

Report on Switzerland Expedition Fund Award

I am immensely grateful to have been awarded the Expedition Fund, which enabled me to travel to Switzerland this July for a life-changing and professionally enriching week. The fund provided invaluable support, covering part of my accommodation costs, which allowed me to focus on maximising my learning and networking opportunities during the trip.

Before the journey, I had high expectations for what this experience could offer in terms of both professional development and personal growth. Switzerland is renowned for being at the forefront of innovation in my field, particularly in the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and medicine. This trip far exceeded my expectations, offering me the chance to meet like-minded individuals from different parts of the world, engage in meaningful discussions with global leaders, and immerse myself in the latest advancements in AI technologies.

The week was filled with numerous workshops, seminars, and networking events, all of which contributed significantly to my academic progress. I was particularly drawn to sessions on the application of AI in healthcare, which enhanced my technical knowledge and broadened my perspective on how machine learning is revolutionising patient care. I left with practical insights that I will be able to apply to my own research and studies, ultimately helping me refine my academic focus. One key highlight was my visit to the **Balgrist University Hospital**, a world-renowned institution leading innovative research in orthopaedics. I had the opportunity to tour their **OR-X Lab**, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to AI-driven medical solutions and robotic surgery.



One of the most impactful aspects of the trip was the connections I formed. The diversity of backgrounds and experiences among the attendees created an inspiring environment. I had the privilege of interacting with global experts and even received internship offers as a result of the conversations I had during the week. This inspired me to create a LinkedIn page to stay in contact with professionals I met—people who have now become part of my global network and who continue to share invaluable insights and opportunities.

In addition to networking, the trip offered opportunities for collaboration on future projects, which I am incredibly excited about. I now feel more connected to the global community in my field, and this has motivated me to pursue further research and opportunities abroad.



Last but not least, the cultural immersion, and no trip to Switzerland would be complete without indulging in its finest traditions. I visited the **Lindt Chocolate Factory**, known for producing the best chocolate in Switzerland. The factory tour was a delightful experience, showcasing the intricate process of chocolate-making and giving me the chance to savour some of the finest Swiss chocolates. This provided a nice balance to the intensity of the academic and professional engagements, allowing me to appreciate the rich culture of the country

In conclusion, the support from the Expedition Fund not only helped ease the financial burden of the trip but also opened doors I never anticipated. The knowledge gained, the professional relationships formed, and the personal growth I experienced have had a lasting impact on my career trajectory. I feel more confident in my work and more motivated to push the boundaries of what is possible in the field of AI and medicine.

