

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A. - 2017-2018

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Testo

My experience at ZHdk has been very positive. It certainly meant both a personal and a professional growth.

The stage before arrival was probably the most exhausting part and was connected to many different expectations. It meant a lot of organizing of documents, visa and university applications, arranging accommodation and learning basic German. But this was all part of the experience. Arriving to Switzerland was the most exciting part. The city of Zurich has a lot to offer: everything works perfectly, people are very kind and the city is just amazing. The mood of the city changes a lot depending on the weather but however the weather is, if it's snowing or sunny, there is always something different to experience as a foreigner.

Finding accommodation in Zurich can be very difficult, specially because of the high accommodation prices, but in my case I was very lucky to have family in the city and being able to feel at home from the very beginning.

To learn German is still my goal. I found it very difficult to learn it here because on one hand the local mother language is Swiss German and on the other hand everyone speaks so well English. Communication is not a problem at all. Some days I really feel I could survive even with Spanish but German is important to get into the culture and connect with Swiss people.

The support from the International Office of ZHdK was just great. Since the first email everything was very clear and well explained. They are very effective, friendly and always open to help you. The international events were also a nice opportunity to meet people and enjoy a little bit of Switzerland. I can't say anything besides to a big thank you to them.

Zurich is an extremely expensive city, specially coming from Italy. But anyway there is also a lot of cheap and free options around the city and at the university. As a student we have a lot of deals and reductions as for example in museums, sport facilities and for events. The city has a lot of public spots to offer, such as the river, the lake, parks and nice streets. In general, it is a matter of discovering the city and being aware of what is going on.

Regarding the university, I learned many new things. The level of the courses and professors is exceptionally good. It is a huge university, not only in size but also in things to discover. There is something happening at every moment and it is the responsibility of each one to immerse yourself in it and live it. I wouldn't change much about the university considering that I was only part of it for six months. The only aspect I was missing based on my previous background was the culture of teamwork and having different points of view working together in one project. Living in Zurich has been a great opportunity for me to learn new methodologies and ways of working. It has enriched my career and my future as designer. An exchange is an experience that inevitably opens your mind to a new culture, new knowledge and new ways of seeing things; in fact it is one of the best experience you can have.

Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

Firma José González