

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 <u>may also be viewable via internet search engines.</u> 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	☑ SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe)	□ PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	University of Potsdam	
Semester	Fall Term 17	
Field of study	Political Economy	Study level? □ Bachelor ⊠ Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Florian Petri, florian.petri@gmx.de	

General impression	Lonioved my competer at LINIII II years much. From an accidenic standariat I learned	
Please describe your stay in 4-5	I enjoyed my semester at UNILU very much. From an academic standpoint I learned a lot and feel like the seminars and courses I took are a sensible addition to my field	
sentences	of studies. The city of Lucerne itself is beautiful and there are many things to explore	
Seliterices	and to do here. Also, Lucerne is right in the middle of Switzerland (and Europe),	
	which makes it a perfect starting point for further travels. The student housing in	
	Emmenbrücke and the activities organized by the International Relations Office made	
	it easy to get to know other international students quickly.	
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland	As an EU-citizen, I did not need a visa and could easily take the Flixbus to Lucerne.	
Immigration formalities, visa	After arrival, I had to sign up at the migration office, which was very easy as the	
g	International Relations Office prepared all the required forms and a checklist of what	
	to bring for us.	
Searching for rooms/ accommo-	I applied for the International Students accommodation in Gerliswilstrasse 10 (Em-	
dation	menbrücke), which was recommended by UNILU. I enjoyed living there as the build-	
Experiences and useful addresses	ing was pretty well equipped and looked after for a student accommodation.	
Public transportation	Living in Emmenbrücke there were three ways of reaching the University / Lucerne	
Train, bus, accessibility of university	city. First, you can take the Train (5min) or Bus (15min). You can also take a rentable	
buildings	bike (Nextbike), which is for free four hours a day with the city discount code. This	
	takes about 15-20min. Finally, you can walk which takes up to 45min.	
	The passpartout (zone 10 card) is the most reasonable ticket if you plan to use public	
	transportation. It costs 60 CHF (80CHF for people over 25). As other student accom-	
	modations (e.g. Steinhof) are closer to Uni, you would not need this ticket there.	
Prearrangements	Before coming to UNILU, I chose a variety of courses from the UNILU-website that I	
Registration for courses, language	planned to take here. I ended up just taking one of those and found many other	
tests, academic records	courses while I was here already, mainly just by sitting in and trying out a couple.	
Information on the university	UNILU is located directly at the central station of Lucerne and therefore directly at the	
Location, size, infrastructure	lake (Inseli). It is a pretty small University, but it is well equipped with group- or single	
	workplaces, chill out rooms and extracurricular activities.	
German course at the University	As I am a native German speaker, I did not attend the German course.	
"German Short Course" visited?		
Content of course, use?		
Studying at the university	Studying economics with a focus on political economy there were a lot of course in	
Content of lectures, credits,	the faculty of economics but specifically in the faculty of political science that were	

assessments	highly relevant and interesting for me. The credit- and assessment systems at UNILU are quite different from my university in Germany, which is why it is advisable to get in touch with both universities early while thinking about the learning agreement.	
Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	The mobility coordinators of the International Relations Office were extremely helpful in, basically, every regard. From preparing important documents, organizing international student events, to just being the first to talk to for whatever issue comes up. The student advisors at the respective faculties were also very helpful when it came to subject/studying related questions.	
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	The living costs in Switzerland are extremely high in international comparison. Therefore it is advisable to look for additional financial support when studying here (scholarships, study credit, or other state-financed programs e.g. German Bafög). This is also true for prices within University (although they are relatively cheap compared to anywhere else in CH). To make your stay here affordable I recommend: buying groceries exclusively at ALDI / LIDL, preparing food in advance (you will save a LOT of money when cooking vegetarian / vegan) and take it to Uni, avoid printing study material, drinking in bars or eating in restaurants, fast food and the UNILU cafeteria (even though the food is really good there).	
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	If the weather is good one of the nicest places to meet and hangout is around the lake, e.g. at Uffschötti. There are many good mountain hikes around Lucerne, the closest being Pilatus, Rigi and Stanserhorn. If you feel fit enough avoid the expensive cable cars, then it is completely free. There are varieties of sport courses that UNILU offers and there are many things to see and explore in the historic part of Lucerne city. One of the cheapest beers and relaxed bars you will find at Neubad. If you plan to travel a lot individually, it might be worth buying Half-tax card. Otherwise we found that it is cheaper to rent a car most of the time.	
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	I liked the interconnectedness of the different faculties and how easy it was to take courses in them. In my home university (University of Potsdam) it is much harder to take courses in other faculties to this extent. The only thing that surprised me negatively is that you cannot use public transportation for free with your student card, which is the standard at German Universities.	
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I mainly chose UNILU because their offered courses fit very well in my field of study. Besides, I love the mountains and nature, which Switzerland both famously has a lot of. I also enjoyed the close proximity to winter-sports areas such as Engelberg and Melchsee-Frutt.	
Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	☑ too short ☐ too long ☐ just right	