

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).

Mobility program	PARTNERSHIP
Home university	Ewha Womans University, Seoul
Field of study	Political science
Semester	Fall term 2012
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<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Everything in Switzerland is wonderful except the prices. I am confident that Switzerland has the most beautiful nature in all around the world. Specifically Lucerne has several famous mountains of Alps, so I could see Alps in my room every day.</p> <p>In addition, even though Switzerland is not English using country, I have never experienced any language problems. Almost every Swiss people speak English fluently, so it is not that hard to live in Lucerne without high German skill.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>It is necessary for Korean to get a visa in order to live in Switzerland. Before leaving the home country, Korean should finish entire process for getting a visa. In my case, I contacted Swiss embassy(www.eda.admin.ch/seoul) three month before leaving Korea and had a simple interview. It took a couple of months to get a visa eventually. After arriving in Lucerne, foreigners should visit both the migration office and the registration office to get a residence permit. There are several documents to apply a residence permit, but UniLU mobility office kindly informs what and how exchange students prepare.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>UniLU mobility office introduced StuWo, an organization which helps university students to get their rooms in Lucerne. I stayed in a private dormitory in Emmenbrucke and was able to live comfortably during the semester. It takes less than 10 minutes to get to school by train, and around 20 minutes by bus.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>As written above, there are a couple of options to go to school from dormitory. Students can use trains, and buses for commuting. In my case, I usually took a train but I often went to school by walk for exercising. It takes around an hour on foot.</p> <p>As broadly known, Swiss people tend to be punctual, all most every public transportation departs and arrives in time. Furthermore, compared to other European countries, Swiss public transportation is very clean and safe. Therefore students do not have to worry about it.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Students in UniLU can choose their courses during a month. As the semester begins, students are able to both take and drop courses liberally. We have enough time to decide which lectures and seminars we will take.</p> <p>Most courses are in German, but there are several ones in English as well for exchange students.</p> <p>On the previous week before the new semester begins, UniLU holds a small language course for exchange students. It is too short to learn German, but it is really helpful to meet other exchange students and make new friends.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>University of Lucerne is located very close to Lucerne main station so it is easy to find the university building. University of Lucerne has only one building which has 6</p>

	<p>floors(five floors and one underground one). Although it is not a big size campus, the building is quite huge and it is brand new one. Infrastructures in the building are the newest models as well.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>In my opinion, almost every courses in English has high quality. This is because the size of these courses are smaller than other courses in German, so students have more chances to communicate with each other. I took 3 courses during the semester and two of them consisted of less than 10 students. Professors gave us a lot of opportunities to show our opinions and we were able to participate in classes actively.</p> <p>There was no written exams in my classes, but I had to do several assignments and group presentations during the semester. The characteristics of assignments are diverse: summarizing articles, reading text books, writing essays and so on</p> <p>Most lectures in University of Lucerne are 4 credits, but a class that I took was 3 credits. However the professor gave more credits if students hand in optional assignments.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>I deeply appreciate to UniLU mobility office because they have given me numerous help. From when I first applied to University of Lucerne to nowadays, mobility office have always helped me a lot. They responded quickly when I sent e-mails, and the answers were quite sincere. They informed whole process for living and studying in Lucerne in detail. Due to their kind help, I was able to find my room in Lucerne, get a visa, a residence permit, and even met a Swiss friend to do language exchanging.</p> <p>University of Lucerne also manages a mentor system which helps exchange students to adapt in a new environment. My mentor had been an exchange student in my home university before I came to Lucerne, so she understood my situation really well and helped me as much as she can. Due to her, I was able to buy a cell phone, open a bank account, buy some useful traffic cards, and register my courses without any problems.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>It is terribly hard to live in Switzerland because as many know, this country is the most expensive one in the world. Especially the immigration office charges high residence permit fee to foreigners. However I saved my budget because I could get a room in Emmenbrucke. My room was a small sized one in Emmenbrucke and I paid 594.00 CHF per month. It was quite cheaper than other private rooms in Lucerne, so I recommend you to get a room by contacting StuWo.</p> <p>Due to high prices in Switzerland, not only exchange students but also regular students usually cook their meals by themselves. Eating out is very burdensome in Switzerland, so many students bring their meals from their home.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>There are many sports courses in University of Lucerne. Many courses are free for students, so we can take any classes as we wish. We can learn not only indoor sports like yoga and dancing but also outdoor sports like jogging and baseball.</p> <p>In addition there are many restaurants, cafeterias , bars, and clubs in Lucerne. Many students can enjoy their free time with their friends in those places.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Actually, University of Lucerne is much more smaller than my home university. University of Lucerne has only one building, and there are three faculties. My home university is the most biggest women's university in the world, so I was a little bit disappointed as I first saw the only building of UniLU. However as time went by, I was deeply satisfied with studying in UniLU. As the number of students is not that many, I was able to use facilities conveniently. In my home university, there are no seats in library during exam period. However in UniLU, there are enough spaces and seats for students so I was happy to study in the building.</p>