

Gruetzi everybody!

I'm Daria Franchina and I come from Milano. I have been an Erasmus student in Switzerland since February 2010 until February 2011 to study tourism for two semester in HTW Chur.

I decided to do an exchange semester abroad for practice my english, for make new experience, know new people, for discover new culture, for learn something useful for my future and also for have fun! I chose Switzerland because it's famous as a winter tourist destination, for its seriousness and for its nature. Moreover I chose it for personal reasons, part of my family lived in Switzerland and I would like to move here.

At the beginning I was impressed about the dimension of the new university and about its organization, completely different from mine. We usually have big classes and about the method of study I can say that we don't have so many project work and so many presentation. Here I have found a familiar environment and a lot of students helped me.

I met a lot of great people and I had a lot of fun with them. During the second semester I lived in Konvikt with a lot of other Erasmus students and also Swiss people. The residence it's nice and the Laperre Familie, who manage the structure, are very friendly and always helpful, for everything. They provide you all the necessary. Also the staff who work there is very friendly and it's a pleasure spend time whit them. The only negative things about Konvikt it's that it's quite far from the university and from the city center there are no bus that bring you up there. For one way it usually takes 40 minuts. Overall I strongly recommend it.

Indeed, during the first semester I lived in Lehlingshouse but unfortunately wasn't good because the housekeepers couldn't speak English and there was a lot of misunderstood. They didn't help us and we felt, a lot of time, in a lot of situations, not welcome.

The support from HTW, especially from the international office was excellent , they support me since the beginning of my experience, and also before come here. They were always ready to help me and they organize for us also some nice special Swiss dinner.

Yes I would do it again and I would recommend it to my colleagues but I would also request an increase of our Erasmus mobility grant which is really a small contribution compared to the cost of Swiss life!

Daria Franchina