

Final Report on your Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

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

The report will be posted on the website of the University of Lucerne and may also be viewable via internet search engines. A subsequent amendment or deletion of data (e.g. name) will not be possible after the report has been submitted! Please send the report back in Word format only.

Mobility Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel
Semester	(Fall term 16 or spring term 17 or both?)
Field of study	Main subject? Politik / Soziologie Study level? <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Malte Kayßer, kaysser@ips.uni-kiel.de

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I had three and a half most lovely months in Lucerne. The city is beautiful and surrounded by a stunning scenery, weather is mostly good, people are friendly and the assistance provided by the university in general and the mobility office especially have been exceptional. There is lot's to see (do a Pilatus-hike!) and since Lucerne is located in the center of Switzerland, every other spot you'd like to see in the country is easily accessible.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	No problem at all. Since I came from Germany, entry into Switzerland did not require any passport-control. Once you are in Lucerne you'll have to pay a visit to the local Administration and register yourself as a temporary inhabitant, but that's it. Easily done and the mobility office provides all the formula you need for that.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	Most exchange students stay in one of the student dormitories and having a room in a private shared apartment is rather the exception. Yet I did, since I thought the rooms in the student-dormitory to be quite expensive (though they are the average ...). I found my room via "tutti.ch" and it did not take me long to get lucky. But if you want to go for a private accommodation, start early, since in order to catch a decent price, you'll have to look out for it quite persistently. The advantage of staying outside the student dormitories will be that you'll have more contact with the locals. The disadvantage is, that you'll run the danger of not being part of the "exchange-community", since they all live together and parties will be held in the dormitories mostly, you might be overseen, if not staying there. So rather invest some time socializing at start, to not fall of the waggon.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	I never took the bus or train, since Lucerne comes with the best transport available, namely "Nextbike"! It's a bike sharing-service and it's free for every inhabitant of Lucerne.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	I honestly do not remember exactly at what point in advance you had to register for your courses, but I am quite confident, that the advance is specific to each subject you are studying. So better look out for information on the official websites or write an email to the study-advisors in charge. That's what I did and they had all the information. I didn't do any language course since German is my mother-tongue.
Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure	The university is comparably small (everything in one building!) and young (founded in 2000) But the equipment – especially the library – is top-notch and everything has been done by the highest standard. The only caveat would be the high-temperature in

	the building. Especially when many people frequent the library, it is getting fairly hot.
German course at the University "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?	No, I didn't visit it.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	Although my original subjects are Political Science & Sociology, I only visited courses attributed to the theology-department, because courses in political / general philosophy (my major interest) are often situated in that faculty. All I can say is, that I perceived my lectures to be well-prepared, intellectually demanding and highly interesting. The university regularly successfully acquires highly esteemed guest professors and I can only advise to visit their lectures, if their course suits your curriculum. I did four courses and went for 15 ECTS. I had to do two presentations and write 2 short essays – a very fair amount of work I must say.
Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	The assistance provided by all these mentioned institutions has been great. Everyone seems to be really determined to ease your stay in Lucerne and make sure that you will have a great time. Truly perfectly organized!
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Well, that is the biggest downside you have to cope with when coming to Switzerland to study. It's expensive as hell. You can assume 500-800 CHF for your ROOM, 500 CHF for general living and if you want to party or travel extensively, well the sky has no limits moneywise! I can only suggest to NOT go partying in the city itself, since prices for club entry and drinks are ludicrous. Go for house-parties in the student dormitories (great) or wait for student-parties to be announced by the university's student groups. They are "fairly" priced. Make sure you have some savings when going to Switzerland or apply for study grants.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	Lucerne has a lot offer, if you are in outdoor activities. The Alps literally begin at Lucerne's southwestern doorstep and hiking up on top of Mt. Pilatus is a literal must for everyone! Once you have done that, explore the mountains and valleys you can see from Pilatus' top and you'll have a great time. I can also recommend the swimming hall, though it's pricey (8-12 CHF per time). You'll also find an alternative cinema and the KKL (concert hall & art gallery) is definitely worth a visit.
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	It's a lot is better in Lucerne. It being such a small university is its biggest advantage, since the bureaucracy is not as "kafkaesk" compared to bigger universities. Your requests will be handled swift and without referencing you from one responsible bureau to the next. You'll also feel what money can do. The technical equipment is great, the library is up to date with the current scientific discussion and the lectures are well elected.
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I actually went for it, because Lucerne has a lot to offer, when it comes to Political Philosophy / Theory – mainly because you can do courses in philosophy / theology although they don't represent your original subjects. The administration of the university has no problem with that but make sure your home university allows to take courses outside your original subjects!
Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	<input type="checkbox"/> too short <input type="checkbox"/> too long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> just right