

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).

The report will be posted on the website of the University of Lucerne and may also be viewable via internet search engines. A subsequent amendment or deletion of data (e.g. name) will not be possible after the report has been submitted!

Please send the report back in Word format only.

Mobility Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
Semester	Fall term 17
Field of study	Main subject? Sociology Study level? <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>My stay at the University of Lucerne was an enrichment on an academic as well as on a personal level. I took part in very interesting courses and colloquia, though this was only possible as I am a native speaker of German. The classes were generally small and demanding, and we had very instructive discussions. In my free time I enjoyed Lucerne and surroundings with other international students, in part supported by the International Relations Office.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Entering Switzerland as a citizen of EU states is easy as you don't need a visa. As I lived in Emmenbrücke I had to register within my first weeks of the stay at the Emmen municipal administration. The registration is possible without any appointment and is proceeded within less than 10 minutes, costs depend on where you come from but are generally rather high. The IRO helped in preparing the registration and reminded about deregistering at the end of the stay.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I lived in the student accommodation in Emmenbrücke proposed by the IRO. The accommodation is cheap compared to prices in Lucerne itself, and the location is also OK as it is one stop by train or a 20 minutes bike ride to get to the main station/ university. The rooms are nice, and you share a kitchen and two bathrooms with three to five other students. The only problem about the accommodation is that you have to rent it for five months even if you leave earlier.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>I brought my bike, so I didn't have to use public transportation a lot. It was really nice having a bike because distances in Lucerne are short, bike lanes are usable even in winter, and trains and buses are quite expensive.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>All the necessary prearrangements were organized very well by the IRO, also registration for the courses was easy, at least for German speakers. You can try out and change classes easily within the first weeks, which helped me a lot to have a well-fitting schedule for my course of studies at home.</p>
<p>Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The University of Lucerne is quite small, all the rooms, the library and the cafeteria are located in one building, which I liked because it made orientation and social life easy. The University is located right next to the main station and the lake, so breaks can be spent outside.</p>
<p>German course at the University "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>As a German native speaker, I didn't attend any German class, but I would have loved to have an introductory course for Swiss German, which was not available, but would have been very interesting and helpful in everyday life.</p>

<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The courses and colloquia I attended were of a very high academic quality, especially when related to sociological systems theory (which was my personal focus in the semester). Attendance was compulsory in all my courses, and many lecturers asked for regular written reactions to the literature treated. I especially liked the library, which has a very nice working atmosphere, convenient rules and a high variety of literature on sociology, political science and ethnology.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The IRO was very supportive within the first weeks of my stay and helped preparing all the paper work, even if not related to the University itself. I didn't really get in touch with student advisors but found a very nice group of friends within the international students through excursions, events, and my accommodation quickly.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p> <p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Living in Switzerland is obviously quite expensive compared to other countries, but it is still possible to have a nice time without spending too much money. The rent for a room will at least be around 500€ per month, food is expensive especially when bought in restaurants etc., but there are some cheaper supermarkets such as Lidl, Aldi and Denner. Cultural events are rather expensive, too, but there is also a variety of free events at places as Neubad etc. Generally, the cultural activities in Lucerne were much more diverse than I expected for a city with less than 100.000 inhabitants. The University offers a great variety of sports classes, many of them are free. The mountains around Lucerne also offer lots of possibilities to do outdoor sports. Transport and travelling is very expensive, but Lucerne offers a lot to discover, so that wasn't really a problem for me. I have a bank account usable in any country without extra costs, so I didn't have to open a Swiss bank account, and also most of the transfers could be made in cash via post offices. Printing is the cheapest in the University. One unexpected problem was that my support of the German government (BAFÖG) was much less than the amount I do normally get in Germany, because the SEMP-money is counted as a scholarship and was thus subtracted of my entitlement. Another problem related to BAFÖG is that semester dates are different in Lucerne, so the time between the semesters (in my case from January to April) is too long to get any support in that time.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The focus and topics of sociology in Lucerne met my personal interests better than at my home university, but this is probably not generalizable. Personally, I also liked the smaller size of the University of Lucerne, whereas at my home university I like the fact that attendance is left to the responsibility of students.</p>
<p>Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>From the possibilities offered for exchange semesters, Lucerne met my personal interests best as interesting courses were offered and it is located in the mountains.</p>
<p>Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> too short <input type="checkbox"/> too long <input type="checkbox"/> just right</p>