

## 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).

<b>Mobility program</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP</b>
<b>Home university</b>	University of Wollongong
<b>Field of study</b>	Law
<b>Semester</b>	Spring term 2013
<b>Name und E-Mail (optional)</b>	Mira-Jane Coote    mjac653@uowmail.edu.au

<b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I definitely recommend Luzern, and Switzerland. The landscape, such as the mountains and pristine lakes are amazing, winter or summer. And if terribly confused about such things as blue garbage bags, people tend to be helpful, and many speak English.
<b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa	Formalities were ok, needing to go to two separate offices seemed a bit much, and as a non EU student, I paid almost 300 francs in fees for a permit and to register, where I had already had to pay \$80 for a visa in Australia (for seemingly no reason because I could stay for 3 months on an Australian passport, and the visa was only for three months?) Be prepared for the expense.
<b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses	The University accommodation seemed the best option. After living in Eichhof for 4 months, I'm still convinced it was. Less hassle. Great people. However, no common room or TV or microwave or lounge room furniture. (Couches that exchange students bought had to be returned to the local second hand store, and couldn't be left for others).
<b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	From Eichhof, it was a 20 minute walk to the University building, which was fine. I didn't take buses very often, as single tickets were terribly expensive, and month passes were only worth it you used the buses every day a few times. Trains are a necessity to explore Switzerland, which means the Half Tax card is also a necessity. Otherwise you'll have no money for food.
<b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	No problems. I was notified and kept updated about everything by the University.
<b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure	Luzern is a nice little University with everything you need: a large library, printing rooms, and a cafeteria with food. And a nice lift to avoid the endless staircase.
<b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I found content and expectations depended on individual lecturers. I was happy enough with the pace, quantity and quality of subjects. I have a sneaking suspicion English subjects may be a little easier than others, as many of the students and lecturers speak English as a second, third, or tenth language.
<b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	I had no problems with getting help at any of the offices. While I didn't interact much on an individual level, the mentors organized some great events and obviously put a lot of effort into them, which I really did appreciate (thanks guys). However, I found that as an exchange student, it was very difficult to get to know other Swiss students. They are not unfriendly, but there just never seemed to be any opportunities to build any friendships. Exchange students tended to stick together, as did the Swiss.

<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Switzerland is expensive. Transport is a killer. Food is ok depending where you buy it. Better to over budget. I found textbooks and materials half the cost I'm used to. Except there all a bit too heavy to take back, so having to throw everything away seems a waste (someone should organize a textbook exchange with other exchange/domestic students). I paid my bond deposit through my bank, and the fees were terrible. For rent and a transfer into a Swiss bank account, I used ozforex. Fees were minimal.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>I recommend making use of the many free classes such as yoga and zumba. Another great, and free, activity is to just go outside and walk. Every area seems to have its own little forest somewhere. And Switzerland is beautiful. You can go squirrel searching.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I really enjoyed the smaller more intimate classes, and the effort the lecturers and University made to make us feel welcome (such as many tasty free meals). My home University is a little too large for all exchange students to get to know each other, or for staff to get to know them. Luzern had a great community feel.</p>