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	☒ SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) ☐ PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	Universität Regensburg
Semester	Fall term 2017
Field of study	Main subject? Cultural Sciences Study level? ☒ Bachelor ☐ Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Carla Herrmann; carla.herrmann@stud.uni-regensburg.de

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Choosing Switzerland and Lucerne in particular as the destination for my semester abroad was definitely the right decision. As a native German I was able to visit regular Swiss classes which gave me interesting insights in the Swiss educational system. All teachers were passionate about what they were teaching, and I learned a lot in the four months I spent here. Moreover, Lucerne is simply a beautiful city and Switzerland in general offers so many activities and things to see! Finally, I got to know a lot of new people from all over the world and we all hope to see each other again in Lucerne one day.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	The team of the International Office informed you in the Welcome Week about all the formalities which made it a lot easier. The registration at the communal office went rather smoothly (especially when you are speaking German, there is not always an English-speaking person available in the office).
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	The University helped the Incomings with finding a room in one of the student accommodations, either in Emmenbrücke or in Eichhof. I lived in the latter which was a bit more expensive but closer to the city center and a bit more modern.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The bus system in Lucerne works quite well, you could reach the train station and the university from the accommodation Eichhof in barely ten minutes. I had a monthly pass for the public transport which cost 61 CHF.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	I had to choose my courses in advance as I had to hand in my learning agreement at my home university already before I left. The registration for the courses at the University of Lucerne is online, but you have two weeks to visit the courses which sound interesting to you and only after this time you must decide.
Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure	The university lies directly next to the train station (where also all busses stop) and to the lake. It is a rather small university but quite well equipped, e. g. concerning the library. You can also have lunch for a rather affordable price there.
German course at the University "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?	As a German native speaker, I didn't visit a German course.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I mostly visited seminars in Cultural Science, Ethnology and Political Science which were all well taught and very interesting!
Assistance at the university	The assistance by the team of the International Office and by the student mentors

Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	was very helpful and the activities they organized, especially during the Welcome Week, made it quite easy to get to know the other incoming students. As I mostly visited German courses, I also got in contact with Swiss students which was very interesting.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Compared to my home country, the living costs are quite high, but with the grant you receive and by buying not always in the most expensive stores you get along with it rather well (e. g. grocery shopping in Aldi or Denner is quite affordable). I also recommend opening a Swiss bank account (e. g. with the UBS or the Kantonalbank) which makes for example money transfers easier. You can close it again easily when you leave.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	I enjoyed the university's sports program; most courses are for free and they offer a lot of different activities. Going out in Lucerne with its many bars and clubs is fun but you should consider higher costs than you might be used to. I also went to the theatre once and there are certain interesting museums in the city. Finally, the lake itself is probably one of the most prominent spots and must be very beautiful during summer time!
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	I liked the small courses in Lucerne which make e. g. discussions very intensive and the contact to teachers was closer than at my home university. Also, the library is quite well equipped and a perfect place to study.
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	The universities in Switzerland have a quite good reputation and after spending a semester here, I can endorse that. Lucerne had just the right size for me and is probably one of the country's most beautiful cities and is just a perfect place for a semester abroad.
Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	☐ too short ☐ too long ☒ just right