

## 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 John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL USA
<b>Field of study</b>	Law
<b>Semester</b>	Spring term 2014
<b>Name und E-Mail (optional)</b>	

<p><b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Switzerland is less rushed and fast-paced than America (especially in major cities). It took some time to adjust to the slower pace, but I found it relaxing in the end. The Swiss are also very strict about following "the rules." I found that frustrating at times because I saw compromise solutions to things that would satisfy everyone, but the rules rule here.</p>
<p><b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I didn't have any difficulties with getting a visa or the residence card.</p>
<p><b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I booked my room in Steinhofstrasse 15, and did not look for other accommodations. Keep an eye out for the emails from UNILU about housing and you can snag an apartment in student housing.</p>
<p><b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>Public transportation here runs on time nearly all the time. A major bus stop is only five minutes from Steinhofstrasse 15, and all busses stopping there run to the train station, which is right next to the University. The train system makes it very easy to get around Switzerland itself. Buy the half-fare card if you are going to travel around Switzerland! It will pay for itself over the course of a semester.</p>
<p><b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration was easy. We were emailed a form during the first month of classes and registered for our exams that way. I took all English classes (my native tongue), so didn't need a language test. I can't speak for academic records because all my grades are not in and thus I can't get a grade report yet.</p>
<p><b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>UNILU is right next to the train station and a short walk from the Old City (Altstadt). It's about a 15-20 minute walk from Steinhofstrasse 15. The University is in a very convenient location, but Steinhofstrasse 15 is less so. Expect a 10-15 minute walk to a grocery store (and back with all of your food!), and farther to most bars and night-clubs.</p>
<p><b>German course at the university</b> „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I took the German for Beginners course, which was a good refresher for my high school German lessons. It is not enough to get you fluent with the language, but practice as much as you can. I can order food and hold very limited conversations passably well now because I started ordering coffee strictly in German as soon as we covered it in the course. The course is a great way to meet the other exchange students.</p>
<p><b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The lectures are mostly about the professor conveying information. They are primarily theory-based, and Swiss students are more passive than not, which means the professor does most of the talking. With that said, the content is very interesting. Pick topics that appeal to you, and don't build your schedule around whether it's a paper course or an exam course.</p>

<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>I did not seek out the assistance resources, so I can't speak to their effectiveness.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Study material is very, very cheap compared to buying textbooks. My professors all compiled their own readers; I spent 100 CHF on four readers. The cost of housing is comparable to cheap Chicago apartments, but the cost of groceries is slightly higher (eating out is ludicrously expensive). I did not transfer money to a Swiss account because my bank charges no ATM or currency conversion fees. This is a great option if you can find a bank that does this. Americans: opening a bank account here is insanely difficult thanks to IRS regulations. My foreign friends told me that they were grilled repeatedly about whether they had any connections to America. Find an American bank that doesn't charge you fees and go with that.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>I found a fitness center in Bundesplatz that satisfied my sports needs. The gym through UNILU is only open three nights a week, which didn't work for me. There are several pubs in town (like the Anfield, if you like sports) that are good meeting places, but I was not much of a social butterfly. Look to the other reports for this section.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The passivity of the lectures at UNILU was disappointing. In America, the students have to work through the material in class, essentially teaching themselves, with the professor acting as the ringmaster. Pure lecture bores me to tears because there is no interaction and little challenge to it. I found that I really enjoyed the oral exams, which is not something we have in America. If you have the chance, I highly recommend taking a skills-based course. I took the Civil/Human Rights Workshop, which was conducted like a moot court, and I improved my advocacy skills considerably through that experience.</p>