

Final Report on Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

Please write the report (max 2 pages) in German or English in complete sentences (no keywords).

Mobility program	PARTNERSHIP
Home university	University of Windsor
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall Term 2014
Name und E-Mail (optional)	David Master

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	My stay was incredible. The school was mostly interesting and not too difficult. Lucerne is a beautiful city. It is in central Switzerland and Switzerland is central in Western Europe and most places are easily accessible. The people you meet are really nice and international. However, it is a pretty expensive place.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Apply for your visa early to avoid problems. There is a 300 dollar extra visa fee that you have to pay like 2 months after arrival. It seems pointless, because we already have a visa, but you have no choice.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	I was lucky to be given a place in Gerliswilstrasse. It is a nice residence and has lots of international students. The only downside, mostly for students from North America, is that you are forced to pay for January, which we cannot be here for.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Public transportation is easy and incredible. Buy a half fare pass. I would also recommend each month to buy a two zone pass.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	The schedule changes throughout the summer and you can only be sure of the offerings when you arrive. Even when you arrive there might be confusion about whether you can take a certain course.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	The school is a really nice and modern looking building. It is located literally right beside the train station in Lucerne. However, printing at the school is a nightmare.
German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	I did not take the course. I think it is not worth cutting short a pre-travel. Most people I spoke to forgot the little amount of German they learned in the course. You meet everyone shortly after and don't miss a beat.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The lectures are sometimes interesting and sometimes dry. We have not had many assessments up to this point. We had a couple presentations which were interesting and good fun.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	I did not engage much with student advisors or mentors. The mobility office is generally pretty helpful.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Switzerland is expensive but manageable if you <u>never</u> eat out. We always make food that we buy. On the plus side, I learned a bit about cooking. Study material is not too bad. The readers are generally pretty affordable. When we needed expensive textbooks, we would use the library rather than buy. Money transfer is tricky. I opened up a bank account at UBS but found it cheaper to just use an ATM. The best part about opening up the bank account was 40 free CHF to H&M.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	The best part about living in Lucerne is the opportunity to play free sports and participate in free classes. There is spin class every day and various sports 2-3 times/week like basketball and volleyball. It was so fun and a good way to stay active

Comparison

What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?

Better:

- Sports programs
- International culture/atmosphere
- Ability to have classes 1-2 days/week

Worse:

- Applicability of material in lectures to real life/career back home