

International Teaching Experience: A Journey of Growth and Learning

Introduction

My international teaching experience at the International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL) has been an enriching and transformative journey. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of my experiences, including the support I received, the overall program, my goals and professional benefits, and a personal evaluation of my stay. Through this report, I hope to offer valuable insights to future students considering a similar experience.

Information and Support

The International School of Zug and Luzern provided an extensive orientation program, which helped me acclimate to the Swiss education system and culture. PH Zug I only went to once on my introduction day with Judith. She guided me around the University and I learned a lot about what the University has to offer. For instance, providing students with strong academic programs and experienced faculty that can be teaching opportunities such as internships. PH Zug also fosters a multicultural environment that encourages global perspectives while creating a collaborative environment for personal and professional growth. The location for PH Zug is located in the beautiful city of Zug with access to Lake Zug, and offers an ideal setting for learning.

My class teacher at ISZL played a crucial role in my journey. She provided invaluable guidance, shared teaching strategies, and allowed me to actively participate in lesson planning and implementation. Their mentorship greatly contributed to my professional development, such as their system of teaching which was new and interesting for me.

Having a student buddy, a local student who could guide through daily life in Switzerland, was immensely helpful. We only met once because the time was not always there, on my part. But they invited me several times to different events they organized to explore Switzerland.

Overall Programme/Living Situation

The teaching practice program at ISZL was well structured and comprehensive. I had the opportunity to teach second grade which broadened my teaching skills as this was my first

time. The multicultural environment enriched my understanding of diverse learning styles and classroom management techniques.

Living in the Zug Monastery with six other girls was a remarkable and unique aspect of my international teaching experience. The monastery's historical significance, community living, shared responsibilities, and cultural exchange were all enriching aspects of this arrangement.

On the positive side, the historical atmosphere of the Zug monastery provided a peaceful and contemplative environment, while communal living fostered strong friendships and cultural exchange. Shared responsibilities taught teamwork and cooperation, and the quiet of the monastery allowed for personal reflection.

However, challenges included limited privacy, strict quiet hours, and occasional maintenance disruptions. Despite these challenges, living in the Zug Monastery was an unforgettable part of my experience, offering a unique and enriching perspective on life in Switzerland.

Goals and Professional Benefit

Before my placement, I set personal goals to improve my classroom management skills, adapt to different educational systems and gain cultural competence. Additionally, I aimed to develop strong international connections and enhance my teaching portfolio.

I successfully achieved my goals. My classroom management skills improved significantly, and I developed a nuanced understanding of different educational systems. My cultural competence grew as I interacted with students from diverse backgrounds as it was an international School. I also built a professional network that extends beyond borders.

This experience has been instrumental in shaping my teaching philosophy and approach. It has provided me with a global perspective on education and improved my adaptability. These skills will undoubtedly benefit my future studies and career, allowing me to excel in an increasingly connected world.

Personal Evaluation of the Stay

My opinions/tips for future students embarking on a similar journey should:

Embrace cultural diversity: Interact with local students and colleagues to gain a deeper understanding of the host culture.

Engage actively in the classroom: Participate in lesson planning and collaborate with your class teacher to make the most of the experience.

Manage finances wisely: Budgeting and financial planning are crucial in a high-cost living environment.

Personal Evaluation (3 Positive and 3 Negative Points)

Positive Points:

- In-depth personal growth and development.
- Enhanced teaching skills and international network.
- Exposure to a multicultural learning environment.

Negative Points:

- High cost of living in Switzerland.
- Initial cultural adjustment challenges.
- Limited opportunities for part-time employment due to visa restrictions.

Conclusion

My international teaching experience at ISZL has been an incredible journey of personal and professional growth. The support and guidance received, the well-structured program, and the rich cultural experiences have made this experience invaluable. I am confident that the skills and insights I have gained will continue to benefit my future studies and profession. I wholeheartedly recommend this opportunity to future students, provided they are prepared for the associated challenges and expenses.

Pictures of my stay and experience here:

Switzerland/Sightseeing:



Lake Zug.



View over the old town in Zug.



The monastery.



Our classroom at ISZL.



PH Zug.



ISZL.