

Trip to CERN

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Firstly, thank you for the kind contribution and support for my trip to CERN in Switzerland.

This trip was something I had been looking forward to taking part in from the first time I heard about it. The difference the grant made to me, other than the financial easement on my parents and myself, was that it was my first educational overseas science trip. How lucky I felt to join my like-minded peers on a trip of scientific discovery.

We got to see Dr Sam Ting, a Nobel Prize winning Physicist. He was in residence during our site visit and was overseeing and watching the Control Room proceedings. He developed AMS (Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer O2) which looks for anti-matter helium on the International Space Station. The AMS O2 is a state of the art particle physics detector constructed, tested and operated by an international team.

This on its own was quite a wow moment, but later in the visit we were told that we were, in fact, surrounded by Nobel Prize Winning Physicist's. This trip was mainly about the visit to CERN, but our group also travelled across to Bern and visited Einstein's home. We enjoyed a Swiss fondue evening meal and whilst enjoying some local musicians playing the Apline Swiss how, a bowl and coir, a saw, spoons and cow bells. We took a boat ride on Lake Geneva and crossed the border to france on our trip up Mont Elise by cable car. Finally we visited the United Nations.

This grant support has contributed to my scientific knowledge, which could only be gained outside of the classroom. Also this trip has given me a cultural experience in Switzerland.

