

## 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.

<b>Mobility Program</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
<b>Home university</b>	Northumbria University at Newcastle
<b>Semester</b>	Fall term 17
<b>Field of study</b>	Main subject?      Law      Study level? <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master
<b>Name and E-Mail</b> (optional)	Laura Howarth, lauragracehowarth95@gmail.com

<b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	My stay in Switzerland was one of the best things I have ever done in which I got the chance to meet the most amazing people and study in such a beautiful country. The teachers and all the staff could not have been more helpful during my stay and made the experience much more pleasant for me. The University itself is amazing, very modern and everyone is very friendly. Although I found some of the subjects difficult, there was always a helpful support team there if needed and I would happily go back and do it all again if I could. I will definitely be returning to Luzern sometime in the future. Thank you again for the experience of a lifetime.
<b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa	Everything was pretty much straight forward. We struggled at first to find where our accommodation was stationed, however managed to find our own way around our town (Emmenbrücke) and the city (Luzern) soon enough. Again, visiting the migration office to obtain the visa was pretty straightforward and if there were ever any problems (you usually get a lot of letters from migration) then the staff at the University are always very helpful and sort everything out for you.
<b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses	I obtained my accommodation directly through the university which was very easy as they sorted everything out for me. I would recommend paying as much rent off as you can when you pay the deposit as the banks in England charge around £30 for a transaction to Switzerland. So maybe pay what you can until you are able to open a bank account in Switzerland to avoid extra costs.
<b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	As I lived outside of the city (Emmenbrücke), I had to take either the train or the bus to and from uni each day. At first, I thought this might be a little difficult, however I soon found that Switzerland has an amazing transport system with both buses and trains being very frequent, so this was not a problem at all. I purchased the zone 10 pass in which you can around lots of places in and around the city for 60CHF a month and this was very handy. The University is situated right next to the train station in Luzern and so is in a perfect spot.
<b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	With regards to registering for courses I really liked the way in which Luzern University arranged this as you could try out as many courses as you liked when you arrived there and then choose accordingly after a couple of weeks so there was no need to pick and subjects before flying out.
<b>Information on the university</b> Location, size, infrastructure	The location is perfect, right in the center of the city next to the lake and right next door to the train station. It was lovely to be able to see the lake outside of the window

	during classes. The size is also perfect, not too large and not too small which I think contributed to the very friendly atmosphere. Classes are also quite small in numbers which again was nice as you got to know the teachers on a personal level.
<b>German course at the University</b> "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?	I attended the German short course at the beginning of the semester which was very helpful but also very fun. You get to learn the basics of the language and it is also the perfect chance to get to know other exchange students.
<b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The university offers a wide range of courses to choose from so there is something for everyone. Some courses I chose were more difficult than others however I have returned to my home country feeling that I have gained much more knowledge of the law internationally than I could have ever learned at home in such a short space of time. Again, some of the assessments are more difficult than others however the teachers make sure you are well prepared for the exam.
<b>Assistance at the university</b> Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students	There is always someone there if you need to talk to someone or have any problems or questions regarding anything. The team of the international office was super helpful and very approachable.
<b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer	Switzerland is an expensive place, however if you budget properly and shop around for the cheapest option there won't be a problem. The grant you get from the university is more than enough to cover you in terms of living over there and also for extra activities and travelling. The money also comes into your account at the beginning of semester which is something that is very beneficial as it is not an option in other Erasmus countries.
<b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture	Living in Switzerland in general is amazing. The university make sure you get the full Swiss living experience by taking you on trips and doing things to experience the culture. The university also offers a lot of sports programmes, many of which are free to take part in and have a gym which is also free.
<b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?	The teaching styles are comparatively different, I much prefer the teaching at Luzern as it is much more based on a 1-to-1 approach in which the teacher gets to know each student and their needs. Although Newcastle is a lovely city, it does not compare to Luzern at all. The only thing that made the University in Luzern a little bit more stressful than home when it came to exam period is that there were so many subjects I had to take to obtain the credits I needed, and the work load was therefore very heavy. However, I again think this depends on the amount of credits you need and whether you study on a pass/fail basis or not which I unfortunately could not.
<b>Reasons</b> Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?	I originally chose Luzern as Switzerland was not a place I had visited before as not somewhere I would have gotten a chance to visit in the near future. It is also in the heart of Europe giving easy access to other European countries. It also seemed the most modern university in terms of its building, teaching styles and accommodation.
<b>Duration</b> Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> too short <input type="checkbox"/> too long <input type="checkbox"/> just right