

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 inside Europe)
Home university	University of Sheffield, UK
Semester	Fall 2015 and Spring 2016
Field of study	Law Bachelor
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<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>My stay in Lucerne was an unforgettable experience – I was able to travel to lots of interesting places in Switzerland and throughout the rest of Europe. Switzerland has a lot to offer in terms of natural sights – we spent a lot of time hiking and skiing. I additionally made friends for life from around the world. The Law courses on offer were interesting and on topics that I would not have the opportunity to study elsewhere. I would definitely recommend studying in Lucerne to anyone.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>My arrival in Switzerland was fairly straightforward as there were no visa requirements from the UK. The University of Lucerne helpfully gave us a checklist of formal requirements that we had to fulfill to register our presence in Lucerne (e.g. visiting the Migration Office) but this was not difficult. I was unclear about health and private liability insurance although I found out that my home university covered the latter.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>Searching for accommodation was not difficult as the Student Mentor Foundation contacted me. The procedure was simple to follow – I lived in the Steinhofstrasse accommodation.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>All of my classes were in a central campus near the train station and about a 20/25 minute walk from my accommodation by Eichhof. This was an enjoyable journey, although we sometimes got the bus which made the journey even quicker.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>I initially found registering for courses confusing as the website was in German however contacted someone at the University who was very helpful. Our courses were Masters and therefore, taught in English which worked out conveniently for me. There were no difficulties with any academic records, transcripts of results or other formalities.</p>
<p>Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The University of Lucerne is quite small – all of my classes and exams were held in the central campus near the train station. Although very different from my home University, I really enjoyed the smaller size as it allowed for more convenience. The classrooms are clean, simple and suitable for what is required. There are additionally some gym classes held in the same building which is useful.</p>
<p>German course at the university "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>Although the German Short Course was useful to get a basic introduction to the language, I did not learn a large amount of German from my stay in Lucerne. I found it difficult to distinguish between high German and the Swiss dialect however the short course was good for an introduction. I understood enough German to get by in Switzerland.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The courses offered were more niche than those offered to Law students at my home University such as Climate Change and Energy Law, or US Constitutional Law and the Death Penalty. This allowed me to take courses that I really had an interest in on topics that I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to learn about.</p>

	<p>The length of courses additionally differed – some were block and over in a few sessions, whilst others were semester long. The amount of credits correlated fairly to the amount of work expected (both in attendance and preparation). Assessments were either papers, oral or written exams.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>Everyone working at the University (Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office etc.) was incredibly helpful with a wide array of things. However it is important to check their office hours as they don't all work every day.</p> <p>There were lots of trips organized by the above, as well as student advisors, which really allowed us to experience Switzerland properly – often at a lower cost too.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Switzerland is known for being expensive – living costs are higher than many places, but equivalent to that of any European city. Although there were often study guides, books and texts recommended, I did not purchase many as they were expensive and I did not have room for them in my luggage returning to the UK. It is possible to make the most of online resources and the library instead.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Living in Lucerne offers a range of things to do and places to go. There were also many sports classes put on by the University for free which were really good.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The University of Lucerne is much smaller (2,700 students) in comparison to my home University (28,000 students) which I initially thought would be a negative. I thought that this would mean smaller social groups and difficult classes where students would be picked on. However this was a positive because it allowed for easier participation in class and more intimate involvement with groups e.g. it was much easier to meet other students on exchange.</p>
<p>Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>I chose to study in Switzerland because it is very central in Europe and allows for lots of travelling. As well as travel within Europe, there is so much to see and do in Switzerland itself such as hiking and skiing.</p> <p>Lucerne appealed to me because it appeared to be a quaint town and very different to living in London, however it still has a lot to offer. The courses on offer at the University seemed interesting and useful.</p>
<p>Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> too short <input type="checkbox"/> too long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> just right</p>