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Tourism Management

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Exchange semester field report Autumn 2010

Where, why, how : As i walked though the airport, i had no idea what i was doing here, the only thing that was making me think everything was going to be okey, was that i love cheese and chocolate, and i don't think that is the right feeling to have when you've come to study in one of Europe's best tourism universities. The rest i had no idea about, i new 3 people from here, i can honestly say that i wouldn't of survived without them.

During the first days that i spent in Switzerland i saw mountains (which in the beginning i was not a fan of but as time past on i got used to them and even started to enjoy them), cows, quietness, and i tasted the best lasagna and shnicel brod in the world.

I have lived abroad before and i love travelling and I do it as much as i can, working or just meeting new people around the world, in my opinion it is the best way to gain experience, but when school offered exchange programme to Switzerland, that seemed like the perfect chance to see the difference, to learn more, and to understand why the school has a very good reputation.

It was a big change after the summer to start learning in a different school, with different expectations and systems. I would say that that was and still is the hardest thing here, you have no idea what anyone expects of you. "Do your best" doesn't work here anymore, HTW is a high level school and for many times i thought that i would have made the right choice to start studies for the first year, not just to jump for a half year...

Experiences : I experienced a lot, but as for the best one, i would say that would be a weekend spent in Laax, Rocks Resort, two days of fun, snowboarding, eating traditional Swiss food and just enjoying the life. Maybe this will be the weirdest experiences, but I fell in love with taking the trains. As I didn't travel much around Switzerland, the times that I did, I enjoyed taking the train as much as seeing other cities. The nature is amazing here, and the biggest regard I have, is that I didn't have the chance to travel around the hole country. Also I can say that I was impressend by how everything is so organized, clean and tidy. The people are punctual, serious but if you get to no someone deeper I would say that then they stay a friend for more then just the half year your here. Just need to find the right people, I fur sure can say that I found at least some people, which I would love to

see again.

I was very happy with the International office members, especially Samantha, she helped a lot, and she made it easier just with her smile and positive attitude. Time runs by, and maybe if I would have to live it through again I would do it, but differently, still this was an experience that will stay with me, and I hope will help in my future studies back home.

Thanks to everyone, that was there, and actually tried and put their thought for making this half year good. I really appreciate it! Hope to see you in Latvia some day! :)



Going up the mountain in Laax!



With the best roommates! :))



Having fondue dinner with the rest of exchange students!

