

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	Singapore Management University
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall term 2014
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<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>My stay in Lucerne was very pleasant, and, at the time of my writing, quickly coming to an end. I really enjoyed the beauty of this place because it is something I never got to see back in Singapore. The transport system here is simply remarkable. While it is often said that one can never feel right at home in a foreign country, I am happy to say that I felt otherwise. The people here are so friendly and welcoming. The best thing: They are not racist. Whenever I go travelling to Germany, Italy, the UK, etc., I always look forward to getting onboard the SBB and heading home to Lucerne. ☺</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I felt that the immigration procedure could be simplified. We had to deal with multiple organisations (the school, Stadt Luzern, Amt für Migration, and Swisscare). We were contacted multiple times for the same documents even though they all said that the documents would be sent to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>However, the registration processes at Stadt Luzern and the school were remarkably simple and efficient. Moreover, it was a plus that there were no visa requirements for Singaporeans.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>We found an apartment through Hitrental, as the rental was lower than the price of the school accommodation. The apartment is serviced, i.e., there are people who clean up the apartment once per month. Service is excellent as there are always people that resolve any issues we bring up within a few days. The location of our apartment is excellent as well, being just 11 mins away from Luzern Bahnhof by bus 20. The facilities provided are excellent as well, with good heating system. The only drawback, however, was the lack of a “free” washing machine and dryer. This meant that we had to pay 2.40 francs each time we had to wash and dry our clothes.</p> <p>The link to the apartment: http://hitrental.ch/apartment-lucerne-museggmauer-III.html.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>Switzerland has one of the best (and most expensive) transport systems in the world. Buses and trains to anywhere within Switzerland are comfortable, swift, efficient, and timely. It is very easy for us to get to the university on time every day.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses is mostly easy and efficient. I signed up for the basic German course without any fuss.</p> <p>However, registration for the block course, International Arbitration, was confusing. There was no information on the course information sheet as to any deadline which I had to sign up by. However, when I tried signing up, the Professor did not reply despite the fact that I had sent two emails. I later found out through another exchange student that registration for the course had closed in August, long before I even landed in Switzerland...</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The location of the university is central and very accessible. Its location next to Lake Lucerne is also a plus, since I could take a walk by the lake before/after classes. I</p>

	<p>have not visited the other parts of the university so I cannot comment on the size of the university. From what I have observed, however, there seems to be insufficient space for students to eat during lunch time. There are always so many people especially during winter.</p> <p>The university library is quite a disappointment. More than one printer is always spoilt at any point of time. Further, library services on the website are almost always in German, which, I understand, is a complaint for almost all the exchange students. In addition, there are usually one or at most two copies of books required for class. As such, most of the exchange students who do not wish to purchase the book will simply go to class without doing the readings as they cannot find the book. To be fair, however, the librarians are always on hand to help me with any queries I have.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I signed up for the German for Beginners course and I would recommend this course to any non-German exchange student. It is very useful. For example, the course taught me how to read German numbers. I can now understand when the train conductor announces the track for a connecting train. In addition, I can also pay for my groceries just by listening to the shopkeeper. I can also understand the time and the date (so on and so forth...). It is also important that I've learnt the basic Swiss greetings such as Gruezi, Guten Tag/Morgen/Abend, because I wanted to be polite in a foreign country.</p> <p>PS: I can now order food in German also – I tried it in a restaurant in Munich, and the waitress got the correct order!</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>I felt that the lectures were interesting and meaningful. In particular, the guest lectures gave me an international perspective on the law. I felt that the credits and assessment methods were fair. It required sufficient hard work and still I had time to travel. However, my only gripe is that I have to take an exam back in Singapore for International Environmental Law. I was not given sufficient notice that I would have to take the exam back in Singapore as the course was a block course. I understand that other universities around the world do make provisions for exchange students to take early exams, and I would strongly wish for the university to consider this option, as it is really a hassle (both for the student and the university) to take an exam in the middle of a new semester.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>I think my university, Singapore Management University, has a lot to learn from the Mobility Office of Unilu. The people in the Mobility Office are swift, efficient, helpful, polite, friendly ... (and the list goes on). Every concern that an exchange has is always swiftly and efficiently dealt with. Thank you ☺</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Everything is very expensive here (haircut for 50 francs?!). Taking into account my travelling expenses, I budgeted \$20,000 SGD.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Both SMU and Unilu are excellent universities. For the specifics, please see above.</p>