

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	University of Wollongong
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall term 2013
Name und E-Mail (optional)	

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Wonderful experience, balancing incredible travel with interesting study. Summer was beautiful, winter wasn't so cold. Your fellow students tend to make the experience unforgettable; lots of parties. An entirely familiar but distinct existence to normal.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Registration is an administrative nightmare; you ostensibly have to wait three weeks for your appointment at the Migration Office; can't leave Switzerland during that time if you only have a single-entrance visa. Instead ignore the appointment and go early.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	Not at all difficult. Organised through uni-housing. In essence, only offered one residence (Emmen); despite there being two (other Steinhoff). So no choice, but wasn't really detrimental; rooms whether "big" or "small" are fairly large. Top floor is best.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Train was very effective and fairly good value with monthly pass and half-fare card (provided you are under 25); buses are slower than the train due to traffic, but plentiful.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Not entirely difficult, examination was in English for courses held in English – some were oral exams, some written and some papers.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	Close to the train station - very helpful for those living in Emmen.
German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	Did participate, useful orientation to the other exchange students and a preliminary grasp of German; not enough to learn the language but worth it for the excursions.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	Courses were mostly fascinating. Law and Policy of the WTO especially. Make sure to visit every possible class the first week, before deciding. Try to balance their final assessments – two papers of 20+ pages each plus three exams is not a good idea.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	Academics are very open; can visit their offices quite easily, ask them things after class. Student mentors are helpful and it's definitely worth meeting Swiss students; couple of occasions organised by faculties to interact with student mentors.
Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer	Text books should be bought online as soon as possible – Book Depository is good value. Buy food at Lidl if possible – cheapest supermarket. Swiss bank accounts are pretty cheap and worth having, provided you don't have to transfer money back home afterwards. Cinemas are stupid expensive and they have intermissions.
Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture	Uni offers free and paid sports – the free ones include football (soccer), yoga, hip hop etc. Residences are a great place to hang out, Bar Monopol has the best view and quietest atmosphere for talking.

<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Campus is one building (effectively); easier for classes. Library is smaller and mostly in German (duh) so a little less helpful; class sizes are larger and only one tutorial (in English courses) per week; English courses are centralised around two/three days. Block courses are fully examined – lots of study, not much class. Lucerne itself is beautiful and able to access all corners of Europe.</p>
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