfort zone. But when given the chance to teach mathematics, I took it and felt that I was capable of teaching mathematics in a foreign country.

- I have developed a new level of confidence with knowing that I can handle whatever is thrown my way. I believe this new-found level of confidence, will benefit me in my practicum next year.
- Benefit for your future studies and profession
  - This experience has given me great insight as to what I like (I.E my preferred type of school and layout of school), allowed me to develop more confidence within the classroom and has given me insight into how I could change my behaviour management style and teaching strategies.

#### 4. Personal evaluation of the stay

- Recommendations for future students
  - To have no expectations about your practicum, as it turned out to be completely different to what I was expecting (neither a good or bad thing).
  - The four weeks are full on with every spare minute taken up with something. Therefore, be sure to give yourself some down time to make sure you don't burn out too quickly.
  - Get involved in everything you can and make the most of your trip.
- Personal evaluation (3 positive and 3 negative points)
  - **Positives**
    - The host families are a great idea for accommodation and should be continued.
    - Having a university buddy was great and recommend for this for future international students.
    - The German classes were great and I enjoyed them immensely. I would have loved to have had more German lessons, especially on the Friday instead of wood work.
  - **Negatives**
    - The spare time between university classes was too big. It would be better if the times were closer together.
    - German Class at 4:45-5:45 is quite late on a Friday night, especially if we wanted to go travelling/away for the weekend to another country (I.E Italy or France). I understand the time of the lesson may have been because Elvir had classes all day.
    - Finding out our practicum schools a week or so prior to arriving. I understand schools were on holiday but perhaps this could have been avoided, by organising practicums prior to practicum schools going on holidays.