

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	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall term 2013
Name und E-Mail (optional)	Max2004u@gmail.com

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	In one word: Great. This experience was everything I hoped it to be and really expanded my horizons, made me wiser, and given me valuable tools for the future. Only major recommendation I have for future students is to use September and its great weather to travel around Switzerland and check out the rest of Europe later.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Was more complicated than expected, because if you arrive with single entry visa, you have to wait around a month until you receive the Swiss identity card before you can travel outside the country. So it best to start the procedure as early as possible, but the mobility office gives you the necessary info (like the address of the insurance company) only at the orientation meeting and that is unnecessary and too late!
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	Was easy, thanks to the university supplying us with completely new dorms in Steinhoff (20 min from the university), with great heating and great rooms. However some little things hurt the experience: the common parts of the apartments are almost completely empty and depressing, and you cannot leave the furniture's and micro-waves behind for the benefit of the next to come, so you have to carry it back to the second hand shop which is really unwise and unnecessary. Hopefully they change this policy soon regarding the exchange students; furthermore the Wi-Fi is really unstable and makes it hard to Skype.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Very convenient! For 54 chf u get a monthly ticket for all the public transport in the area, but most of the stuff you need are in walking distance if you live in Steinhoff or in the city center in general.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Wasn't too complicated thanks to an explanation meeting by the law faculty, but the only problem is the website which is not sufficiently translated to English (the exam and course registration section) and is really hard to use without the help of google translate.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	Very small and cozy university, great central location, infrastructure is really good, including the free gym and sport classes, but would be really nice to extend the gym opening hours to more days like Saturday and Wednesday.
German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	Very nice addition, but the duration is too short (only 1 week!) for any real and practical learning of the language which could be really useful in day to day situations like reading letters in German from the insurance company or communicating with the sellers in shops! Please extend the course or add the option to pay for follow up courses.

<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Very interesting visiting professors which are experts on their subjects and come with real world experience (like int. banking law), and in general the lectures were good and the assignments not too demanding .only disappointment is the course intro. To Swiss law which instead of highlighting the uniqueness of the Swiss legal and political system (maybe by allowing students to write a paper instead of the exam) focuses on legal areas similar to most western countries.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>All very helpful, however the contact with the Swiss students was very minimal and it would be a great addition if the university creates events the allow the Swiss and exchange students to meet and get to know each other</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Living costs are high, but it's no surprise to anyone. Good way to save money is to open a student account (free to open, use, and close) at credit Suisse so you don't need to constantly transfer money from home. Study materials are in general not too expensive but a few of the books are really pricey and it's better to lend them at the library.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>As mentioned before there are lots of free sport classes and a gym. Also when the weather is nice you can hike the mountains around (Pilatus & Rigi), and swim in the fabulous lake (probably only in end of august\ begging of September), and in the winter you can ski and snowboard.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Lucerne university is very small and very centrally located, so it much easier to get to it and move between classes compared to Hebrew U, and the free sport classes is a big plus compared to the overpriced sport facilities back home. But our computers are much newer and our study material system (Moodle) is much easier to use than olat.</p>