

## 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>	The University of Wollongong, Australia
<b>Field of study</b>	Law and International Studies
<b>Semester</b>	Spring term 2014
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<p><b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Switzerland is a beautiful country and I'm really glad I chose to do my exchange here. It was an amazing opportunity to make friends from all over the world. I also loved being given the chance to study with these people, it truly was an international classroom and it was great hearing the different perspectives that they brought.</p>
<p><b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Obtaining a Visa for Switzerland from Australia was a long and tedious process. I recommend beginning as early as possible and contacting the University if you are having an issues. They helped speed up the process for me immensely when I was having issues. Once you arrive in Switzerland you have to register in the locality where you live and in Luzern. It all costs money so remember to factor that in.</p>
<p><b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>My University provided me with a form to apply for the student accommodation located in Emmenbrücke. The rooms are huge and its located right next to the station and close to supermarkets and the shopping center, however it isnt in Luzern and you have to choose between buying a monthly bus/train pass for 56CHF, finding a bike or walking for 40mins. The train ride is less then 10mins however so its not really a problem.</p>
<p><b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>The halbtax pass was definitely a good investment. It almost halved the price of train tickets and we could use it for the ferries, buses and certain mountain lifts. I also needed a monthly passpartout ticket because I lived out of Luzern. Buying the passes generally saved me a lot of money tehcn buying individual tickets though. Catching the train is really convenient because the university is right behind the station. Public transport is amazing in Switzerland. The trains are really frequent and they are nearly always on time.</p>
<p><b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses is not a hard process. The university clearly explains everything in one of the introductory meetings. I really loved that in Switzerland you get a decent amount of time to test out alny of the subjects before making any decisions about which ones youd like to sit the exams for.</p>
<p><b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The University is really conveniently located in Luzern. It is directly behind the train station and is positioned on the lake so you have a pretty spectacular view from classroom windows. The university itself is really small, its just one building , but it is very modern and has everything you need to study.</p>
<p><b>German course at the university</b> „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>The German for Beginners course will really great for meeting other exchange students. It really helped to make friends in the first week. The course itself was helpful for getting the very basics of German and was a nice way of learning about the local area.</p>

<p><b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The international based courses offered by the University were generally interesting and different from the courses offered at my home university. My home university required that I study full time which was the equivalent of ECTS in Switzerland. The ECTS were easy to make up with all the options available to you.</p>
<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The Mobility Office were always really helpful whenever anyone ever had any problems. The University's mentor program was really nice as well, the mentors were all really great and as well as helping us and arranging activities for us, they quickly became friends.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Switzerland is really expensive. I wouldn't let that fact stop you from coming but you do need to be careful about the amount you are spending and try budgeting. Rent cost me 660 CHF a month, the compulsory health insurance in Switzerland cost me 86 CHF a month and my monthly transport pass cost me 56 CHF. Food prices range depending on which supermarkets you buy it from and eating or drinking out is really expensive.</p> <p>The university courses required us to buy readers which ranged in price from 20 CHF to 40 CHF.</p> <p>I opened up a bank account with Credit Swiss which was really easy and free for a student but in the end I found it was easier to just take out lump sums on my visa and not have to worry about transfer fees.</p> <p>I also bought a sim card in Switzerland to put in my phone from home. I bought the card from Orange and it has not cost me more than 40 CHF the whole time I've been here but I do not use it much as people tend to rely on wifi and actually sticking to plans.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The university is right on the lake which is really nice for breaks from university or lunch. Aside from the university we tended to meet up at the student accommodations to spend time with other students.</p> <p>The university has a small gym that is free on certain days of the week and offers a lot of free sporting activities that are a great way to meet people or have a laugh with friends.</p> <p>There are also a number of nice hikes or walks around Switzerland and they make for a really great day out and good exercise as well.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Luzern University is small which means that people tend to only go to their classes before disappearing again, making it hard to connect with certain students. I really liked the class structure of Luzern, the classes are longer but there is only one a week, and I loved that we didn't have to commit to a subject straight away because there were so many interesting subjects it was hard to narrow them down.</p>

