

# OUR FINAL REPORT ABOUT OUR TEACHING EXPERIENCE



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SCHOOL HERE: ISZL  
MADRID UNIVERSITY: UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA COMILLAS

## 1. INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

A. **PH ZUG:** Our university assigned us a responsible of the PH Zug University. He took care of us the months before coming, he solved all our questions and encouraged us to come and helped us to move our first day at school, because we couldn't afford the plane prices. Once we arrived in Zug we were able to follow his instructions and get to our accommodation. In addition, he also gave us information about how to get to the university, where he set up a meeting to get to know each other. There he showed us the university and explained to us all the basic things. It was a really good welcome!

B. **CLASSROOM TEACHER:** We can say that we were very lucky with our teachers. We had a great stay at school. We had the opportunity to meet some teachers and learnt about their methodologies, because we could swap once a week between kindergarten and grade two. We were a little bit scared when we heard the notice that one of us was going to stay in grade two, because it was our first time with primary school, and if the experience was hard because we had to work with a new language, it was going to be harder with kids that we had never worked with. But fortunately it was an excellent experience.

**Marta Macho:** I stayed at grade two four days a week. I had met one of the best teachers I could meet in my four years of career. It was a very productive experience. I can say that I learnt a lot. Her methodology is very different from Spain's, so it was enriching for me. Without doubts, I will use all the things I have learnt at ISZL in my future classroom. Also, I could work with the English teacher at school. I also learnt a lot, because he helps students who do not know English like the rest of their classmates. I realized that it is one of the hardest parts of the ISZL school, because it is difficult for the kids to learn a new language, so it is a challenge for them and also for the teachers.

**Marta Blanco:** I have spent most of my internship in kindergarten and my teacher is called Rebeca. Working with her and the assistant, Karen, has allowed me to learn about other ways of working and achieving significant learning through the game. They have allowed me to open my mind and learn how to teach children using methodologies that I did not know. Experiencing all the activities, dynamics and areas of knowledge has allowed me to expand my training so I am very grateful.

C. **OUR BUDDY:** The buddies wrote to us before arriving here in Zug and they have been very kind to us. They gave us information about this city and answered our

questions when we wrote them (once we arrived here), they were very attentive and quick to answer, so we appreciate their help.

## 2. OVERALL PROGRAMME / LIVING SITUATION

### A. TEACHING PRACTICE PROGRAMME

**Grade two:** I was surprised because the teachers work really well together and coordinate all of the activities, so the whole grade gets exactly the same knowledge. Also, I am not used to seeing all of the resources I had seen at ISZL School. It was amazing, each student had an ipad and a chrome book too! So they could work in a productive and efficient way.

This month we have been talking about culture. I think it is a very good topic to deal with in an international school, because every child could explain their culture and talk about their country, they were excited.

Also they work in a very curious way. First teachers propose an activity, and they do an example of it. The next week students have to present an activity like teachers did to their classmates.

They emphasize cooperative work. Usually they work in pairs or in groups, which is a really good initiative.

Kids are pretty good at math, I have learnt a lot of different methodologies for a simple thing like an addition. Usually they create their own writing too. Teachers specialized in the English language are always helping them with that and with spelling.

One of the ISZL methodologies is working outside, students spend two times a day playing outside, I got surprised because they go out no matter what the weather is like. Also they go to the forest and play with the nature once every two weeks. Teachers propose them different activities to do with the nature. For example, if they are starting to learn about the time, in the forest they have to create their own clock with nature stuff.

**Kindergarten:** I have been very surprised with the methodology followed in ISZL because it is very different from Spain. For example, in the classes here there are two teachers per approximately 15 children. The ratio of children is less than in Spain, I think that the number of students here per class facilitates more individualized teaching and learning.

In addition, the three kindergarten classes are very close and do many activities together such as OL (outdoor learning), music, sometimes forest and free flow. Through this last

activity, the aim is for children to interact with more children their age by doing activities where they develop cognitive skills and imagination. Some of these activities are crafts, puppet theaters or listening to podcasts and watching educational videos with iPads. In addition, sometimes they also make some pastries in the free flow. This pastry activity is also usually related to the German class in which they not only learn about the language but also learn more practical knowledge such as making pastries.

This school promotes children to learn through interaction and play. They learn a lot in a practical way and with more entertaining and manipulative dynamics than in Spain. Some of the areas of knowledge they have are reading and writing, swimming pool, P.E, maths, music, technology and German.

One of the things that caught my attention is the assembly. It takes place every Friday and brings together kindergarten and grade 1 and in it they share significant learning of the week, birthdays and experiences.

Without a doubt, what has caught my attention the most is how they play in the OL, the importance it has, the resources they can use to play and their imagination to use. Furthermore, whatever the weather, they go out to the OL and the forest. Something that is very different in Madrid because as soon as it rains a little, no one goes out for recess and here it is something they were born with. So it's something that has taken us a little getting used to.

Being able to enjoy these methodologies has been a very good experience.

#### PHOTOS





## B. LIVING SITUATION

We have both stayed at the Kloster Maria Opferung. The monastery is very well connected, it has a bus line just a few minutes away.

The monastery has offered us a room each that has a closet, a bed, a sink and a table. On the other hand, we have shared the bathroom, shower and kitchen with three other girls. In addition, the monastery has a laundry room and church among other facilities.

As for prices, Switzerland is an expensive country compared to Spain, the price of the monastery to live for a month is adequate. However, the price of food in markets and other establishments shows a big difference. PH University paid for the Zug public transport for one month, but we had to pay three more days because it just covers one month and we have to go to school one month and three days. It is a fact that the trains are really expensive, and if someone wants to travel on weekends they would need to pay a high price, so we took another one that allows us to travel for 8 days, it was around 350 CHF.

In general we have been very comfortable this month and we have been able to enjoy the experience.

### 3. GOALS AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFIT

#### 1. PERSONAL GOALS FOR THE PLACEMENT

After sharing among ourselves the objectives we had for this experience, we have come to the conclusion that they are the following:

- Get to know a new country and its culture.
- Meet new people with the same profession as us.
- Learn about new methodologies and the interculturality of an international school.
- Be able to put Spanish knowledge into practice in the classroom.
- Be able to improve our second language, English.
- Get out of our comfort zone and be independent to perform different tasks.
- Learn to manage our own money.

#### 2. PERSONAL GOALS FOR THE PLACEMENT

- Feel comfortable to create our own lesson.
- Learn new things about the methodologies that we could work with in a future.
- Create good relationships with students.
- Be able to work with our teachers and the rest of the grade.
- Transmit confidence to the teachers, so that they can trust in ourselves to do things in the class.
- Be able to solve students' problems by ourselves.
- Help those students who need attention, and try to let them believe in themselves.
- Enjoy each time at school.

### **3. ACHIEVED GOALS AND NEWLY ACQUIRED COMPETENCIES**

Personally, we think that we can say that we have achieved all of our personal goals. It was a fantastic and productive experience, where we could work hard and practice little things about new methodologies and knowledge. Also, we are happy because we could show a little part of our Spanish culture.

It is great because we lose our embarrassment of talking in English, thanks to the students! On the other hand, we get surprised because we became independent, and we learnt how to organize our time and our money too.

### **4. BENEFIT FOR YOUR FUTURE STUDIES AND PROFESSION**

We both agree that this experience has many benefits for our future and our training.

Having this experience has allowed us to open our minds and expand our knowledge, learning new methodologies that we can develop in the future when we become teachers. In addition, we have seen many interesting activities and dynamics that we previously did not think could be worked on in this way.

On the other hand, it has helped us a lot to improve our English, something that is currently essential to be able to get a job in this profession.

Finally, it has allowed us to observe cooperative work and the way in which the teachers adapt the activities to each of the students' needs. This is important for a good classroom climate and meaningful learning.

### **4. PERSONAL EVALUATION OF THE STAY**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS**

Despite being a somewhat expensive experience since this country has different salaries than the Spanish ones and therefore the quality of life is higher, we can say that we recommend this destination. This is because the school is very good and they have treated us phenomenally, giving us many learning opportunities and taking care of us.

Economically, we consider that the university should provide more information on expenses, available transportation vouchers...

As for the contact here in Zug and the monastery, we are very happy with both people in charge since they have been very concerned about our well-being and answered all the questions we had during the experience.

The monastery is well equipped, so we recommend this accommodation since the price is affordable and it is well connected with the station and the school.

## PERSONAL EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

**Personal evaluation Marta Macho:** If we talk about evaluation, I can say that I am very happy, I think I have been able to manage very well in the classroom and I have been very helpful to my teacher and even the rest, as they have asked me for help on many occasions. I have had fantastic students with whom I have been able to be really me and I have achieved a very good relationship with them. The truth is that it is one of the best internships I have done and I am very proud of it. If I had to improve something it would be to have done some more activities, but for the rest I am very happy.

**Personal evaluation Marta Blanco:** as my own evaluation I can say that I have lived the most of this experience, enriching myself with what the school has been able to give me. In addition, it has been very good for me to develop my English and lose the shame of speaking it in public. This was very important to me because it is fundamental for my future and my work as a teacher.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, we think that everyone should live an experience like this to learn about other cultures and other educational systems. In addition to making known its own culture and methodology.

It is a short but unique experience to be a little more independent and learn.