

## 1. Academics

- Describe your class selection/enrollment process.
  - I had to submit all of my classes for approval before hand but when you get to orientation, they will show you how to enroll in the class formally. When you get your acceptance letter, they will give you a schedule of all the classes and at what times they are offered.
- How did your classes differ from those you have taken at CSULB?
  - In my opinion, the difficulty of classes are MUCH harder than CSULB. At CSULB we are used to having tests, homework, and sometimes quizzes to help us prepare and make sure we are understanding the material, in Switzerland, that is not the case lol. Our whole grade is based on one test (the final). It is super hard in my opinion. Some classes may require a group presentation as well. My biggest tip is to study as much as you can during the two weeks that you have off before finals start. You may be tempted to travel since those two weeks are like the only break we get but study study study!!!!

## 2. Housing

- Where did you live? (homestay, apartment, etc.)
  - You HAVE TO live in Camp AXA. You will have the greatest time and meet so many people from all over the world! It is basically a dorm for international kids though some Swiss people do live there as well. Try to get a room on the ground floor so you don't have to take the stairs every day and you will be closer to the washer and dryers! Also, Camp AXA is about a 10 minute walk from school and a 15 minute walk from the Winterthur train station ☺
- What was the housing selection process? Was it easy or difficult to arrange?
  - When you are accepted, the ZHAW International office will send you an email about all of the housing options that you have, but trust me, you will want to stay in Camp AXA. This is the most popular accommodation so try to reserve your spot ASAP.
- Would you recommend where you stayed to future students?
  - Yes, stay at Camp AXA.
- What was your monthly housing cost?

- My rent was about 650 CHF per month. I had to pay for my 6 months of rent before I even arrived. So it was nice not having to go to the post office every month to pay for rent.

### 3. Costs and Budgeting

How much did you spend on average per week on things like:

- Food? – shop in Konstanz, Germany (at ALDI)
- Transportation? – get the half fare card and the Gleis 7. (about \$350) The half fare card gets you 50% off all of the trains/buses/boat taxis in Switzerland. The Gleis 7 gets you FREE unlimited travel on all trains after 7pm!
- Travel? – not that many destinations fly into/out of Zurich (on the budget airlines) so you might also want to check flying from Basel airport! It's about a 2 hour train ride from Winterthur but they have a lot more options.
- Personal expenses?
- Other?

**\*\*** I didn't really keep track of how much I spent on each of the items listed above. I just know I spent a lot, probably too much lol. But since it is Switzerland, just be prepared to spend a lot of money. One of my biggest tips is to grocery shop in Konstanz, Germany! It is about a 50 minute train ride from Winterthur (the city you'll be living in).

### 4. Foreign Language

**\*\****For students who studied abroad in non-English speaking locations,*

- Would you recommend students studying abroad in this location have familiarity with the language before attending?
- Do you feel like immersion in the language improved your language ability?
  - All of our classes are taught in English, but there is a German crash course that they offer before school starts! There are also beginner and intermediate German classes that are available. I do not think they are necessary to take.

### 5. Additional comments