

7 July 2023

Press release of SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern

Graduation ceremony of the SHL classes summer 2023

On Thursday, 6 July 2023, at the graduation ceremony at SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern, 52 young, committed individuals from the German and the English degree programmes received their «Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education in Hospitality Management» and thus successfully completed their studies.

The future of the hospitality industry

In keeping with tradition, Urs Masshardt, President of the Foundation Board, opened the event with his speech. In his remarks, he addressed various trends in the hospitality industry, such as advancing digitalisation, the importance of sustainability, the merging of science and catering, and increasing automation. In doing so, he emphasised the importance of familiarising oneself with artificial intelligence without neglecting social skills such as empathy and creativity. He concluded by conveying his congratulations and reminded the future leaders of the following: «Remember - a boss says 'go', a leader says, 'let's go'».

«Stöck, Wyys, Stich»

Inspired by the SHL Jass Club, newly founded by the graduands, SHL Director Christa Augsburgberger presented apt analogies between the SHL degree programmes and the most famous Swiss card game «Jassen» in her address to the graduating classes. In doing so, she focused on four suits of the game, Rose, Eichel, Schelle and Schilte, and thus masterfully described the strengths that the graduands had demonstrated in the past years of study: «You have shown in the past days and weeks, as well as in all rounds of 'Jass' at SHL, that you are action-competent and capable of playing the right trumps and aces in a wide variety of game variations and bringing the match home.» With the concluding words "may you all find your trumps, pawns, nells and aces and prove your comprehensive competences and adaptability», Christa Augsburgberger ended her speech and wished the graduands much success and personal growth.

From bud to full potential

Representing the diploma classes, Nadine Pfeifer, Marcel Kraft, Serge Notter, Patricia Mumenthaler, Pashaya Faisaikram and Enric Vila honoured the special moment with their personal words. The class representatives metaphorically compared the different stages of the SHL training with a coffee bean: «Similar to a coffee bean, our lives also go through different stages of development. Each step was an important part of our journey that ultimately led us to this degree.» They emphasised the many friendships as well as precious memories made during their studies and, at the end of the address, encouraged their fellow students to be proud of their achievements and optimistic about the future. Pashaya Faisakram also reminded all present of the great privilege of the hospitality industry: «As hoteliers, we have the unique opportunity to bring people together. »

Key to success

At SHL, it is customary to award prizes to the three students who graduate with top marks. Anuschka Stoffel (1st place), Adriana Wälti (2nd place) and Naima Pfister (2nd place) received flowers and generous vouchers from Relais & Châteaux. Since school grades never reflect the individual and holistic performance of students, all graduates received the symbolic 'key to success' - and of course the well-deserved diploma, which was celebrated extensively following the ceremony with excellent food, drink and great summer weather on the campus of SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern. And while the students from the German HF programme are now heading out into the working world, those from the English Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management programme can look forward to a further year of study before receiving their BSc diploma in the summer of 2024.

Images (Originals in the attachment)



Caption for image 1:
Diploma class 1



Caption for image 2:
Diploma class 2



Caption for image 3:
Diploma class BSc



Caption for image 4
Graduation with top marks (from left to right): Christa Augsburg (SHL Director), Naima Pfister, Anuschka Stoffel, Adriana Wälti, Timo Albiez (Deputy SHL Director)

About SHL

SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern has been the practice-oriented and innovative educational institution since 1909, paving the way for young, success-oriented students to enter the national and international hospitality industry. As one of the two original Swiss hotel management schools, SHL has played a significant role in shaping hotel management education in Switzerland. Graduates of SHL hold leadership positions in the hotel industry, gastronomy, and other service sectors in Switzerland as well as internationally.

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