

Final report on your study exchange at the University of Lucerne

This is my personal report over my exchange at the University of Luzern. Before I began at the University of Luzern I had had one semester in Zürich. I will therefore sometimes compare my experiences in Luzern with the once I had in Zürich because there is in my opinion a huge difference between the two universities, which give a good picture of the University of Luzern.

The Exchange program

The University of Luzern is smaller than the University of Zürich. There are therefore more exchange students visiting Zürich compared to Luzern. The way I noted this was that the events in Luzern were always more informal and personal compared to the events in Zürich, which were rather superficial and impersonal. In Luzern, I was always met by warm employees who were willing to answer my questions fast and sufficient and help in any possible way, which made me feel very welcome and safe. In Zürich I never really got to meet the people behind the program or in charge of the program. I was always sent to an office with many employees and I never got to know who from who and I never got to know the people in charge of the program.

I blame the big contrasts between the two universities to the different sizes of the two. It could be that it is not about that but something else that I do not know. I do not say one is better than the other I just say that you feel that the size makes a difference.

There were so many exchange students in Zürich that it was impossible to get to know everyone but in Luzern you knew everybody and it felt like a little family.

The university

The University of Luzern is located next to the main station so it is very easy to find and centrally located in Luzern. The location also makes it easier to get connections to other places around Switzerland, which I see as a plus because I lived in Zürich during my semester in Luzern and had to commute. I liked the University of Luzern because everything is gathered in one building. It is easy to find out where your courses take place. What is less positive is the crowded Mensa over lunch. It is almost impossible to find a seat during lunch time and where I am from this is never really an issue or a problem – maybe I am just spoiled. Another thing that was bothering me was the Internet connection. The university building is built in such a

way that you cannot get connection everywhere in the building. Sometimes in order to get Internet connection I had to switch between the university Wifi and my own data on my phone or move myself to another place in the building, which is quit annoying.

A very awesome thing they have is the sport organisation for students. Through this organisation you can participate in all kind of sports activities for free, which I find really cool and I used it a lot! Beside the fact that you become fit it is also a good place to meet other people.

The courses

I am really exited about the offering of courses they have at the University of Luzern. This was among one of the reasons why I chose to take a semester in Luzern instead of two in Zürich. I can tell now that I was not disappointed. The selection is huge and without being 100% sure I think Luzern has many more courses, especially in English, compared to the University of Zürich to choose from, which is just great. An advice, when choosing courses be aware of that not all courses are offered both in spring and fall semesters.

The professors

All the professors and guest professors I had during my semester in Luzern have all been very nice and helpful. The level is high and the professors are warm and welcoming. This creates a very inclusive and warm learning environment, which I have not even experienced at my home university.

In Zürich I never had a relation to the professors. It was really clear that there was a special hierarchy you had to learn. As an example we were never aloud to write to the professors. All contact had to go through there assistance. I understand because of the amount of students they probably have but I just say that it creates a very formal and impersonal relation between the students and the professors.

The city of Luzern

I did, as mentioned, not live in Luzern. I was only there when I had courses or had appointments with other students so I do not know a great deal about the city. What I can say is that it is a very beautiful city, with a lot of history and beautiful places and buildings. The Swiss people are nice, friendly and helpful and I got a lot of Swiss friends during my stay.