

Experience Report – Fenna Craenmehr

From August till December 2021 I performed my research internship in the Hartrampf group (see picture) at the University of Zürich (UZH) in Switzerland. Despite the COVID-pandemic, I was luckily able to go abroad for about 5 months without too many measurements. During my research, I focused on the combination of Automated Fast-Flow Peptide Synthesis and Native Chemical Ligation (NCL) to chemically obtain the proteins 14-3-3 and c-Myc. During the first part of my project, I mainly investigated a specific linker for NCL in combination with flow chemistry, followed by the application towards the 14-3-3 protein. In the second part of my project, we had to shift focus towards another protein because of solubility issues. I worked on the incorporation of the linker for the total synthesis of c-Myc. Despite the many challenges we faced during the project, the results will lay the groundwork for future studies towards the total synthesis of larger proteins.



During my internship, I experienced how different a lab/department can be organized and how education works in another country. Since the group was very small, we were in very close contact with each other which made me feel like home very soon. This internship taught me to work as an independent researcher, but also taught me to take the utmost from each other.

Zürich was an amazing, quite small city to live in. As Zürich has two universities, there were many (exchange) students in the city, making it a nice place to live in. During the weekends, I spent a lot of time in the beautiful Swiss nature. I would definitely recommend going hiking, also when you're not experienced before going to Switzerland. There are many nice places with hikes on different levels and also the signs are very good. During the different seasons, different places are recommended to



go and to see the country. I personally enjoyed the Oeschinensee and Matterhorn (see picture) most! Towards the winter, the Christmas Markets started and I'm happy that I could experience this for a moment as well.

Overall, going to Zürich was an amazing experience! I would greatly like to thank the Nora Baart Foundation for their financial support to make this possible. For anyone considering Zürich as a destination for studying or working abroad, I can without doubt recommend going there.

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