

My name is Mathieu Aberlé and I did an internship in the IGEM team from EPFL of 10 to 17 August 2009.

They welcomed me on Monday morning and contact was immediately well. I confess that before coming, I did not know what we would do, but the team knew very well explain the basis for the project. Previously, I knew almost nothing about biotechnology. I had bases pure biology and chemistry, but it was the first time that I worked well in genetics. The first two days, I understood nothing. Only the third day the items were really established in my head. Basile explained me very clearly what the project consisted in in words I could understand. The team tried to edit a bacterium by injecting him the modified DNA. For this, they should obtain and digest plasmids parts. He added subsequently sequenced primers by PCR. When I arrived in the group, they had problems with ligases. Finally, the problem has been solved: they did not have enough DNA for this reaction to occur. I also could help in various measurements and determinations. Of course I could not understand fully and in details their project, because I missed a lot of bases. However, they managed to explain things clearly.

We also talked a lot about the different faculties of the EPFL and its outlets in research or industry, doctoral and their future presentation at MIT. I have not quite chosen the option where I want to go. Although I know that I would perhaps not in SV, I now have a clearer idea of what the EPFL and of all the things we can do.

Thank you to the IGEM team for this wonderful week and hope that your project will be a success.