

PH Final Report
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As a guest student of PH University, my experience here in Switzerland has been wonderful! The support from PH University was extremely helpful. The University was clear with their expectations and what was required of us. I also felt comfortable communicating with the university with questions I had in regards to my stay and student teaching. The University made sure that we knew where to go by helping us navigate trains and buses as well as taking us directly to our schools so that we knew exactly where to go. Being that this was the first time that I have traveled outside of the U.S, I have felt welcomed and have felt safe thanks to the support of PH University. The University did a wonderful job finding a school that welcomes other teachers and provides an exceptional environment that works towards helping other teachers learn and grow as individuals and professionals. I also enjoyed having “buddies” to talk with throughout our stay in Switzerland. My buddies were so welcoming and were always communicating with us.

My student teaching was done at ISOCS International School. I have very high regards for this school. ISOCS welcomed me with open arms and I felt like I was apart of their community from the very beginning. The school, as a whole, has a community that is very close. All staff members work together to create a place where students will succeed in all aspects of life. The staff members do their best to help students and they all know every student by name. Not only did the teachers and students have a positive relationship, the teachers were friends with each other as well.

Another reason I found my experience in ISOCS so great was because of my supervising teacher- Tessa Deutsche. Tessa is an excellent teacher. ISOCS is very lucky to have her and I felt very lucky to have her as my supervising teacher as well. From the very beginning she was very open with me and what was expected. Tessa welcomed me into her classroom with open arms and always made sure that I felt comfortable. She was more than willing to share her classroom and allow me to teach. I know that it can be hard to share a classroom and so I was grateful to her and her willingness to help me become a better teacher. I cannot thank Tessa enough. She helped me learn and grow as a teacher by helping me find resources and giving me helpful feedback. She is a wonderful mentor and teacher; and is someone who wants to help you become the best teacher that you can become. You can tell that the students love her and respect her so much. You can also see that the staff loves Tessa as well. I can happily say that Tessa made my experience here at ISOCS so enjoyable and I have learned so much from her.

Coming from the U.S to Switzerland to teach, has been a great learning experience. It has been so fun seeing the differences and similarities between the educational systems. I have loved seeing how the students learn and what is taught throughout the day. Being in a class with only 5 students I have learned so much about them and it has taught me how to build a relationship that helps each individual student grow. It has been so fun teaching the students and watching them take what they are learning and apply it to their lives. It has also been fun watching the students progress as they learn new topics/subjects. One thing that I love and have noticed about Switzerland and the educational system here is the importance of outdoor learning as well as personal responsibility. You can tell that teaching students to take responsibility for their own actions, is a standard that is taught daily here and I love that! The educational system as a whole, is so great and it has taught me a lot.

Not only has the school been a wonderful experience, my living situation/host family has been a positive experience as well. The family that I've been staying with have been welcoming and friendly. I feel very lucky to have stayed with a family that always made sure we were comfortable and helped me to experience the best parts of Switzerland.

Coming to Switzerland my goals were to learn what it is that makes the educational system here so highly regarded and to learn something new that I can take home with me. I can happily say that both of those goals have been met. One thing that I have noticed about the Swiss educational system that might contribute to its high rating is the value with which it holds outdoor learning and personal student development. I have learned since being here, that students can learn so much from going outside and just having the opportunity to play and be kids. I've also noticed that when you teach students how to be responsible and be accountable for their actions they uphold those expectations that teachers set and they create their own expectations. Taking these new insights into mind, I will be applying them to my future classrooms and being an advocate for outdoor play/learning since I have seen the benefits here.

For anyone who is debating to come to Switzerland as a guest student, I would highly recommend doing it! I have nothing but positive experiences. I have learned so much from the international school I was placed in, and I've learned so much from my supervising teacher. I will be taking these experiences and applying them to my profession as a teacher. As an extra bonus- Switzerland is absolutely stunning, so who wouldn't want to teach here?

Overall it has been so fun to step outside of my comfort zone and live in another country. Being able to experience different cultures has helped me to understand students and people in a new perspective. I've also learned that I can step out of my comfort zone and learn something new from it. I have loved learning about Switzerland as well as trying to learn some German. One thing that I would say has been a negative for me is learning to adjust to the different cultures. As amazing as it has been to experience all the new cultures it has been a little bit of a culture shock to experience the different mannerisms and interactions I have had. It took me a little bit to adjust to the differences. Once I got past the initial cultural shock, I have learned to love the differences and enjoy being somewhere new. It has been so fun coming here to Switzerland and I have learned so much about myself, different cultures, and the educational system here. I am incredibly grateful for this experience and will remember it for the rest of my life.