

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	Temple University Beasley School of Law
Field of study	Law
Semester	Spring term 2014
Name und E-Mail (optional)	Amanda Reed; amandareed@temple.edu

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Luzern, Switzerland was a lovely place to spend a semester. It is a charming city and country and I found most of the people I encountered to be friendly. The best part of my exchange was the friendships I created with the other students I met.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	The visa requirements seemed normal to me. There were no unusual requirements or requests. The process took a bit longer than I anticipated, but the Swiss Embassy was very helpful.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	Staying in the University Residence was easy and a great way to meet other students. Although, the residence is built on top of a gas station and there was a mechanic close by, too, which created a lot of noise throughout the day. Additionally, the prices were reasonable but the newer residence is considerably nicer and upgraded, yet costs the same as the older residence in Emmenbrucke.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The public transportation in Luzern is excellent! My residence was in Emmenbrucke, which is about a 7-8 minute train ride into Luzern. The train stations are so close to the residence and university, so it was very convenient. I purchased monthly passes for the train and bus, which turned out to be more than worth it!
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	It was an unusual process – very different than in the US because we sign up for classes but then do not register until halfway through the semester when we register for the exams.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	I did not look for any information.
German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	I attended the German for Beginners course prior to classes starting. It was helpful and a good way to meet people. I would probably do it again just to know some basic phrases. You certainly won't be able to communicate with anyone after only one week of class, but it was a good start.
Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments	I really enjoyed the courses and professors. I was hoping for more business/banking courses because Switzerland is known for its banking. The law faculty seems to be more human rights focuses, which was a bit disappointing.
Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	The mobility office was helpful, but there was some confusion over migration, registration, and health insurance requirements. There were also some discrepancies in which courses we could and could not take, and we were asked to drop a course after it had already started, which was a bit frustrating. We had to reconfigure our schedules after believing they were finalized. Other students were really friendly and offered to show me around Switzerland, as well as provided recommendations for things to do in the city. Also, the student mentors were great! I appreciated the different events that were held throughout the semester.
Budgeting	Some things were pretty reasonable, while others were not. Transportation and food

<p>Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>are a bit more expensive than what I am used to in the US, but nothing too shocking. Eating out at restaurants, entertainment (movies, bars, etc.), and shopping were all much more pricey than I expected so I limited myself in those regards.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Luzern is not a huge city so there are not too many places to go every night, but there are a few bars and coffee shops that were good meeting places. My residence was a bit outdated so there was no communal/living area to hang out.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I think the administration at Temple is much more helpful and organized than at the University of Lucerne. I think professors at both universities are equally knowledgeable and helpful. The classes are less rigorous at the University of Lucerne.</p>