

Final Report: Questionnaire

Information and support

The teachers we were with at the PH Zug were very welcoming and provided us with support in the classrooms. You could see that they had been well informed about our presence in their class and did their best to translate information and provide us with copies of documents in English. The music teacher especially incorporated Australian songs and elements into his program to make us feel welcome. While the art and design teachers developed a suitable mini project that we could work on during our time at the PH. This was really appreciated.

Our buddies Miriam and Jana have been great. It was fantastic to be paired with these two girls at the university to provide us with a contact. We attended the chocolate factory with these girls on the weekend and it was a great opportunity to all get to know each other more and discuss different things about the differences between Australia and Switzerland.

The teachers at Elementa have been amazing. Our mentors both Monica and Stephanie have provided us with lots of support throughout the entire program. They welcomed us to Elementa and introduced us to students and teachers right away, making us feel very comfortable within the school. Monica checked in on us regularly and made sure the program was going well for us at the school. Stephanie was the classroom teacher we spent the most time with and supported us in our teaching and translating information for us. Stephanie took the time to help us plan lessons, explain student's levels in the class as well as go over the programs and subjects. We spent Wednesday mornings with Monica and after watching her teach sport we then spent the next three Wednesdays teaching it ourselves. Both Monica and Stephanie provided us with many opportunities for teaching and observation throughout our time at Elementa.

Overall programme / living situation

The program at Elementa has been fantastic. While some classes have been in German and this was a challenge at first, I began to adjust and understand ways to understand what was happening and still be involved in the classes as much as possible. The program layout was set well out to make the most of our time at the school and allow us to see an array of different classes being taught. This also meant we were able to interact with all the different year levels in the school and form strong connections with students and teachers within the school. This timetable also allowed for Bridgette and I to teach various classes throughout the week on different topics. This provided us with opportunities for teaching as well as times for observation to observe different teaching styles and methods used over here. Furthermore, we got to be a part of various extra activities and programs they offer at the school such as the younger students going into the forest and working in woodwork room with the 5 6's. This was a great experience to see the different activities the students get offered at Elementa.

While I got to teach numerous times throughout my time at Elementa I feel that my peer Bridgette and I should have been in separate classes. I feel that it made it difficult to split the teaching. While I enjoyed planning with Bridgette I struggled with being in a class together and feel this affected my overall teaching opportunities in this placement. For future, I would possibly suggest us teaching students being placed in separate classrooms if possible.

The programme at the PH was good to get an insight into university life in Switzerland and observe the difference in how classes are taught in university vs how they are taught back home. However, I found a full day at the PH too much. The art and design class while good at times and while teachers did their best to translate the information to English. I found we were still sitting for long periods of time to information spoken in German that was simply irrelevant. I found this aspect a waste of time. I feel a half a day of classes could have been more ideal as we would have still been able to see an insight into the university. I did enjoy my time at the university engaging in the lunch time activities and opportunities where we got to mix with the Swiss students and speak with them about their teaching course and what it entails.

The living situation was a fantastic experience. I feel that this was a major highlight of the trip for me being able to stay with a Swiss family. It was fantastic every night to come home and discuss the school and university program with my family. Just having this base within Switzerland and having a support network was fantastic. My family was great in supporting me with getting a zuger pass and half fare card and provided me with suggestions for activities and places to see in Switzerland. Staying with them also made the program more feasible costing wise and eating with the family during the week for dinners saved a lot of money and was a very enjoyable experience and highlight for me as I was able to try an array of different traditional foods. Something I may not have done if I wasn't stay with a home stay family. It definitely helped that my home stay family was in a central location being located next to Zug station. I believe the home stay element of this program is key and the family I was placed with where fantastic. You could see they really enjoyed having a student around and loved showing me all things Switzerland. I think them really wanting to host a student is very important rather than a family just doing it for the extra rent.

Goals and professional benefit

A goal I gave myself at the start of this program was to work out ways to communicate with students who spoke little English. I feel now being at the end of this program and looking back I have really achieved this goal. I found that I needed to use other ways to communicate to students such as gestures and body movements as well as simplifying my words and using other students support, who spoke good English to translate for me. At first, I found this translation barrier overwhelming and it was affecting my overall experience. Therefore, I made this goal and feel I definitely achieved this as each week went by.

The information, observation and experiences from this program will definitely impact my future teaching in a positive way. I feel the experiences of the school allowed me to see a different ways of teaching and engaging students in learning. I hope to include some of these into my future teaching. Specifically, the relationships the teachers have at this school and the community feeling is something that I hope I can build with a class of my own one day. Witnessing first-hand how important this is for students and teachers' wellbeing was amazing and all the students love of learning which stems from them having strong connections with the classroom and school and showing this want for learning. Witnessing the interactions of students with extra school activities such as the adventures to the forest for outdoor learning and the hand craft activities for the older students was really interesting. I think the benefit of hands on learning outside of the classroom is important and this being undertaken at Elementa

has shown me the effective use of this taking place. Overall, I can't wait to take the knowledge I have witnessed and learnt at Elementa and implement this into my future placements and teaching.

Personal evaluation of the stay

Recordation's for future students.

- Get a half fare card for the trains for weekend travel. Saves a lot of money
- Get a Zuger pass for the buses. Homestay families help with all of this.
- Spend as much time as you can travelling around Switzerland on the weekends.
- Make the most of eating with your family in the evening and getting to know them
- Take every opportunity for teaching as you can.

Three positive points

- The school program at Elementa
- The home stay experience
- Being able to immerse ourselves in the Swiss culture

Three negative points

- The university day is maybe a little long. Half a day would be enough considering some of the classes are in German and are very irrelevant for our short time there. i.e sitting through a German discussion about what the student's assignment is about. The point of the attending the university I feel is to grasp a small insight into university in Switzerland, which I believe could be done in a shorter time.
- Having a day off a week to travel around and see the country as weekends are spent with families and buddies
- Being in the same class with another Deakin student. I feel that it is too many student teachers in one class. There only needs to be one of us with a teacher in a classroom not two. Think this should change.



Went with the grade 1-3 students to the forest for the afternoon.

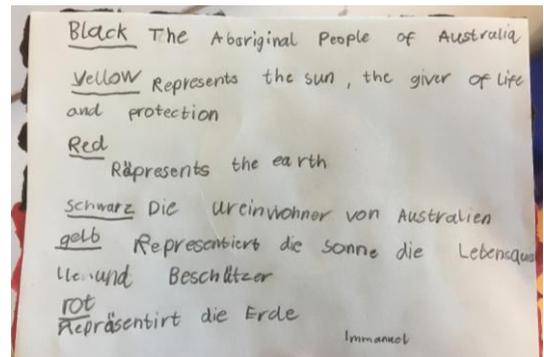




Observed and interacted with the year one maths class. This was using the method of more play based learning. Here the students are creating a tour first with the blocks then using gem stones as decorations.



Here I am working with some students to support them with aboriginal art task.



Examples of students work from the aboriginal art class we taught. We taught students behind the meaning of the colours in the flag and about aboriginal culture. All the students made an aboriginal flag.



This photo was taken while out in the forest with the students. The classroom teacher was making a fire and the children were watching and keeping warm. It was fantastic to see how the students respected the teacher's instructions in the importance of being safe around a fire.

