

## **IAESTE Experience Report: Nicola Rupf, Bauru, Brazil**

I spent two months in Bauru, Brazil, on an IAESTE internship at UNESP, working in the Laboratory of Biomaterials and Inelasticity. My role was that of an assistant researcher, where I contributed to a PhD project involving the investigation of a new titanium alloys. My tasks included melting, polishing and measuring samples, which played a key part in the ongoing research.

A typical day involved working alongside my coworkers in the lab, focusing on sample preparation and data collection. After work, I often went swimming, which became a regular part of my routine. Living in a shared house with 15 other guys was a unique experience that added to the cultural immersion.

The people in Bauru were incredibly kind and welcoming, and I quickly adapted to the easygoing lifestyle, which was quite different from what I was used to in Switzerland. Outside of work, I enjoyed sports, traveling, and working on my own coding projects. I also had the chance to socialize with other IAESTE trainees, including a memorable night out at a local bar.

This experience expanded my cultural perspective in ways that simply traveling never could. It was an opportunity to see how work life varies in different parts of the world, and it left a lasting impression on me. My advice to future IAESTE trainees is to be open to everything – the people, the culture, and the challenges. These are what make the experience truly rewarding.