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	The University of Texas at Austin
Field of study	Law
Semester	Spring term 2014
Name und E-Mail (optional)	

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Overall, spending a semester of law school abroad was great, though I'm not sure I would have picked the same location if I did it all over again. While Lucerne is beautiful, it's extremely expensive compared to cities in surrounding countries and it's not the most convenient home base to have for traveling.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Getting the immigration requirements taken care of was rather confusing and way more expensive than anticipated. For a four month stay, be prepared to pay around $400 all told just on visas and paperwork. The list of documents I received from the university for registering my address upon arrival was inaccurate and when I had questions, the university told me to contact the migration office myself. It would have been helpful to have more guidance and support on this whole process.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	I found a room to rent on www.easywg.ch. I highly recommend finding a place to rent that is within walking distance of the university to try and cut down on your public transportation expenses.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The public transportation in Lucerne is nice, but very expensive. Note that if you are over 25, you aren't eligible for discounted travel cards (nor are you eligible for any type of student discount within Switzerland generally). The university is right next to the train station, so it's not difficult to access the university.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Registering for classes wasn't too difficult, though it would have been nice to have the exam schedule finalized a bit sooner in the semester – I didn't find out when my exams were until the very last class day and as a result I had to deal with exams for my Lucerne classes overlapping with the start of my classes for the next semester at my home university.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	The university is right next to the Lucerne train station, making it pretty easy to get to, and the building is very modern.
German course at the university „German for Beginners" visited? Content of course, usage	I recommend taking the German course as a way to meet classmates before classes get started. Overall, I found it really important to speak a bit of German in order to get around.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I enjoyed my courses at the university. I was never asked to complete an official course assessment for any of them.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	Everyone at the university was friendly, but as mentioned earlier I didn't feel like I had enough guidance in getting immigration and insurance formalities worked out. Additionally, the mobility office has limited hours during the semester. I was never put in contact with a student mentor, but I think it would have been useful to have one.
Budgeting Living costs, study material,	Living in Switzerland is extremely expensive - I spent a year in a neighboring German-speaking country as an undergrad and found it to be much more affordable.

money transfer	Additionally, Swiss banks refuse to allow anyone with a US passport to open any sort of account with them, even with a residence permit/visa. So, I recommend trying to find a US bank that allows you to take out cash without charging high transaction fees.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?	It's difficult to call one better than the other because they are so different.