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## 105 students graduate from Zug Teacher Training College



The 105 new graduates of the Zug Teacher Training College (PHZ) had a tough 2 weeks of final examinations not long ago, in which their knowledge about the subjects they will be teaching in primary schools over the next few years was thoroughly tested.

22-year-old Francesca Hirtler from the canton of Uri was one of those to have just successfully completed her three-year course. While 14 of those graduating will be teaching children of kindergarten age and 7 took a further educational training qualification, most of them, 84 in all, including Hirtler herself, will be teaching in primary schools, (though only initially in her case).

Hirtler came to the PHZ after completing a course at a specialist secondary school. "I like working with children and young people," she said, "and being a teacher also means one can be one's own boss to a certain extent. Of course one always has to adapt what one is teaching accordingly and optimise what one is doing, but the thing about teaching is that it is never the same and one always has to deal with other pupils and new sets of parents. Indeed, one never stops learning oneself."

During her training, Hirtler benefited from experience teaching in schools in Baar, Walchwil and the Guthirt district of Zug. She admitted she had also become increasingly critical of herself over the past three years and she has also felt it was always important to maintain a balance in her life, despite being so busy at the PHZ; hence she has kept up her horse-riding, walking in the countryside and going on visits to the theatre and museums.

After all the hard work and stress of the examinations, Hirtler is now taking herself off on holiday to Tuscany. When she returns she will not only start teaching French in Schwyz but also continue her studies in Lucerne to become a secondary school teacher, something she always planned to do. "I realise teaching teenage children is not everyone's cup of tea but I enjoy teaching this age range," she admitted.

Over the past three years, Hirtler has commuted by public transport from her home town of Altdorf to Zug, taking one hour each way. "Some students from the canton of Glarus even had to commute for two-and-a-half hours each way," she said. As to Zug, she said she had never been there before starting her studies apart from on one occasion when her godmother took her. "I have always remembered the lovely old quarter of the city," she said.

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