

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	ERASMUS
Home university	Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic
Field of study	Political Science (International Relations)
Semester	Spring term 2013
Name und E-Mail (optional)	

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I enjoyed my stay in Luzern and it was definitely a good choice. Concerning my academic skills, I got new point of view of many things. I met there a lot of new people, improved my language skills and what I appreciate most, is gaining the understanding of the uniqueness of Switzerland.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	The registration was quite easy – it was enough to register at the local authority and they communicated my registration to the immigration office, the fee was 35 CHF. Quite stressful was the issue of health insurance and application for exemption of the Swiss public health insurance system. They asked me the same documents twice and there was still some problem with it, even though as an EU citizen and according to the treaties, they should not bother me with these issues when my stay is no longer than 6 months.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	I tried to find private accommodation and used the websites the university recommended. The problem was that nobody answered on my emails, not even when I created a Swiss email account. I would definitely recommend the accommodation in the student dormitories provided by the university (Student Mentor Foundation).
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Luzern is quite small so I didn't use the public transportation, everything was in the distance of 10-15 minutes of walking and the university is situated in the very center of the city.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	I had no problems with the registration of courses, even though the system of the UNILU is quite complicated. No language test was necessary.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	The university is situated in a great location – right in the heart of Luzern, next to the lake. So it was amazing to have lunch in the park at the shore of the lake, watching the mountains and enjoying the sun. The university has got very modern building and the atmosphere is very pleasant. It is a lot smaller than my home university but it was nice to step out of the anonymity that necessarily accompanies studying at bigger universities.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The lectures at UNILU were concentrating on different aspects than what is stressed at my home university. So it helped me to get another point of view. But I had a feeling that the courses are not very well structured and don't give you a clear idea or a complete picture of the problem/issue. The teachers just skipped from one topic to another without making clear links between them. What I also did not like at all, was that the lecture was in most cases just repeating of all that we had to read for the class (and sometimes write an assignment on it). So in the end, the lecture brings no contribution at all.

<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The assistance provided by the Mobility Office was great. All the staff was very helpful and the communication was very smooth. I especially appreciated very quick answers on my emails before I even arrived and was arranging my stay at UNILU. The mentoring program was also great and I appreciate the trips and events the students of UNILU prepared for us. In general everyone was very friendly.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Living costs are about 3x higher than in my home country, but it was no problem to get on with money. You just have to be careful about your expenses. It was not necessary to buy any studying material, everything was online or accessible in the library, so I just scanned it.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Luzern is very busy concerning cultural and night life, so there is a lot to do and a lot of places to go. Concerning sports, the university offers free sport trainings throughout the semester, which is really great and you can choose from many different types of sport activities. I also enjoyed hiking around the Lake of Luzern.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The personal approach and the friendly atmosphere are definitely advantages of UNILU. I also appreciate the readers prepared for the lectures at the faculty of law, it would be nice if our university would also prepare such summarized study materials. My university has got better informational system, better structure of courses, wider offer of English courses for foreign students and the studies there are more challenging.</p>