

**From our alumni: Cody Pennington, University of Zurich/ Pennsylvania State University
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Participating in the EuroScholars program was by far one of the most engaging, interactive, and educational experiences of my life. My specific project consisted of doing research to determine correlations between motivational factors and visual acuity. I worked alongside with graduate students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and even the president of the neuropsychology department at the University of Geneva. Even though I am an undergraduate student, I was conducting research and running laboratory sessions like an actual professional. Granted, there were a lot of areas that I was not familiar with beforehand but I quickly learned new skills as well as a great deal about the field of neuroscience. At the same time I also took French courses and managed to gain a strong grasp of the language, especially since I had no experience with the language whatsoever. Every day was a fantastic learning experience.

Before arriving in Geneva for my program, I coordinated with the EuroScholars advisers from the University of Zurich as well as the United States liaison. The U.S. liaison helped me organize and arrange all of the necessary documents and paperwork required to partake in the EuroScholars program and secure residence in Geneva. Upon arrival in Europe, the phenomenal EuroScholars staff at the University of Zurich took care of every other important task. This included coordination with my project supervisor and adviser as well as preparation for the MidStay program. Their help and assistance proved to be invaluable during my four month stay.

The MidStay program took place during Thanksgiving weekend in Zurich. All students participating in the EuroScholars program came from other countries to convene at the University of Zurich to share our various personal and research experiences. The advisers at the University of Zurich arranged an orientation, "meet and greet" dinner, city tour, and dinner with the EuroScholars board of trustees. They also setup research presentation sessions with university professors in which we had the opportunity to present our individual programs, research goals and findings, and a question and answer segment. This was not only constructive but also very fun.

Since then, I have been continuing my undergraduate studies. However, I have improved my skills in the areas of ANOVA, matlab programming, laboratory design, and formal paper writing to name a few. Furthermore my time in the EuroScholars program exposed me to new languages, cultural traditions, amazing cities, and the opportunity to meet interesting people. The EuroScholars program has helped improve my scholastic career and enlighten my personal insights.

