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# FINAL REPORT

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TEACHING PRACTICE



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DOUBLE DEGREE IN PRIMARY AND  
INFANT EDUCATION (YEAR FOUR)

GUEST STUDENT AT THE PH ZUG

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA COMILLAS  
(MADRID, SPAIN)

## Final Report: Questionnaire

### Four- or five-week teaching practice at the PH Zug

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#### 1. Information and support

To begin with, the experience of becoming part of the PH Zug as a guest student, has been a huge privilege to me. Since the beginning, the treat received from the University was remarkable and during these five weeks of the teaching practice, I am able to confirm that their support and kindness has overtaken my personal expectations.

Although I was travelling abroad, thanks to the atmosphere of trust and the way all the aspects of my intern were organised, I could focus on the work without needing to think about many processes. In this way, contacting the school planning possible options of visiting other educational institutions, giving access to the information of the University, but also knowing Zug much better, were some of the facilities that the Dr. Judith Kreutz and her team have given to me. Therefore, I am very pleased.

As well as that, the period spent at the ISZL has been just amazing. The welcoming of the professionals who work there is something very special that not all the schools usually offer. For instance, despite the fact that I started my teaching practice with Katherine Matthews (responsible for the Grade Three), as soon as I had the chance and desire of spending more time in the Music classes, everything was arranged in order to make it possible.

Therefore, the teacher who leads the subject though the different Primary grades, Kirsty Kelly, accepted me as her student, since the team of the school tried paid attention to my learning goals and supported the change. Because of that, and although I could teach and plan some workshops for the third Primary graders as well, joining the Music courses has occupied mostly my schedule.

Referring to my treatment with Kirsty Kelly, I can not feel myself luckier. She has been an enormous reference in all the senses. Thanks to her, I have learnt that becoming a teacher is a way of sharing the artistic side of education in each class we prepare, which has been truly inspiring.

The way she plans her lessons, according to the needs, wishes and individual characteristics of the kids, used to surprise me in the beginning, but now I have just realised that it is something I will be carrying with me the rest of my professional life. Personally, my admiration to the work she does responds to a solid preparation and a constant development through the teaching and learning experience.

Likewise, her determination of giving the best of herself to the others and focusing on the learning processes of the children, shows how the combination of providing quality knowledges and teaching with the heart is possible if you are conscious of your responsibility as a mentor, but also as a human being.

In fact, is a matter of giving and receiving, since the level of responding to her trust has been an incredible challenge for me. However, that is something I have also chosen, since I did want to explode this experience as much as possible, and she always gave me the possibility of getting less involved in the lessons. Nowadays, I am really happy of the made decision, which has opened me many doors. Thanks to it and to Kirsty's support, each time I had an idea or an emerging project in mind, I just could go for it without any restrictions, something that has helped me in my creative, professional and personal development.

Referring to my buddy partner, although in the beginning she showed a kindly manner and answered a couple of messages, I did not have any contact with her during the past time. We did not even meet personally each other and at the moment I am still not having any news from her. That has not been a problem and for instance, the nice Thery Smith, who used to worked at the PH Zug, has been an incredible referent to me.

Thanks to her implication and recommendations, my stay in Switzerland has been very enriched, and therefore I can not be more happy and pleased.

## 2. Overall programme / living situation

In relationship with the practice programme, these weeks I have been taking part of Maths, German, Language, Reading and, of course, Music classes. The ISZL has offered me the possibility of teaching through the different levels, from Early Years and Kindergarten, until Primary and the High-school. As well as that, I have been participating in extra lessons that take place after the school schedule, such as Drama, Choir and Orchestra and I also have been joining theatre and musical rehearsals.

Another part of the activities that I have done, is related to emotional and musical workshops prepared by me, where I could organise piano and violin sessions. For instance, I had the chance of putting them into practice through different formats, such as an assembly formed by more than a hundred of little children, between other activities that I could lead in a huge variety of situations.

Getting inspired of the instrumental lessons of the school and having the opportunity of playing a violin that the ISZL has provided me, were some aspects I could not expect in countries like Spain. Additionally, I had the possibility of renting specialised books from the library, joining teachers and team meetings, intervening and taking part of sessions with parents through experts that work on the PYP and having access to some documents that

are helping me in the development of my teaching and artistic career.

Unfortunately, at the time I had my practice there were not lectures at the PH, because it coincided with the student holidays, but I could access to the online and physical resources of the University thanks to the use of the library, that has been very inspiring for the final work of my degree.

Concerning the living situation, living at the "Kloster Maria Opferung" is, in my opinion, one of the better options for guest students. The location, near the PH and the centre of the city, as well as the facilities of taking the means of transport, is perfect. The monastery has everything I needed during these weeks and although it is quite small, I can not complain about anything. For five weeks I have spent 604 CHF and for the food I used 250 CHF approximately.

### **3. Goals and professional benefit**

Referring to some of the goals I had in mind before taking part of the teaching practice, I could mention the desire of learning more about the international educative perspective, as well as having the chance of having access to some of the researching materials whom I would not have had in my home country. Moving to Zug and getting involved in its system and cultural life, were some of the aspects I wanted to focus on before coming to Switzerland.

In my opinion, since this experience I have continued the process of building my professional and personal development. Taking charge of the challenging situations that appear in our ways through the huge variety of educative and life contexts, being confident and discovering aspects of ourselves that could seem unexpected in the past, enjoying the best moments that children can give us and facing the bitter flavour of the injustices that affect them through care and empathy... These are just some examples to mention or remark.

On the other side, the acquired benefits that this experience has given to me are extremely valuable. Through this period, I could learn the real meaning of the teaching role. We have on our hands so much responsibility, and sometimes we do not have always in mind how important is the way we give the best of ourselves to the others. Asking and checking frequently the deepest reasons why we do things, can also conform a part of this process. We often want the students to achieve the goals that are important to them and for that we use all our effort, illusion and passion. Nevertheless, it is relevant to think if the way we are managing our teach is the best for their own individual needs, and that is something that implies a strong humility.

Because of that, having in mind that a proper pedagogical view also concerns neglecting our individual selfishness (something that might seem complicated during the constant routine) is, for me, one of the most challenging learnings I have acquired. Through an introspective perspective, full of creativity, care, respect and honesty, our work as professionals in the educational area, could achieve some of the dignity of our doing, which nowadays is not always well recognised.

#### 4. Personal evaluation of the stay

Something I would personally recommend is to buy the Swiss Card directly in Switzerland. In my case, I ordered it online while being at my home country and for that I had to pay 30 CHF. Once I arrived in Zug, I became that the Swiss Card can be obtained for free without paying extra money. In the end, everything went well and the second time I got into the SBB, a nice employer transferred me the payment.

Even so, that was not something very common and because of that I was very lucky. Normally, there is no possibility of recovering the paid amount. As well as that, getting the month's pass would have been a better idea, since in the end I also needed to buy some extra tickets for the school journals and travelling around Switzerland might have been much cheaper.

In case that other student teachers take part in a practice at the ISZL, I also would recommend them really to get involved in all the activities they are able to. The school team is amazing, and they like very much to give so many opportunities as possible. That also supposes a huge compromise, but showing an opened and proactive attitude is something important and appreciated from the most of the professionals who work there. They really want to help young people on their projects development and their support, in my personal case, has been there since the beginning.

To continue with, I will present some aspects to stand out from my stay. Between them, I could emphasize the trust and comfort received from the PH Zug and from the ISZL, which has been truly helpful and enriching. The opportunities that I could gather and the acquired perspective of another educational and cultural system, is also something that I will carry with myself in the future. Even so, if I had to say which one is the most important learning that I have achieved, that would be the discovery of the deep side this profession entails.

The development of a pedagogical and human view that concerns values such as effort, perseverance, humility, empathy, care and passion, would be for me one of the basis while trying to combine the deepest side of the ethical and moral aspects immersed in our profession.

On the other hand, if I had to mention some negative points of the past weeks, I would say that these period is too short. Once you obtain the chance of getting involved and learning

truly about the experience of feeling adapted to another country and system, the practice time is already over. In my opinion, there are many aspects that you can not achieve in five weeks, but that is also a positive motivation in order to approach the internship as much as possible.

As well as that, perhaps the fact that there is not a possibility of joining future teaching practices in other years of the University quite a shame. For instance, we usually come as students from Universidad Pontificia Comillas during the fourth year, but the most of us have another course, which includes a four months period of practice. It would result very enriching the fact of being able to spend time here again, in order to have the chance of learning more also about the differences between the Primary and Early Years practice in at a foreign country.

In the end, I have also missed the opportunity of spending more time with international students of the PH Zug and its members. It would have been fantastic to join any seminars or to participate in cooperative projects where we could share our ideas and perspectives.

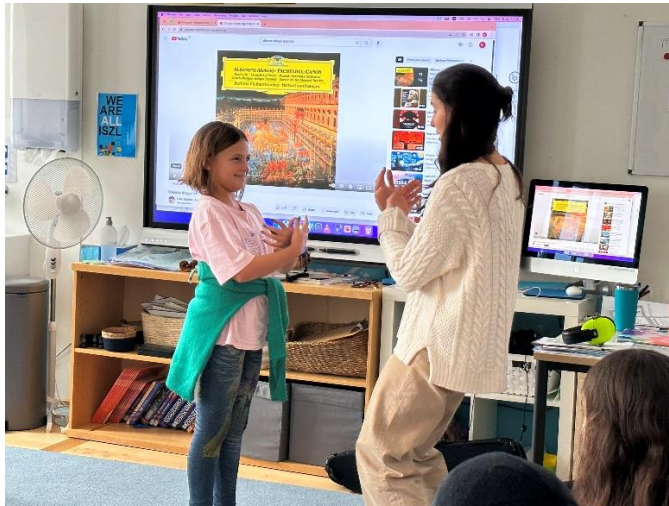
## **Pictures of my stay and experience here:**

### Emotional workshop, with drama and life music



# PH Zug

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# PH Zug

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With the children at the library



Some of the resources I could count with during my intern





# PH Zug

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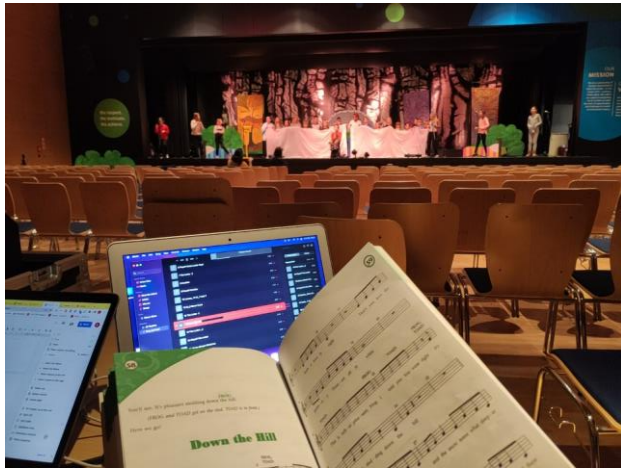
## Some of my music teaching experiences



# PH Zug

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Pictures from the musical rehearsal at the school and the theater projects



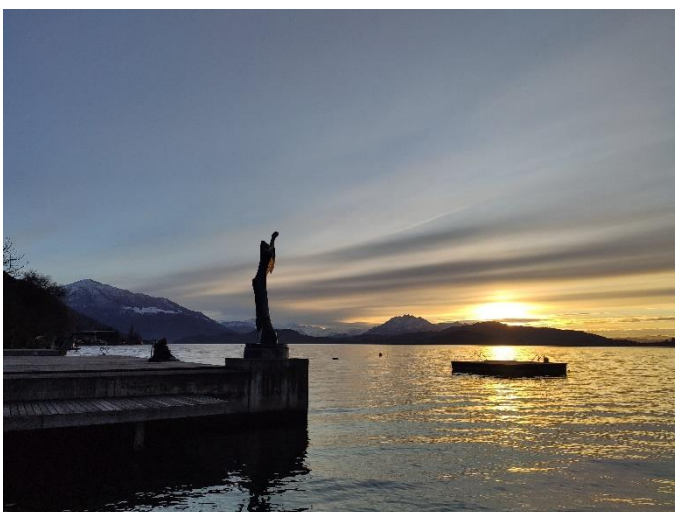
An example of the resources used from the PH Zug



# PH Zug

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## Some views of the sightseeing visits and landscapes



# PH Zug

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# PH Zug

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## Some of my cultural visits

Kunstmuseum Bern



Kunstmuseum Zug



Kunstmuseum Basel



# PH Zug

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Art pieces from Bern and Basel

