

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).

Mobility Program	PARTNERSHIP
Home university	Singapore Management University
Semester	Spring Term 2015
Field of study	Law, Bachelor
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Amanda Sum (amanda.sum.2012@law.smu.edu.sg)

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>The university offers many student activities such as an extensive sports programme, as well as student parties throughout the semester. Classes are usually around 2 hours long each session, and we attend around 2-3 regular classes per week, on top of block courses.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>No visa is required for Singapore citizens. Upon arrival, you are required to register as a Swiss resident (if you are staying for a period longer than 3 months) with the Lucerne Cantonal authorities.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>There are two main student accommodations with Lucerne, one in Lucerne itself and the other at Emmenbruke. Emmenbruke is one train station away from the University, while the student accommodation in Lucerne is of walkable distance (20 minutes away), or about 7 bus stops away. Student accommodations are very well equipped.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>I usually walked from my accommodation to the University (20 minutes). The bus comes quite infrequently (twice per hour, according to the schedule) and costs 2.50 CHF. The train station is directly next to the University.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses was very straightforward, and is very flexible—registration remains open for a long period. There is a briefing at the beginning of the semester which covers all these issues.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The University itself is small and does not have much facilities. However, the University has a number of designated arenas where the sports and other extra-curricular activities are held. The University is located very centrally and conveniently, directly next to the main Lucerne train station.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German Short Course“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>The German Short Course lasted a week and covered basic words and sentence-formation. Generally however, the Swiss speak good English and there were no problems with communication. We did not really have much opportunity to put our German to use after the course.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Content covered in classes is way more general and much less in-depth than what I am used to in Singapore. Focus is on a broad and general overview of the subject at hand as opposed to learning the substantive rules. Assessment components are typically oral assessments, written assignments, and final examinations. Some courses may also include a presentation or a class participation component.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The Mobility Office and other offices are generally very helpful and will help point you in the right direction. They prefer to be contacted via email, as they only come into the office a few days of the week. Student advisors are also available, but you need to make special efforts to reach out to them.</p>
<p>Budgeting</p>	<p>Living in Switzerland is extremely extremely expensive. Eating out costs at minimum</p>

<p>Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>25 CHF, so we usually cook in. Groceries are much more affordable if you shop for discounted items at Migros or Coop (or other supermarkets), but are by no means cheap. Prepare sufficient funds for compulsory miscellaneous expenses such as registration fees (200+ CHF), health insurance (500 CHF) and personal liability insurance (100 CHF). Transport is very costly as well, but there are half-fare cards and after-7 cards that are worth the investment.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Activities amongst the exchange students are usually at the student accommodations themselves or at the club. Clubs are generally free entry, and drinks are cheap if you get them from the supermarket. The University has many sports and other activities on offer, and Switzerland has many mountains and hiking trails.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The classes at the University of Lucerne last for just the right amount of time (2 hours) with sufficient breaks in between, as compared to my home university (SMU) in which the 3 hour classes are sometimes quite hard to sit through. Facilities such as the libraries, photocopying machines and online student portals are not as well-equipped or as user-friendly/intuitive as compared to that in SMU.</p>
<p>Reasons For what reasons are you aiming for a mobility period at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>I initially chose to come to the University of Lucerne due to its central position in Europe (easy for travelling). Swiss law is also steeped in the civil law tradition, which I found to be interesting given its contrast to the common law system that we have in Singapore.</p>
<p>Duration If you look back, was the duration of your stay for mobility</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to short <input type="checkbox"/> to long <input type="checkbox"/> precisely</p>