

## 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).

<b>Mobility Program</b>	<b>SEMP/ERASMUS (inside Europe)</b>
<b>Home university</b>	Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
<b>Semester</b>	Spring Term 2015
<b>Field of study</b>	Master
<b>Name and E-Mail (optional)</b>	

<p><b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Lucerne is a small, cozy city surrounded by water and mountains, which make it a beautiful place to live in. Its people are very respectful and always try to help. I had trouble understanding Swiss German; I didn't know it was that different when I came here.</p>
<p><b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Arrival in Lucerne was easy. One of the best things Switzerland has is its railway system. Almost every airport can be reached by a direct train. After arriving foreigners have to register in the communal office. The university provides all the needed information about the documents required in order to be able to apply for the residence permit. European citizens only have to pay 35 CHF, nevertheless, Non-Europeans around 250 CHF. It is very important to unregister a few weeks before you leave.</p>
<p><b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>My accommodation consisted in a shared flat with other 5 students in StuWo in Emmenbrücke. We all had spacious private rooms and we shared 2 bathrooms and a kitchen. The cost varies from 550 to 660 CHF depending on the size of the room. Most of the students living here are also exchange students that make the living very enriching. StuWo is close to the train station making it very convenient. The only bad thing is that the building is placed in a very noisy location.</p>
<p><b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>As mentioned above, the railway service is great. From Emmenbrücke it is possible to get to the university both by train or bus, which take 5 or 20 minutes respectively. I recommend buying the Halftax card, which allows you to benefit from half prices in all train tickets, except for the monthly pass.</p>
<p><b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Unilu offers several courses in English. I had to choose what subjects I wanted to take before arriving in Lucerne, but the university allows you to try every class once before registering. Registration for the courses can be a bit confusing, but before the classes start there is a very helpful explanatory session. You can choose between normal presidential classes or a block course that usually takes a couple weekends. These last ones are normally evaluated with a 20-page essay instead of with a final exam.</p>
<p><b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The university is a very new building placed right next to the train station. It only has one building, therefore is pretty small, but this allows classes to be more personal. Classrooms are modern, well illuminated and acclimatized.</p>
<p><b>German course at the university</b> „German Short Course“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>For me it was not that useful because I already had a good foundation in German and it was a very basic course, but it helped to get to know people and a bit more about the Swiss culture and live in Luzern.</p>
<p><b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Teachers always try to combine theory with real life case studies, which makes the classes a lot more interesting and pleasant. Most of them use PowerPoint presentations to teach, and then upload them in OLAT, our student platform.</p>

<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>Student advisors are very welcoming, helpful and attentive. Always trying to make your stay easier. I had a group mentor, which was especially useful the first week of my stay. They are always willing to integrate you in university activities and are always available for anything.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Life in Switzerland is known for being expensive, but there are always discounts and offers you can enjoy from. Study material at the university is sold at the little shop in the university and its pretty affordable.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Luzern has a lot to offer. Bars, cafeterias, parks, or even a walk around the lake or a hike in Mt Rigi or Pilatus is enough. The university also offers a wide calendar of sportive and cultural activities that you can join.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Unilu is better in the sense that is more modern and in many cases better equipment, but I felt that we didn't resolve enough case studies. Meaning that we only had to read the case, and we would talk about it in class.</p>
<p><b>Reasons</b> For what reasons are you aiming for a mobility period at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>My main reason was because I wanted to improve my German, and the Unilu was the only German-speaking university that my university had an exchange agreement that offered English courses.</p>
<p><b>Duration</b> If you look back, was the duration of your stay for mobility</p>	<p>To short</p>