

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).

The report will be posted on the website of the University of Lucerne and may also be viewable via internet search engines. A subsequent amendment or deletion of data (e.g. name) will not be possible after the report has been submitted!
Please send the report back in Word format only.

Mobility Program	<input type="checkbox"/> SEMP (Erasmus inside Europe) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)
Home university	University of Calgary
Semester	(Fall term 16 or spring term 17 or both?) Fall 2017
Field of study	Main subject? Law Study level? <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Jill Shiskin

General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	The University of Luzern was fantastic. The administrative staff and the professors were all excellent. The selection of English-law courses was much better than the other schools I considered. The location is great for exploring Switzerland, and the rest of Europe. There are lots of exchange students in the program, so you get to meet and make friends with not only Swiss students, but students from all over the world.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	Travelling between countries was easier than I expected – virtually no border controls. Remember that almost everything will be closed in Switzerland on Sundays, so this wouldn't be the best day to arrive. There was a bit of a delay with my visa application. The Swiss Consulate/visa application said there was no way to follow up/check on the status of your application; however, I was not notified at all that it was ready when it was ready. I was right up against the deadline of my flight to Zurich and didn't have my visa yet, because I didn't know it was ready for pick-up. The approved visa had been at the Consulate for 4-6 weeks. It was only through the diligence of the University of Luzern International Office repeatedly checking in with the Consulate that I learned it was ready, and then had a mad rush to pick it up from Vancouver before my flight. My advice would be to follow up on your visa application and disregard the instructions not to do so.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	The school had an option for student housing, and provided website addresses for alternative accommodations. I used Airbnb to find a place. Housing is expensive. The student housing option is the best deal and in hindsight, I wish I had done that instead of living on my own.
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The trains are amazing. They are very reliable, and run their routes pretty frequently. I bought an SBB GA pass and used it almost every day either to get to school, or to travel around the country. The university is right beside the main train station in Luzern, so it is extremely convenient.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Registration for courses was very easy. The professors also were welcoming of students sitting in on additional courses (informally auditing) for which they were not officially registered.
Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure	The university campus itself is quite small, just one building, but it has a great library and an excellent cafeteria. It is located right beside the main train station, which has a

	<p>small shopping center below it. There are two grocery stores there, fast food restaurants as well as other stores. Downtown is only a 5-10 minute walk from the campus. For random train tickets, look for super-saver tickets on the SBB website to save some money.</p>
<p>German course at the University "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>I was unable to take the German short course, as I didn't arrive in Switzerland until the weekend before classes started. We did have a volunteer professor teach about 6 of us introductory German one hour a week, which was excellent. After our class, he taught an intermediary level course for a different 6 people.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The professors were all very good. They were very knowledgeable about their subject matters, approachable and helpful. The variety of English-law courses was very good.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>Everyone I dealt with at the International Relations Office was fantastic. They were extremely helpful. The student mentors arranged fun outings as well.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>The cost of pretty much everything was higher in Switzerland. The cost of study materials was less expensive than my home university as many of the professors did a great job of creating readers rather than making us buy expensive textbooks.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>I made friends with other exchange students and we spent most of our spare time doing day trips or weekend trips to various places. There is lots to do from museums to hiking mountains in Switzerland, to catching quick flights to various other countries.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The workload was less than at my home university, and the location was much better – beautiful lake side only a few minutes' walk to the downtown/old town, beautiful mountain views, and right beside the train station. I can't think of any downsides to the University of Luzern. I like my home university, but Luzern was fantastic.</p>
<p>Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>I wanted to go somewhere non-English-speaking to try to learn another language in an emersion setting, but with a good variety of English-speaking law courses. Additionally, the location of Luzern, in the middle of Europe, allowed for a lot of travel. Luzern itself, and Switzerland are beautiful.</p>
<p>Duration 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>