

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 (inside Europe)
Home university	University of Sheffield England
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall term 2013 and Spring term 2014 – Whole academic year
Name und E-Mail (optional)	Jbear1@sheffield.ac.uk

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	As soon as I arrived I loved the city of Lucerne, I thought it was very beautiful. I really like how the university organizes events for students at the beginning such as the German course and welcome events so that everyone gets to know each other. Therefore, in terms of the university and the city I had an overall great first impression.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	I found this relatively easy coming from a European country. I have heard that it is a bit harder for international students.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	I was given the link for student accommodation by my home university. I really liked Student Mentor in Steinhoffstrasse but the land lords are extremely strict. We did not mention that our flat came with a broken sink and me and all my housemates were charged 80 francs each to repair a sink that was broken before we arrived.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	From the Student mentor accomodation university and town is within walking distance. It is about a 25 minute walk to university. Some people take the bus and have a bus card for around 50 francs a month, however, I found this unnecessary and prefer to walk.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	All of this was done by my university. As my native language is English I think that my experience was easier in this regard.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	The university is very small, however, in terms of Erasmus year I really liked this not just because it was different to my normal experience but also because it is a very comfortable size and you will always bump into someone you know!
German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	I enjoyed my beginners german course. It is rather intensive for 3 days and I would have liked it to be longer but you do get the basics. I cannot say, however, that I was able to speak German at all afterwards just understand key useful words and phrases.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I like how the university offers various ways of getting credits (moots, research assistant positions, guest lectures, normal classes). I also like how you can see which days of the week classes will be held which I think is important for the students who wish to travel as you can choose classes on a couple of days therefore giving yourself 4 or 5 day weekends to travel around Switzerland and do short European trips! I think that there are a wide variety of courses taught in English and I like how some are assessed via a paper, some written exams and some oral exams.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	Although I rarely sought advice, I was aware that if I did need help the office in the university for Erasmus students was very helpful and was at comfort knowing that if I did need anything they would be there to help.

<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>The cost of living here is quite high, however, as my home currency is the pound which is quite a bit stronger than the Swiss Franc it wasn't too bad, if it was the other way round I feel that I may have struggled. I feel like although at first it seems extremely expensive it does get more manageable the longer you stay here and for example get the ½ fare travel card which I believe is very important for anyone who wants to go hiking or use trains in Switzerland. It is an expensive country if you like to do things like going out for dinner and buying drinks in bars and clubs!</p> <p>In terms of study material, although things like printing are expensive students are provided "readers" here for most subjects with all their course materials and this was a lot cheaper than the books that we have to buy in my home university!</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The university offers a free sports program to students which although classes are in German in most cases you don't need to understand to get by. There are a wide variety of sports all free with the student card and I really enjoyed trying out some new sports!</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Prices in the university for food and general living expenses are much better in my home university, however, the fact that students get many free events, free sports and even a reader I prefer from Lucerne! There is less university hours in Lucerne than in my home university.</p>