

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
Home university	JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, Poland
Field of study	LAW
Semester	HS 2014
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<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>It was one of the best experiences and journeys in my life. Luzern is beautiful city, with lovely surroundings. Incomigs were from all over the world, which created amazing multicultural environment. I was the only polish student in my group, so definitely I can feel difference in my language skills.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I arrived to Swritzerland by bus from Poland, directly from my hometown to Luzern. Polish citizens do not need visa to enter Switzerland , I only had to register in commune office and migration office after arrival.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommo- dation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I searched for the room through internet (wgzimmer.ch), where is possible to find accommodation directly in city center for 500-550CHF per month. However as I noticed renting private wg (apartment) is rare among incomigns - especially without good German knowledge. Most of international students was living in student dormitories</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>University is placed just near the main station, with beautiful view on lake and can be easily reached by bus or train from every point of Luzern. Ticket prices for public transportation (especially trains) are high, there is no student discount as in Poland. However there is many option to save some money – for example very popular Half-Fare Cards or Supersaver tickets for train travels.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses and exams was less troubled then I expected. Every student have couple of weeks , after beginning of semester to choose subjects – students have to register on OLAT. Rest of registration process (on UniPortal or for exams) was supported by mobility office staff.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>University is placed in very nice location, just near the main station, lake and very close to charming old town . Luzern University is small, but also very modern. All important places like library, canteen, uni-shop are in the same building. What I found as really great, was that variety of sports and fitness courses is available for free for UL students. Additionally on UL I could find such places like chill out room, praying room or rooms prepared for studies in groups. This university is really trying to answer all student's needs.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I took part in “German for Beginners” (group for more advanced students) - it was really good occasion to remind some vocabulary and grammar. Teacher prepared very nice materials, encourage and helped us during conversation. It was also great oppor-</p>

	<p>tunity for first introduction into the city of Luzern and University. I think it also opened first possibilities to met other incoming students and start new friendships.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Il had 4 subjects, every for 5-6 ECTS points. The method of learning is quite different from the one at my home University. Groups are much smaller, so lectures are based on discussion and so called "Socrates method" (lecturer question- students answer). Books mostly contained cases with examples of practical application of law instead of theoretical definitions. One of my favorite subjects were Introduction to Swiss Law – with various excursions, and Advanced Lawyering Skills – which really opened possibility to practice legal writing (what is more our teacher baked for us cupcakes for goodbye lecture – which was very nice gesture!)</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>Assistance at the university for international students is very organized. I always got reminders and instructions from Mobility Office before every important event. UL workers were always smiling and helpful.</p> <p>The only thing that I sometimes had problem with, was access to Mobility Office as is not "opened" during all week, but only two days per week in a detailed hours.</p> <p>Mentor program is different then in Poland, cause there was not individual mentor for every Incoming, but small group of mentors for all of international students.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Definitely prices in Switzerland are much higher then in Poland, however it wasn't something unexpected for me. I was able to close my living costs (beside accommodation) in 500fr per month – however this amount depends on how much you want to travel.</p> <p>Study materials are easily accessible in shop placed in UL building, all booklets were prepared and in reasonable prices.</p> <p>After arrival I opened bank account in Credit Suisse, and can recommend this bank without any doubt – they have very nice student packet, almost everything is free of charges and employers are always very helpful. And what is more important, I didn't need to deliver resident permit (which I received after more then 2 month from my application!) to open a bank account there – only valid ID/passport.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Luzern is perfect place for leisure as area around -lake and mountains- is making amazing atmosphere.</p> <p>Very interesting are events in KKL (with famous concert hall). Also Mobility office and UL students organizations (like SOL) prepared many actions for incomings.</p> <p>And the best (for me) was sports opportunities – Luzern has a lot of well-prepared facilities for physical activities, is also in good location for skiing. Students can participate on University in many sport courses for free, sport program is really mixed.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I really appreciated very friendly contact with UL workers or professors and possibility of studying in small groups. What I missed from Cracow was definitely dining in restaurants, which fits student budget. Here I had to learned how to cook :))</p>