

International Relations Office

Final Report on your Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

Please write the report (max. 2 pages) 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	Singapore Management University (SMU)			
Semester	Spring 2018			
Field of study	Main subject? Law Study level? ⊠ Bachelor □ Master			
Name and E-Mail (optional)				

General impression	My stay in Lucerne (and Switzerland) was simply amazing. It was probably the best 5			
Please describe your stay in	months of my university life thus far. I loved the lifestyle there, the routine and just			
4-5 sentences	being able to experience living abroad in a country that is so magnificently beautiful. I			
	was very sad to leave Lucerne and will definitely be back to visit Switzerland again.			
	Overall, the experience was fantastic and I would do it again in a heartbeat.			
Entry/arrival in Switzerland	Settling down in Switzerland can be quite troublesome – you have to register with the			
Immigration formalities, visa,	authorities, register and pay for health insurance (and private liability insurance), and			
health insurance	a bunch of other admin requirements (such as getting your resident permit). However,			
	from my experience, it was relatively easy to do all of these as the school gave us			
	very clear directions and instructions on how to go about doing these which made the			
	process a lot easier.			
Searching for rooms/	Getting accommodation in Lucerne was fairly easy – everything was liaised through			
accommodation	the school. The accommodation at Steinhofstrasse was amazing. I loved my room,			
Experiences and useful addresses	the facilities and the apartment. The toilets were functional and it was easy to do			
	laundry etc. Overall, my stay at the Steinhofstrasse accommodation was great.			
Public transportation	Getting around Lucerne was easy. There were very frequent buses to and from the			
Train, bus, accessibility of university	university to our accommodation. You could even walk if you were feeling up to it.			
buildings	However, the only drawback is that public transportation is fairly expensive and you			
	would have to end up paying a substantial sum each month just for taking the bus to			
	school.			
Prearrangements	Registration for courses was a breeze. I did not encounter much problems in getting			
Registration for courses, academic	my modules or clarifying certain course requirements with the school. The school was			
records	also very helpful in our course registration and giving us information that helped us			
	decide which courses to take.			
Information on the university	The university building was formerly a post office. That being said, it is quite spacious			
Location, size, infrastructure	with many rooms. It is very conveniently located next to the main Lucerne train station			
	and quite near many places where you can grab lunch or a coffee. The Wi-Fi in the			
	school was pretty good and the classrooms were conducive enough for us to learn			
	well.			
German course at the University	The basic German course provided a good introduction to the German language.			
"German Short Course" and/or A1	However, it was quite hard to learn how to speak proper German sentences in just a			
German Course visited? Content of	few sessions and I found it quite hard to string sentences together after such a short			

course, use?	time learning an entirely different language. However, it was useful in learning certain			
	phrases that you could speak to locals (e.g. saying "sorry" or "thank you").			
Studying at the university	Studying at Lucerne was very different from back home. One thing I would say is that			
Content of lectures, credits,	class participation is less than the seminar-style classes, which I had back at home -			
assessments	which can be a good thing for those who are more used to sitting and listening to the			
	lecturer. The content of the courses was quite interesting and many modules perked			
	my interest. Assessment was fairly robust and you could not simply study the night			
	before thinking you can pass, although I must admit that the workload was significant-			
	ly less than what I'd experience back home.			
Assistance at the university	Assistance at the university was first class. You could always call upon the team of			
International Relations Office,	the International Relations Office to help you out with translating German documents			
student advisors, mentors, contact	or getting more information on what to do in Lucerne etc. It was great meeting them			
with other students	and it made the stay in Lucerne so much easier. Thanks to the IRO and team for their			
	dedication and hard work!			
Budgeting	Living in Lucerne is not cheap, at all. The price of food etc. is relatively high and			
Living costs, study material,	transport is expensive. But I would say that it is the price of living in Switzerland and I			
money transfer	don't regret paying the money I did for the time I've spent there. Opening a bank			
	account in Lucerne is not a lot of trouble and the staff there are very helpful – First-			
	class service.			

Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	There are many sports options in Lucerne and you can experience many different activities which you would not be able to back home. The area where people ate their lunches was spacious and created a vibrant environment during lunch hours.				
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	One thing definitely better than my home university is the workload. Back home, the amount of workload is insane and I would have to spend everyday studying at least 6-8 hours. In Lucerne, the workload is more manageable and it was at a very good pace to facilitate learning. However, one minor thing that the university in Lucerne lacked would be cheaper printing services as it was relatively pricey to print documents if you needed them for exams etc.				
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I chose the University of Lucerne because Switzerland is an amazing country and I wanted to experience the lifestyle there. Furthermore, the university offered courses, which were quite relevant to my training and interests.				
Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	□ too short	□ too long	⊠ just right		