

My ZHAW Exchange Experience

Being a 21-year-old Aviation Operations student from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, my decision to join the exchange program at ZHAW in Switzerland for the fall semester has been one of the most enriching experiences of my academic journey. I am Nuhaila Yaakoubi, and recalling this chapter feels like revisiting a treasure trove of unforgettable moments.

ZHAW welcomed me warmly, and Winterthur became more than just a location it became a canvas for lifelong friendships and unforgettable adventures. The friendships formed at ZHAW transcended cultural barriers, creating bonds that feel unbreakable. But beyond the classrooms, it was the extracurricular moments that made this experience truly memorable.

Hats off to the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Winterthur for curating an array of vibrant events that significantly enhanced my exchange journey. Their meticulous planning and execution not only added excitement but also served as a portal to cultural immersion and unforgettable memories. The experiences I have had exploring breathtaking landscapes, relishing moments of unadulterated joy, and sharing hearty laughs under the Swiss sky have left an indelible mark on my heart.

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to everyone on the board at ESN. Their dedication and efforts made my stay here infinitely more enjoyable. Through ESN, I have crossed paths with countless individuals from around the globe, forming friendships that transcend borders and time zones. To them, I offer a warm round of applause they have enriched my experience in ways I can never fully express. I will always treasure the bonds forged and the memories created; they've added an invaluable richness to my life that I will forever be grateful for.

Switzerland's beauty extended far beyond Winterthur. I have wandered through captivating cities, stood in awe of majestic mountains, and marvelled at nature's grandeur a series of experiences that broadened my horizons and enriched my soul.

The decision to extend my stay here was an easy one. The allure of this enchanting place, combined with the opportunity to delve deeper into the aviation industry through an internship at Zurich Airport starting in the spring semester of February 2024, was an irresistible invitation to further immerse myself in this remarkable journey.

Reflecting on this chapter, it has been a transformative period a mosaic of personal growth, cultural understanding, and sheer joy. To anyone considering a similar adventure, I say, "If you are hesitating, I say: just do it!" Seize the opportunity; it is a tapestry of experiences waiting to be woven, a canvas eager to be painted with the vibrant hues of life.

As I continue my journey in Winterthur and prepare for the upcoming internship in the aviation industry, I carry with me invaluable lessons, cherished friendships, and a heart filled with gratitude for this unparalleled chapter in my life. Switzerland will forever hold a special place in my heart a testament to the beauty of embracing new experiences and seizing every opportunity that comes our way. My time here in Switzerland will always be a beacon in my life, a period of growth and unforgettable experiences that I will forever cherish.

Below, you will find a glimpse of some photos from my exchange semester, capturing the vibrant moments and cherished memories that have made this journey so incredibly special. These snapshots reflect just a fraction of the joy, laughter, and adventures that I have shared with my friends, who have become companions for life.

Enjoy!

Warm regards,

Nuhaila Yaakoubi
Exchange student Aviation



Hangar visit at Swiss with ZHAW



Steim Am Rhein

Zürich City Tour, with ESN

Lugarno with ESN



Steim Am Rhein with ESN



Christmas Market Winterthur



Ice Skating in Zürich



Zermatt, Matterhorn



Lugano visit with ESN



Mount Rigi with ESN

Welcome Party ESN



Octoberfest with ESN



Portugal with friends from ZHAW



Rheinfallen



Skiing with a friend from ZHAW