

Final Report on Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

Please write the report (max 2 pages) in German or English in complete sentences (no keywords).

Mobility program	ERASMUS (inside Europe)
Home university	Universidad de Cádiz
Field of study	Philosophy
Semester	Spring term 2013
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General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	The best way to describe my experience is just to say "different" and different, for a Spanish speaker means both good and enriching. Finding yourself in a different country is always that way, but Switzerland (and Luzern) are, in my opinion a completely different experience from what I experienced in Europe, a sweet experience
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	At the beginning everything looked like chaotic and difficult I had to find so many insurances that I never had in Spain that I was really afraid about that. In the end, Gemeinde workers were really helpful and everything was easy and right. May the confirmation of the exception for the health insurance wasn't that fast.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	It was difficult. I remember mailing a lot of different offers and not even getting an answer but in the end people from Mobility Office let me know about Eichoff and that saved the year.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Transport are almost perfect and not really expensive, at least no if you think about their services: frequencies, travel time... Accessing to the University building is easy once you're here, but I don't remember how many doubts did I have trying to find it on Google Maps and Street view.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	The system (portal.unilu.ch) could be improved by making it more simple, but mentors are helpful. Social credits are a different topic; exchange students are able to participate in them, but is impossible to find them on portal.unilu.ch, and impossible means impossible, aka, they're not there.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	As I said, adding some pictures of the way from, for example, Bahnhofplatz to University on Google Maps would be really helpful, and also quite easy to do.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I have nothing to say about this topic, this was my first contact with the "seminar/vorlesung" system so I can't say anything good or bad about it, I'm just learning.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	Everything in this field is perfect, but maybe, the last point. Contacting local students apart from mentors is harder that desired, but I cannot blame people for their personal behavior, may could be improved through more common activities outside university
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Everything is expensive if you're not able to find kind of student job in Switzerland, (thing that can be done). About everything else, as far as my opinion goes, everything is worked as expected. I have to note that I'm vegetarian and probably not vegetarian people could have a more critic opinion

<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Travelling (meeting place, culture...) should be studied in a Swiss context more than a local context, but that would make it hard to study. About sports, I'm happy about those offered for Uni students.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I don't really think that comparing is right. Firstly because I've never been exchange student in Cadiz, and most of my problem were solved by the Mobility Office staff (and I don't know that department in Cadiz) If I have to compare about other factors, I could say that teachers here are more concerned about you (maybe because groups are smaller). About what would I like to improve, in Cadiz the relation with University workers (Mensa, cleaners, library...) if far more warm, making students feel that the university works, somehow, like a family.</p>