

## 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 Tasmania
<b>Field of study</b>	Law
<b>Semester</b>	Fall term 2013
<b>Name und E-Mail</b> (optional)	Anika Bratzel – anikabratzel@gmail.com

<b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I had a great stay in Switzerland and at the University of Lucerne. The University is very professional, yet relaxed and extremely welcoming. The ladies at the Mobility Office go above and beyond and really help you with everything.
<b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa	Entry into Switzerland was difficult but as long as you follow the instructions given by the Mobility Office and have all the requisite paperwork then everything will go smoothly as it did for me – although the process can be quite tedious so try to have everything you need before you leave!
<b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses	Accommodation was very easy. I asked the University and they referred me to student accommodation in Emmenbrücke. Ideal location near a supermarket and the train station, which takes you directly to the Uni. The wifi is really good and even the smaller rooms are large enough. Christina is a fantastic landlady and very helpful with everything.
<b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The monthly train ticket is around 54 CHF. I bought one every month, which was quite affordable considering it is valid for all trains and buses in Lucerne. This ticket can also get you discounts to other zones so make sure to show it every time you buy a train ticket in case it makes your trip cheaper! It is also worthwhile to buy the half fare card, which is very expensive but it gives you half fare travel on everything for the whole semester! It is definitely a must buy!
<b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	It was a little unclear how to register for courses before I came but everything is explained at the orientation evening.
<b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure	I loved the UNILU campus, which is very new. The location is fantastic as it is right next to the train station. The campus has great wifi, huge library with a lot of study space and a cafeteria that serves delicious budget meals. The only problem was there was not enough seating for all of the students in the cafeteria.
<b>German course at the university</b> „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	I did the preparatory German class, which was excellent and a comprehensive introduction to living in Switzerland. The teachers were very friendly and it was a great way to meet the other exchange students.
<b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments	Lectures were good with a lot of content to make up for not many contact hours. The assessment system is not ideal when the assessments are converted by UTAS. UTAS converts the highest grade at UNILU (6) as being the equivalent of a 90 but the second highest grade at UNILU (5.5) is equivalent of a 75. So there is a HUGE gap between the highest and second highest attainable grade once conversion is completed. This didn't seem like a fair conversion as it was indicated by some of the Professors at UNILU that a 6 is extremely rare and difficult to attain.

<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The Student Advisors were very helpful as was the Mobility Office. I often asked them unusual things not certainly not in their job description but they were always willing to help me. I was not very impressed by some of the lecturers though (one law lecturer in particular) with whom I tried to voice my concerns about an error in one of the exams. He was very difficult to contact, could only see him through appointment, which could only be made by email and even then denied my request to see him in person.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>It is fairly expensive but food prices at the supermarket are not too dissimilar from Tasmania. Except for the meat, which is very pricey! It is a good idea to turn vegetarian before you go! Lidl is the cheapest place to shop, then migros and coop. Study material is made quite cheap from the school shop. I paid my rent all in one go before I came, which meant I didn't have to pay rent once I got here. I also got an international travel card from Commonwealth Bank and pre-loaded all my money on there, which was an effective way to access funds.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>There are amazing free sport programs offered by the Uni. I went to Yoga class for free three nights a week! Also a great way to meet some of the Swiss Students.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The free sport is amazing – I wish we had this! It is definitely easier to see/speak to lecturers at UTAS than at UNILU. But at UNILU the style of class is great – just one lecture per week, which gives you a lot of free time to enjoy Switzerland. But you still have to study consistently for exams and papers at the end!</p>