

From our alumna: Emily Woods, University of Zurich / Rhodes College (Fall 2010)

Although I have only been in Zürich for one month, I have already had some great experiences and met many interesting people. Upon my arrival, Nadin Saxer from the University of Zürich's international office provided me with many resources and suggestions for getting settled into the city. Anna Steinlin, a member of the laboratory where I am working, also showed me around the city. Everyone in the lab has been similarly welcoming, friendly, and helpful.

I spent the first two weeks taking an intensive German course at the university. This course helped me meet many other international students. I have stayed in contact with many of these students since the end of the course, and we have travelled together around Switzerland on the weekends. For example, last weekend we visited Mt. Pilatus. ESN, the university's international student organization also provides many opportunities for meeting and socializing with other students, such as weekly pub nights and weekend excursions.

But there is more to life than socializing; I have spent the past two weeks in an intensive training course in the lab. Starting tomorrow, I will begin work on my own research project, in which I will be examining whether microRNA expression is affected by hypoxic conditions in rheumatoid arthritis synovial fibroblasts. I'm looking forward to immersing myself in research and can't wait to see what else is in store for me during my time in Switzerland.