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 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	PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	Singapore Management University
Semester	Spring
Field of study	Main subject? Law Study level? □ Bachelor
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Yeo Kheng Jing kjyeo.2015@law.smu.edu.sg

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I loved my stay in Lucerne as the canton is safe and peaceful. Although the cost of living is high, it is a small price to pay for the security of this area. Lucerne is less populated than Singapore and it seems that the people here adopt a slower pace of life. Overall, I enjoy the way of life here and I love walking along the lake during good weather when I have some free time. I will miss this place greatly when I am back in Singapore.
Entry/arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa, health insurance	The administrative processes are slightly complicated and inefficient. For instance, my residence permit took about three months to arrive. Without my residence permit, I was always at risk of not being allowed to enter Switzerland.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	The student accommodations recommended by the school were highly satisfactory. The apartment was new and adequately furnished and the location was near to school. (about 10 minutes by bus, 20 minutes by foot)
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Public transportation is highly expensive in Switzerland. For instance, a bus ride costs about 2.50 CHF regardless of distance travelled. Thus, I do not take the bus. The trains would be cheaper since I purchased a half-fare card, which is highly worth it considering that I am in Switzerland for half a year. This means that I would have to travel frequently by train (e.g. to and from the airport and other cantons)
Prearrangements Registration for courses, academic records	Registration for courses was very smooth. I was able to enroll for all the modules I registered for.
Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure	The university compound is quite small, but it is sufficient considering that I am only in school to attend lessons. I attend extracurricular activities (e.g. fussball) at the sports hall, which is located elsewhere. The building is very new and clean. The location is good as it is beside the central station.
German course at the University "German Short Course" and/or A1 German Course visited? Content of course, use?	The German Short Course has not been useful for me. It is difficult to learn a new language in a week. A new language can only be learnt through using and practicing it constantly. However, I rarely speak German in Lucerne and communicate with the locals with English. Most people in Lucerne understand basic English.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The courses offered are very diverse and mostly deal with international matters. This is highly useful to me as there are not many international modules back in my home university. The workload has been manageable. Some of the exams are oral exams and this is an interesting concept since I have never done oral exams in my home

	university. Oral exams are more efficient which I enjoyed and believe should continue in the university.
Assistance at the university International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	The responsible for international student has been very helpful before and throughout my stay in Lucerne. She replies promptly to my emails and also takes the initiative to assist us in various matters.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Most of my budget is spent on living expenses. A little of it is spent on administrative costs (e.g. residence permit). There is no need to pay for school expenses (except to print materials). As mentioned above, living costs are high in Lucerne and I cook all the time. I do not eat out, as it is much more expensive.

Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	I spend my free time playing fussball organised by the school (at the sports hall). Sometimes, I go to the cinema to watch a movie (although movie tickets are expensive), to the sports bar to watch fussball or to the café (Neubad) to catch up with friends.
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	The workload in Lucerne is much more manageable. The guest courses/workshops here are something I enjoyed which are not offered in my home university. However, my home university has a bigger space, which allows students to engage in activities within the school compound besides attending lessons (e.g. bars to chill with friends, many eateries).
Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I chose Switzerland as some of my friends chose this place and we wanted to go together. However, more importantly, I chose Lucerne as Switzerland is considered a safe country (similar to Singapore) and my parents are more relieved for me to do my exchange program here than anywhere else in Europe.
Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	☐ too short