



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 type="checkbox"/> SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	Singapore Management University
Semester	(Fall term 16 or spring term 17 or both?) Spring Term 17
Field of study	Main subject? Law Study level? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Nicolette Lee

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Luzern is a beautiful place to stay in owing to its amazing natural scenery and calm, inviting atmosphere. The lake itself is one of the most beautiful features around. Things can be expensive, so staying on a budget can be difficult, but being thrifty and keeping a sharp eye out for the cheapest solutions help - also, it's a small price to pay for the experience here. The people around town are friendly and will help you even if you do not speak German.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Entering Switzerland was relatively easy for me as I did not have to apply for a visa. I did, however, have to comply with insurance requirements and apply for a residence permit. The university and office staff located in Luzern are very helpful.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	I decided to take a school-provided accommodation, so I did not have too much trouble sourcing for a room. It would be best to communicate directly with the university and relevant correspondents to secure accommodation.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Places are very accessible around Luzern. The university is right next to the train station, which is very convenient, and from where I lived (Emmenbrücke) it was just a stop away, as well as accessible by bus. Public transportation can be quite expensive in Switzerland in general, so my friends and I bought (1) the half-pass, which costs about 150+ francs and allows you to get half-fare for any trip and (2) the Gleis 7, costing also 100+ francs, allowing you to take any trip in Switzerland past 7pm for free. I also had to pay 60 francs for my monthly zone pass (zone 10) for travel within the town's central area. Overall, it was quite costly, but I believe we saved quite a bit with our passes.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Registration for courses was very straightforward, thankfully.
Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure	The university has a 'city campus' and is quite small but definitely very well-equipped and well-staffed. The facilities utilize pretty advanced technology (such as in the library) and it's really clean and nice.
German course at the University "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?	The German course was definitely a welcome part of orientation, and I think it helped us grasp the basics of Swiss German. Unfortunately, I never got to learning much more German, but it definitely helped during grocery shopping, reading and listening to announcements, counting, basic greetings etc.
Studying at the university	Definitely a good experience. The professors whom I was taught under were profi-

Content of lectures, credits, assessments	cient in their fields and taught very competently, and it was not stressful being there as an exchange student. I feel that I've learnt a lot from the courses I've taken here despite the lower intensity.
Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	The University staff are extremely helpful and kind with us, and I am immensely grateful for the guidance they have provided us with regard to registration, deregistration, administrative matters and orientation, amongst other things. I am also very glad for their consistent follow-ups and meetups and trips so that we exchange students would be more able to bond as a group. Students at the school are generally nice, too.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	I chose not to open a bank account because of the hassle and transaction fees. As for costs, the living costs in Switzerland are quite expensive, though this can be lowered by buying budget brands + buying groceries in bulk. Transport is particularly expensive. Study material in general is affordable unless you are required to buy a booklet from the store for a certain course, but even that cost is quite all right.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	There is a fantastic work-life balance going on in Switzerland, as observed. The University provides many opportunities to engage in sports activities for free, and they are most often very enjoyable. The city itself and the surrounding area are lovely in themselves. There are also a good number of opportunities to immerse oneself in Swiss culture all year round. For example, this February, I was lucky enough to experience Fasnacht festivities in Luzern itself as well as partially in Basel and Stuttgart when I travelled.
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	The University of Lucerne seems more flexible and kind to students, while my home university may sometimes carry itself differently, curter, impersonal. The University of Lucerne teaches in a different way (lecture-based for the majority of it, and some interactive elements for specific courses) from my home university (completely seminar-based), and in some way I feel that such a system (which involves both lectures and participation) can actually be better at teaching certain legal subjects as opposed to a 100% seminar system.
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I chose to come to Luzern because I heard of the beauty of the lake and its surrounding landscape (I was not disappointed). I was also drawn in by the centrality of Luzern's location in Switzerland and in Europe in general. Additionally, the University offered a good range of English courses that appealed to me.
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