

Breanne Packer

Teaching Practice Program at PH Zug

Information and Support

My teaching experience through PH Zug has been wonderful. I have received the necessary information and support to make my stay positive experience. I believe the university was extremely proactive with providing me support as well as welcoming me into this experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the teaching program here in Zug Switzerland.

Miss Deutsche, my classroom teacher, was phenomenal! She was extremely helpful in finding resources for my lessons as well as offering positive and constructive feedback when necessary. She imparted her wisdom of what she believes makes a good teacher and an uplifting classroom for both the teacher and the students. She does an amazing job connecting to her students and continues to make that a goal. She thrives to build classroom community so every individual student can learn where they are at. She taught me how important outdoor play is in the students academic and cognitive learning. She trusted me with her class, which resulted in me comfortably co-teaching full time. I was able to have positive relationships with the students and gain their respect because I was seen as a teacher, not just a visitor. I was a part of the class. I appreciate the support and help my cooperating teacher gave. She was always willing to provide me with exactly what I needed and gave me opportunities to learn. Another support I had throughout this experience were my buddies. They were very kind to welcome me into the culture. I was able to attend a day in their school. It was a fun experience to watch another practicing teacher teach.

Overall Program and Living Situation

The overall program was fantastic! I loved the school I was at, the classroom teacher I had, and the students I taught. It was such an amazing experience learning about the curriculum, the education system, and view points throughout this part of the world. My eyes have been opened and my perspective and beliefs about education have been widened. I believe I am a better teacher because of this program!

I loved the family I lived with! The Tanners were very generous and kind as they welcomed me into their home. They were so fun to be around and continued to impress me with their english skills. I loved being a part of their family! It was very convenient to have my own space. I had my own room and shared a bathroom/the rest of the loft with the other student teacher I was living with. It was very nice to come and go as we wanted. They were willing to cook dinners as well as interact with us on the daily. We were able to gain strong relationships with everyone in the family. It was great living in a home where I was able to feel safe, and live comfortably for the seven weeks. This experience was surprisingly affordable! I had more the \$5 in my savings account! :) I was able to use my money on things I needed such as a train pass, but also things I wanted like seeing a movie at the cinema. I was also able to experience different places and countries while still feeling financially stable.

Goals and professional benefit

Since my experience in Switzerland, I believe my goals have become about how I can best help every INDIVIDUAL student in every aspect of their lives. Through this program, I have learned how crucial it is to gain one-on-one relationships with every student and how they truly benefit in every way because of it. The results to strong teacher-student relationships will show extreme results in academics, cognitive and emotional development. I have benefited through this program by gaining a new perspective on what teaching **can** look like from teaching at an international school. Teaching doesn't have to be done in one certain way! There's not a right way to teach.

Personal evaluation of the stay

Overall I have loved my experience abroad and stepping out of my comfort zone. I have loved being able to learn about and being immersed in a different culture. I enjoyed learning more about Switzerland, traditions and overall cultural norms. This experience has opened my eyes to how other people live and has helped me gain a new perspective about living life. Throughout this experience, the biggest difference or expectation I observed was social norms and mannerisms. In Switzerland, the mannerisms are extremely different than back home. I have learned that different social norms are not wrong, just different. I highly recommend this teaching practice program in Zug! I've loved every minute of my Switzerland experience and believe that teachers should have an experience abroad.