

My experience in Nepal

I applied quite spontaneously in January for my internship with IAESTE. Therefore the whole process from applying to actually leaving the country took me only about 10 weeks in total. After my application I received a list with possible destinations and working places. I still don't really know why I chose Nepal, but I definitely never regret this choice.

I arrived in Kathmandu beginning of April together with a friend and we were welcomed by a local IAESTE member. Since everything is really flexible and spontaneous in Nepal, it was not possible to plan everything (housing, job tasks, etc.) in advance, but for me that was part of the journey. We went to the IAESTE member's place, I put my suitcase there and went off for trekking in the Himalaya with my friend for two weeks – definitely an amazing decision.

When we returned he flew back to Germany and my "Proper" IAESTE experience began. I decided to live at my IAESTE host's place, since he was offering me a room to stay and both of us enjoyed staying with other people after the long corona time. My work place was quite far away, but the local bus ride was everyday a journey itself (traffic jam because of cows, one time the driver was not even 14 – I swear!), so that was part of the experience I guess. And I loved the bus rides after I accepted at one point that it just will take time (as actually everything in this country will take time). They always played music on the buses (mostly Justin Bieber though :D) and I met a lot of local people.

I worked at Kantipur City College and conducted workshops and lectures for Bachelors students in Computer Science. Since I never had experience in teaching before it was challenging, but also a lot of fun to interact with the students. On the weekends we sometimes went hiking with the professors in the outskirts of Kathmandu – for sure one of my favourite parts about the trip.

Another great advantage is, that living in Nepal is really cheap since it is a poor country. This has its upsides (canteen food less than 1€, housing 80€, restaurants are really cheap) but obviously also comes with new challenges (showering out of a bucket, having some cockroaches or monkeys around you). But without these challenges it would not even be half the fun.

So when I left Nepal in the end of July, I was on the one side happy to go home and see my family and friends again, but I definitely was sad as well since I made great new friends and enjoyed the heart-warming Nepalese culture so much.

For me it was not a once in a lifetime experience since I will for sure come back to this amazing, beautiful, sometimes a bit weird but just lovely country and I would recommend everybody to get out of their comfort zone and apply for a country that wasn't on their "bucket list" beforehand – you won't regret it!