

Quotes from Swiss Semester Parents and Students

“I find it amazing that such a short period of time can make such an impression on a single life. I often wonder if I would be the same person that I am today if I had not gone to Swiss Semester. I know that I wouldn't. I want everyone to be able to have the experience that I did, to have the opportunity to change their lives, to grow, to mature, and to learn.” Student '99

“I have never forgotten the time I spent with you and all the others under the Matterhorn, and I am more certain now than ever that it changed my life. I learned how to do real work (thanks for all the ‘pep’ talks) and started to really grow up.” Student '98

“I guess I just wanted to say THANK YOU - even six years down the road, I still think about Swiss Semester at least weekly. I really do think it changed my life in so, so many ways. I had never really enjoyed school, or learning, until Swiss Semester. It was my first time out of the country, as well, and I just had such an amazing time.” Student '01

“How can I ever express the appreciation for a wonderful experience she had at Swiss Semester. She matured in so many wonderful ways. She met so many great friends from all over the country, many of which she will have the rest of her life and to top it off, she got Honors—a first for her.” Parent '03

“Once again—in reflecting about the beginning of my college experience, I must praise your program again. Not only did Swiss Semester give me the tools to reach out and leave home, but also it promoted risk taking, a sense of adventure and discovery. Student '96

“More importantly (to her and to us) was the academic awakening she experienced at Swiss Semester. She truly loved her teachers...and she began to enjoy learning for the first time in her life.” Parent '03

“This has been by far the most amazing and unforgettable experience of my life!” Student '01

“Swiss Semester was indeed the ‘the experience of a lifetime’ for my daughter and for me and her father! She left us a tentative girl, and returned a self-confident young lady. Thank you so very much.” Parent '00

“When I think at the age of 15 I was climbing my first mountain, riding in my first helicopter and wandering through my first foreign city—all alone, I can't believe it...What did I get out of it? And the answer has come to me slowly over the years in realizing that no I was not the best skier, but I was better than I ever thought I could be. And there in the mountains I ceased to be so afraid to just try...And I realize now that it was the beginning of a great love affair with this world; it opened a window of courage through which to explore its cultures, its people, its high and low and sweeping landscapes, and yes, to understand that I was somehow a citizen of this planet—somehow part of it all.” Student '96

“The whole program was amazing and so much better than I could have ever expected and will ever be able to express. I learned so much, not only academically, but so many life lessons along with how to challenge myself...” Student '04

“Saying that it was a pleasure or an honor to go does not do the program justice. It truly changed my life—for the better. I could not imagine a more utopian way to spend a semester, or frankly, a life. The program is so special, and I can only hope that it will continue on for years to come. Zermatt will always hold a special place in my heart, and every time that I see the Matterhorn, a St. Bernard, or something Swiss, I will feel some sort of ownership.” Student '00

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“I wanted to let you know how impressed my husband and I were with the Swiss Semester program after visiting Zermatt. While not an inexpensive venture, we both feel this was well worth the cost, and frankly a bargain considering all that you do. I have already recommended it to several people and will continue to do so.
Parent '05

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to study art history at Swiss Semester. If it weren't for my experiences in Europe (especially Venice), I probably would have spent my summer life-guarding.”
Student '97

“It (Swiss Semester) will truly be one of the most memorable experiences that he will carry with him for the rest of his life. He loved every moment of it. But not only the living in Zermatt, traveling in Europe, hiking, biking, skiing, and friendships made along the way, but what it did for him as a person and how he views life now is something no one could ever teach him.” Parent '03

“You run an extraordinary program. The positive changes it has wrought in my daughter cannot be underestimated. She is so confident nowadays and at the same time modest in the demands she makes on other people. I don't know how you instill these qualities in your students and I am all the more pleased that Swiss Semester was such a enjoyable experience for her as well.” Parent '03

“She has returned to us happy, healthy, and full of energy and enthusiasm for what she had seen and experienced in Switzerland...She is organized and timely with homework and is receiving kudos from instructors for her class participation and her ability to slip seamlessly into her classes after having been away for a semester...She has truly been reinvigorated and is much more self-directed and self-

confident about her abilities. Swiss Semester has made a difference in her attitude about school and herself.”
Parent '03

“I would like to thank Swiss Semester for giving me the greatest semester of my life. The 3 1/2 months that I spent as a part of the Swiss Semester family gave me the opportunity to become stronger, more independent, and a better version of myself. Without this program, I would not be nearly as confident or happy as I am. I have had life-changing experiences that tested my strength and gained the best the best friends anyone could ask for.
Student '04

“She has returned more confident, more comfortable with herself, and more willing to take a stand that she was when she joined Swiss Semester. She is ready to risk taking on some leadership roles and she continues to be in daily communication with her new friends from Swiss Semester.” Student '04

“She laughed, she cried, she persevered—and we are so proud of her.” Parent '02

“When I got home, my grades just kept going up, as did the number of activities in which I participated and the number of leadership positions that I took on.”
Student '02

“Returning to school is hard, for there is nothing in the world comparable to Zermatt and everything there, but I bring back a new outlook, new opinions, new friends, and the memory of an incredibly wonderful experience that I will never, ever forget.” Student '00

“Not only was I able to grow physically but emotionally as well. I find that I'm less quick to judge, more understanding and open, and always ready to do something!” Student '04

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“He is meeting outstanding students of varying ethnic backgrounds from all over the US. This will certainly enhance his understanding of the world around him, as well as his tolerance and willingness to embrace peoples' differences. He is learning how to fend for himself and manage his time without the daily haranguing of overbearing parents. He is learning how to navigate a strange new world, and appreciate his accomplishments meeting physical challenges such as long hikes up icy peaks, solo hiking the mountainside of Zermatt, technical rock climbing and reading topographical maps (in fact, he was a phenomenal guide as he took us on hikes in, and far above, the Zermatt valley). He has exceptional teachers who are dedicated to challenging him academically, in an effort to have him dig deep and learn at least as much as would be expected “at home” despite limited time—which should improve his developing study habits. Finally, his experience should add to the colorful fabric of the home school.” Parent ‘06

“Every single morning, I would wake up with a goal or a purpose, and each night I would go to bed having learned a lesson, accomplished something, or made a mistake, all of which I learned and grew from. I have become a lot more confident. I never expected that I would be able to accomplish all that I did in Switzerland. I've always claimed to be a hard worker, but I don't think I understood what hard work was until Swiss Semester pushed me to my limits...I never gave up and I pushed myself harder than I have ever before to balance the physical, academic, and social demands of Swiss Semester...I've never grown more or learned more about myself than I did when I thought I was going to die on one of your long hikes.” Student ‘06

“He truly enjoyed his time in Zermatt, and Swiss Semester has given him a new sense of confidence and maturity that his teachers at school have noticed. His experience with Swiss Semester will be with him always, and we look forward to watching him grow from this foundation.” Parent ‘06

“I think that he finally gets it. He understands now how much more fun it is to participate in life than just watching it. I know these changes are due to Swiss Semester, and I thank you!” Parent ‘06

“We would like to thank you for all that you and your team accomplished over the past several months with our daughter and the rest of her world class friends. The effort, energy, and professionalism brought forth and maintained through out the entire semester by your staff was nothing short of incredible.” Parent ‘06

“It is thrilling to me that he is loving both the people he is with and the learning that is happening for him. My prayer is that he will take all of this and plant it deep inside himself as a model for how to live his life.” Parent ‘06

“Now that a few months have gone by and I have had time to watch him reflect back on his time at Swiss Semester, I thought that I would share some thoughts with you on your program and what it has meant to our entire family. Hardly at day goes by that he doesn't say, ‘I wish so much that I could be back at Swiss Semester.’ The time that he had with you, your staff and your program will always be one of his fondest memories. I know at the time he had some complaints as to how intense the program was, but now he is desperately searching for a comparable experience. I can see that he has grown in many ways. I feel that you have touched his life in a way that might happen only once in a lifetime.” Parent ‘06