

## 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>	Singapore Management University
<b>Field of study</b>	Law
<b>Semester</b>	Fall Term 2014
<b>Name und E-Mail</b> (optional)	Shi Kaye shikaye.yap.2011@law.smu.edu.sg

<b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Lucerne is a gorgeous locale with both mountains and lakes. While the citizens of this place aren't overtly friendly they are always willing to lend a hand when you're in need of help.
<b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa	Entry into Switzerland was not hard, all I had to do was provide documentary proof that I would not be residing within the country for more than 90 days consecutively, given the visa requirements (or lack thereof). However, the local cantonal authorities have been hounding me for documents I have already submitted. Or rather, documents the insurance agency (Swisscare) have professed to have submitted but have yet to be processed by the canton? It has been more than 2 months and this problem has yet to have been resolved. Also, be prepared to give up your fingerprints – it's needed for your resident's permit here.
<b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses	This nearly gave me an aneurysm – while the university did well in offering boarding for incoming students, they also demanded we pay for lodging for the full term even though most people would be leaving at least 1 month earlier given the clashes in term schedules. That's an entire 660 francs more. So while I completely understand why they see the need to do this, it's such an unnecessary expense. I managed to find a suitable alternative but rent here is ridiculously expensive. Be prepared.
<b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The university is right next to the bahnhof (train station) – hurrah! Extremely accessible. But perhaps not so much in the frigid midst of winter when every step is painful. Biking to school is cheap if you get a second hand bike, although unfamiliarity with the traffic culture here might prove dangerous for first-time bikers.
<b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	There were some lapses in communication with regard to sign ups. But perhaps that's because we're too used to settling everything way in advance of the beginning of the term.
<b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure	The guided tours of the university we had during our German crash course were very instructive.
<b>German course at the university</b> „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage	So much fun! And very useful for navigating Switzerland and Germany.
<b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments	Extremely forgiving workload in light of the wanderlust I'm sure everyone will be struck with on exchange.
<b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students	The mobility office is open 2 days of the week.

<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Basically, everything in Switzerland is made of some sort of precious metal. So you pay out of your nose for even McDonalds.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The free sports classes here were a pleasant surprise!</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I much prefer the emphasis placed on work-life balance here in Switzerland, what with encouraging all members of the university to exercise more, and including a Rest Room in the building – no really, you go there to fall asleep. But SMU is far more efficient administratively.</p>