

Final Report on your Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

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

Mobility Program	SEMP (Erasmus)
Home university	University of Sheffield
Semester	Fall term 2014 and Spring term 2015
Field of study	Law / Bachelor
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Kmshing1@sheffield.ac.uk

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>I didn't know what to expect before I came but I guess that's the best part of not knowing, you are pleasantly surprised by everything! It is possibly the most amazing experience being on the Erasmus programme, meeting new people and experiencing a different culture that you wouldn't necessarily know about. I was genuinely pleasantly surprised by what Switzerland and the university has to offer. Experience of a lifetime!</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I arrived into Zurich airport which was the easiest and closest airport. The transfer from Zurich to Emmenbrucke was pretty simple and the people were very friendly. There was not much else that I had to do, as it was not necessary for me to get a visa (coming from the U.K.). It would help if you knew German as there are a few signs here and there which are not in English but generally many people speak English.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>The University arranged this. There were two options either the Student Mentor residence or Emmenbrucke residence. I opted for Emmenbrucke as this was the closest to the University (via a 6-7 train ride) and this was really easy as the building is right next to the train station (can be a bit noisy from the traffic and the occasional plane flying above but I've not lost many nights sleep from it). I'm very happy that I chose Emmenbrucke as you get a real 'family vibe' from living here.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>I guess one word to describe the transportation is efficient. The Swiss transport system is very reliant and especially living next to the train station it's very easy to get anywhere. But as mentioned before it only takes 6-7 minutes to get to the University/centre of Lucerne. Alternatively there is a 20 minutes bus ride to the city which is also efficient. The monthly pass of zone 10/20 is very useful and not too expensive (56CHF <25), this allows you to travel with the trains however many times a day. The ½ fare and gleis 7 card is also a great buy for people who will be travelling a lot. The only downside to the trains to and from the airport is that it doesn't run as frequently after 11pm until around 7am, which can be bad if you have an early morning flight.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>I did not have to register for courses before I arrived in Switzerland. This all happened in the first two weeks of the Fall semester. We had an introduction of registering for courses with Madeleine (she's fab- and very helpful). We had around 3 weeks to pick which courses we wanted to take for definite, this meant that we could go and try out the courses before actually binding ourselves to take the assessments etc. We had a 4 day intensive German course which was helpful for learning the basics and getting to know the Swiss way of life however if you want to learn more advanced German I suggest you look for a language course.</p>
<p>Information on university</p>	<p>The information is quite a small and new one but it is very modern and offers a range</p>

Location, size, infrastructure	of courses (that my home university wouldn't necessarily offer) which have been so interesting! The university itself is nice and compact with four floors, without the lift it's a bit of work especially in the mornings.
German course at the university „German Short Course“ visited? Content of course, usage	As mentioned previously, the German course was 4 days. I guess it was more of an ice-breaker-getting to know everyone, which is very nice for your first few days at the University/Switzerland. It taught me the basics however if you are looking for something more advanced, look into a language course (the University, Migros language courses or tandem partners). I haven't had to use it as much as I thought I would as the majority of the people I've come across speak English.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The set up of the courses at the University is a lot more interesting and varied in comparison to my home university. Because the classes are a lot smaller, they are a lot more intimate and you can really get a class discussion. You can take courses that are blocked which are intense for a few days then you are finished with the course, which I find great.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	The mobility office team are really helpful with any queries you may have and usually very quick with responding. There are student mentors that organizes trips/activities which is fun and gets a good student community going.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Switzerland is definitely not the cheapest place to live/study, but it's worth it! You have to buy your own module readers from the student shop but some professors provide you with some material. I have used transferwise.com since the fall semester and it has always been a great platform to transfer currency because it beats any bank rates.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	Most of the sports/activities that the university offers is free. The gym is also free on specific days (next to the university). I recommend badminton, deep work, spinning and the city run/marathon!
Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	Both of the universities are not comparable as the University of Lucerne is a much smaller establishment. However, the variety of assessments and courses you get here is more favourable than it is at my home university.
Reasons For what reasons are you aiming for a mobility period at the University of Lucerne?	A different university and culture experience. Taking a range of courses at the University of Lucerne that I wouldn't have the opportunity to take back at my home university. Thus, broadening my knowledge of the international perspective of the law.
Duration If you look back, was the duration of your stay for mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> to short <input type="checkbox"/> to long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> precisely would have loved to stay a little longer because I love it so much!