



## Final Report on your Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

Please write the report (max. 2 pages) in German or English and in complete sentences (no keywords).

<b>Mobility Program</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP</b> (outside Europe)
<b>Home university</b>	University of Wollongong
<b>Semester</b>	Fall term 2016
<b>Field of study</b>	Political Sciences, Bachelor
<b>Name and E-Mail</b> (optional)	kjs870@uowmail.edu.au

<p><b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Luzern is arguably the most beautiful city in Switzerland, always with something to see and do. It has a rich history, amazing natural beauty and a great nightlife! Overall I had a really wonderful experience in Switzerland. I was able to travel all over the country and observe various ways of life, try difference cuisines and explore different landscapes all in the one country. On top of this, studying at a Swiss University gave me the opportunity to take very interesting courses, and experience new ways of learning. In the end this semester has broadened my mind and made me more open to experience, and I am so grateful for that.</p>
<p><b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I entered Switzerland at the beginning of 2016 in January because I studied at University of St. Gallen for the first semester. This made it fairly easy for me to apply for a new residence permit in Luzern, and I already had a student Visa for Switzerland that I applied for in Australia.</p>
<p><b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I used websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="http://www.immoscout24.ch">www.immoscout24.ch</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.homegate.ch">www.homegate.ch</a></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.wgzimmer.ch">www.wgzimmer.ch</a></li> </ul> <p>I also looked on the Luzern University accommodation website, but unfortunately I wasn't early enough to find a suitable place. Though I think this would have been a great option if I had applied a little earlier.</p> <p>In the end, I stayed in shared accommodation that I found on WG-Zimmer with some other Swiss students. This made my experience even better as they were able to show me the local spots and I got a great sense of the Swiss culture.</p>
<p><b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>The public transport system in Switzerland is very efficient and comfortable. I caught the train quite often to visit a friend in Lausanne and always used the Gleis 7 card, as well as the half-fare card for every other journey. Unfortunately I lost something on the train that was never returned to me, but I heard this is a rare occurrence. The University was very easy to find, has a great library, and I lived a short 10 minute walk away so I had no issues with accessibility and attendance.</p>
<p><b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses was very straight forward as I completed it all online. Also, the UNILU portal website is very easy to use. I chose to take courses that were in English only, so I didn't have to complete any language tests. However, the number of courses available in English was somewhat limited for my area of studies (business and Psychology). Nonetheless, I really enjoyed all the political sciences subjects I took and it increased my interest in this field.</p>
<p><b>Information on the university</b> Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The University is very centrally located right next to the train station and major shopping area, which I thought was very useful. In terms of size, compared to my Universi-</p>

	<p>ty in Australia the building is quite small, but It's relative depending on the number of students. Also, the building has all the facilities you need, and I think it's very well designed with many quiet areas for studying and a nice cafeteria.</p>
<p><b>German course at the university</b> "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>I chose not to visit the German short course at Luzern because I had already taken one in St. Gallen, and I preferred to learn the language on my own.</p>
<p><b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Every lecture/seminar I had was well prepared and interesting. Unlike my home university, I was surprised to find that I didn't have to do any major exams for my seminar courses, but instead an assignment, essay or presentation which I preferred. I have to note that my favorite subject was Personality and Politics, which took a very interesting perspective on the interaction between media, voters and politicians and was very appropriate with the recent Trump election.</p>
<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>All the communication with mobility coordinator I had was pleasant and helpful, as The mobility coordinator was able to answer any questions I had and was very patient in waiting for me to send my new residence permit card which took longer than expected.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>I became very good at budgeting in Switzerland. In fact it is quite affordable to live if you cook at home and occasionally go out. I usually used the website 'transferwise' to transfer money from AUD to CHF to pay my rent, but I also owned a Credit Suisse account which was very helpful to pay for everyday expenses in Switzerland.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>Through my friends I realized that many Swiss people are very involved in sports, which I think is fantastic. For me personally, Switzerland gave me the opportunity to snowboard in winter at the many resorts close-by to Lucerne. As well as this, in summer there are many activities such as hiking and swimming which I enjoyed and will definitely miss.</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I thoroughly enjoyed the practicality of the courses in I took in Switzerland. Many of the subjects I took were taught in a way that could easily be applied to the real world. I would also note that the level of group work and group assignments is much higher in University of Lucerne than I would usually find in my Australian University. This greatly improved my teamwork skills.</p>
<p><b>Reasons</b> Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>Firstly I have to admit, I thought the city was beautiful and wanted to experience living there. Secondly, Lucerne could offer me courses relating more to my Psychology degree, as well as my Commerce degree.</p>
<p><b>Duration</b> Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> too short                      <input type="checkbox"/> too long                      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> just right</p>